



LAURA ACKERMAN
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Growing up as a teenage cartoonist in Eastern Washington, I began my interest in graphic arts by studying comic books; looking at layout, color and the combinations of type styles and hand lettering. My early experiments with pen and ink (styled loosely on a combination of Aubrey Beardsley and Robert Crumb), made me aware of the need not only for control of the media, but also for the desire to communicate to my readers the content of my ideas.

I have been a visual artist since the mid-70's; specializing in illustration with a sense of narrative-working either with images from nature, or fantasy sequences that I have dreamed of. After seeing my first Pixar animated short at Bumbershoot in 1997, I saw the need to go back to school and get training in multimedia design, realizing that to continue on as an artist in the 21st century, I would need to understand digital applications like Photoshop, Illustrator, Flash and Maya, among others.

During this time period, I began to teach illustration techniques through a community college. I fell in love with the process of teaching; the interactions between me and the students and the knowledge that was gained by both of us was very rewarding. Both me and my students felt empowered. My second teaching job at the International Academy of Design and Technology, confirmed this impression. I taught Graphic Design I and Advanced Digital Imaging to classes of beginning "at-risk" students, and having come from a background like this myself, I felt that I was able to teach complex technological design solutions to people who had, more often than not, never used a computer seriously before.

After graduation from Shoreline Community College, I worked with a variety of business and educational clients to develop web or graphic design- often creating whole business identity systems, as well as writing content for their web sites. I learned how to listen to my clients, and to work and re-work comps until we both arrived at a design that really got noticed. I have tried hard to learn not only software applications, but to also deliver art that fits each client's need and culture.

My Master's degree received from Antioch University allowed me to continue studying the complexity of user versus computer interfaces: navigation, icons and symbols, methodologies of "best practices" in delivering understandable tutorials. I hope to be allowed to continue my research at the doctoral level in semiotics and graphical user interfaces, and continue to teach, and work on several paintings a year.

I recently started a new art enterprise with my partner, who is also an artist: our new site can be viewed at www.fremontheightsart.com. Come check out the art in Fremont!



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Selected Exhibition History

- 2015- Lynnwood Convention Center, Group show, Lynnwood, WA.
- 2015- Mini Pros Small Artworks, Gallery North, Group show, Edmonds, WA.
- 2014- Shoreline Arts Festival, Group show, Shoreline, WA.
- 2013- Belltown Art Walk, Antioch University, Group show, Seattle, WA.
- 2013- Majestic Arts Gallery, Solo show, Seattle, WA.
- 2013- "Booze and Pancakes" Group Show, El Corazon, Seattle, WA
- 2012- City of Kent, Group Show "Summer Series", Kent, WA
- 2011- Represented by the Barbara Clevenger Johnson Gallery, Morton, WA
- 2011- Across the River- Group show, Seattle, WA.
- 2008- Private Sale of 20 Art Works- local art patron in Mill Creek, WA.
- 2003- Broadway Market- Annual Cartoonist's Northwest Show, Seattle, WA.
- 2003- Black Cat Café- Group show, Olympia WA.
- 2001- Studio Duende- Solo show, Seattle, WA.
- 2000- Lewis-Clark Center of History and Industry-Group show, Lewiston, ID.
- 2000- Greenwood ArtWalk-Greenwood Department of Neighborhoods- Solo show, Seattle, WA.
- 2000- Allied Arts-Group show, Wenatchee, WA.
- 1999- Seattle Millennium Project- City wide art project with Mayor Paul Schell- Seattle, WA.
- 1999- Lewis/Clark Dogwood Festival- Group show, Lewiston, ID.
- 1999- Greenwood ArtWalk- Scent of Youth Boutique- Solo show, Seattle, WA.
- 1999- Allied Arts- Group show, Wenatchee, WA.
- 1999- Sound Transit Rail Project- Selected as artist for upcoming projects.
- 1998- Chewing Gum Chronicles- Solo Graphics and Illustration Installation- Seattle Center, Seattle, WA.
- 1998- Greenwood ArtWalk- A-1 Piano, Solo show, Seattle, WA.
- 1998-2000- 5 Spot Café- Numerous poster shows with group of artists, Seattle, WA.
- 1998- Phinney Neighborhood Center- Annual Group show "Phinney and Friends", Seattle, WA.
- 1998- Corporate Art West- Represented by this company, Bellevue, WA.
- 1997- Phinney Neighborhood Center- Annual Group show, "Phinney and Friends", Seattle, WA.
- 1997- Greenwood ArtWalk- Phinney Lutheran Church, Solo show, Seattle, WA.
- 1997- Fremont Fair- Fremont Baptist Church, Group show, Seattle, WA.
- 1996- Empty Space Theatre- Solo show, Seattle, WA.
- 1996- Anderson/Glover Gallery- Represented by this gallery, Kirkland, WA.
- 1996- 619 Gallery- "Nine Emerging Artists"- Group show, Seattle, WA.
- 1995- Phinney Neighborhood Center- Annual Group show, "Phinney and Friends", Seattle, WA.
- 1995- Fremont Foundry- "Exhibition Fremont", Annual Group show, Seattle, WA.
- 1995- Wiles and Thomas Studio- Group show, Seattle, WA.
- 1995- Queen Anne Massage Studio- Solo show, Seattle, WA.
- 1994- University Unitarian Church- Solo show, Seattle, WA.
- 1994- Phinney Neighborhood Center- "Old and New"- Solo show, Seattle, WA.
- 1993- Mahlum and Nordfors Architectural Firm- Solo show, Seattle, WA.
- 1993- Artwork for Aids- Group show and auction, Seattle, WA.
- 1992- Humanities 101 Gallery- Solo show, Seattle, WA.
- 1992- Shoreline Library- "Eighth Annual Fine Art Show", Group show, Seattle, WA.
- 1991- Fremont Foundry- "Exhibition Fremont", Annual Group show, Seattle, WA.
- 1991- Group Health Cooperative- Solo show, Seattle, WA.
- 1990- Fremont Foundry, "Exhibition Fremont", Annual Group Show, Seattle, WA.
- 1989- Shoreline College Gallery- Group show of SWCA, Seattle, WA