

Laurel Weathersbee Artist Statement

For nearly 50 years, I've been cutting, pasting, coloring and painting to express my delight in the shapes and colors of my environment. And, although I've traveled most of the western U.S., I've found no shapes and colors that compare with those of New Mexico, my soul's home, that took me captive when I first saw it in 1961.

In 1995 I earned a degree in Art from Park University, Parkville, Missouri, an accomplishment that substantiated my lifelong interest in expression through drawing and painting.

Now living, at last, in New Mexico, I'm inspired and energized by awesomely beautiful desert surroundings. Expansive skies are magnificent and compelling. Plants and animals are fascinating, and the mountains are the biggest thrill of all. I never tire of watching them change throughout the day.

The freshness and immediacy of torn and cut paper collage helps me express my delight in my New Mexico environment in a way that is direct and unspoiled by detailed technique. Using papers I've prepared outdoors, the colors and shapes stay exciting and spontaneous.

My realistic torn- and cut-paper collage method is unique, developed over several years, and results from my desire to express the gorgeous colors and textures of the Southwest. I hand-color and texturize lightweight watercolor papers, cut and tear them into shapes, and glue them onto archival supports. Framing is very simple, with neutral mats and brushed metal gallery style frames.

A veteran of dozens of group, juried and solo, local and regional exhibitions, I have successfully marketed my paintings and collages to collectors across the U.S. since 1995. Folks enjoy these images they can connect and identify with.