

**Lara Restelli**  
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*"Amber"*  
*Oil on canvas, 48 x 36 in*



## The Power Of Stones



**Stones** are the element most closely linked to human history and evolution, not by chance the first evolutionary period of prehistory is called the *Stone Age*. Rocks are the most ancient element on earth. They existed before us and remained longer than us; they can tell us an extraordinary story; they may even contain the earth's spiritual energy that many peoples firmly believe in. We can also define rocks as the first artistic support; the first place where humans released their primitive inspiration by creating rudimentary drawings on its walls. Yet this fundamental element did not arouse the interest of painters in history: in the past classic still lifes were mostly concentrated on flowers, fruit, and wild game, elements more subjected to the caducity of time. But with the ever more meticulous search for detail that characterizes contemporary realism, stones are covered as an ideal subject for paintings. This is certainly the view of Miami artist **Lara Restelli**, who has created an entire series of oil paintings on canvas entitled "**Everybody Needs a Rock.**" Lara paints stones capturing a portion of a river or lakeshore, or uses her subjects as still lifes, placed on a monochromatic surface or inside a glass container. Her technical ability allows her to reproduce every detail of her works in a hyperrealistic way and create infinite combinations of shapes and colors with the same elements, making each painting a unique piece. From an aesthetic point of view, pebbles have extraordinary colors and shapes; abstract patterns that are perfect for playing on the canvas, but that also have a symbolic meaning. Many of us played with stones on a beach or lake when we were children. Many of us collected them as lucky charms believing that they have powerful energy. Lara is attracted to these elements for their longevity, a characteristic that, in many ancient cultures, is recognised as a **symbol of eternity and legacy**. These natural objects, so simple and ordinary, fascinate many people for their properties: some believe that they can give energy, others that they can influence moods. Certainly, stones are fascinating elements in many aspects, Lara Restelli's artwork is imbued with the magnetic energy given by her subjects and her instinctive attraction for them.



*"Agates In A Jar"*  
Oil on canvas, 30 x 40 in

**Previous page:**  
Lara Restelli with her painting  
"*Grey Stones II*", oil on canvas, 36 x 48 in

"As a creative person, I always look for a way to communicate visually with others. I strive to produce emotions that lift the viewer's spirit, that brings happiness and joy, or admiration for the beauty of simple things."

- Lara Restelli



**Top:**  
*"Black River Rocks"*, oil on canvas 40 x 60 in

**Bottom:**  
*"Rainbow Stones"*, oil on canvas 24 x 48 in



**Next page (top & bottom):**  
*"Playing with beads"*, oil on canvas 30 x 48 in

*"Grey Stones III"*, oil on canvas, 40 x 60 in