

Artist takes the floor...

# Lara Restelli



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

## **Agates In A Jar**

This is one of the 16 paintings of the "Everybody Needs a Rock" series. Maybe my favorite, since it was born and grew during the most challenging time in my personal life; the sickness and passing of my mother. Although I was sad and overwhelmed, this painting abstracted me from that scene and took me to the magical world of painting.

## **"Everybody needs a rock": Beauty and Permanence.**

There's something about rocks and stones that attracts us; many share a unique fascination for them. Their diverse colors, textures, shapes, and meanings seem to emanate a particular type of magnetic energy that pulls us in.

Rocks and stones have forever been part of Mother Nature's art. The unique characteristics of each rock capture snapshots of the earth's history. Their contours, patterns, and color palette can be captivating. Humans have been interpreting them in many ways since the beginning of time. For some, these minerals even play a role in their well-being, influencing emotions and states of mind. It all boils down to one's interpretation and fascination for them.

I definitely feel attracted to them, and I'm certainly not alone since hundreds of thousands of people share this same captivation.

The "Everybody needs a rock" series is my way of expressing my curiosity and respect for them.

It all started when I came across a photograph of some colorful river stones poking out of the water, creating intricate and beautiful reflections. They captivated my attention so profoundly that I decided to capture them in a painting. I enjoyed the process so much that I dove head-on into the subject matter. I now have a collection of precious stones from all over the world to create my compositions. I choose my subject matter (rocks/minerals, props) based on the emotions I want the painting to communicate.

Every painting in the series represents a different aspect of the everlasting attributes of these beautiful pieces of nature. Moreover, and more important, every piece of art helped me navigate some rough waters once again, allowing me to heal while producing something beautiful and meaningful.

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*"Caramelera", oil on canvas, 30 x 40 in*

*"Playing With Beads", oil on canvas, 30 x 48 in*



**"Caramelera"**  
It also has a deep personal meaning; since it is a tribute to my late mother. The crystal candy bowl in the painting is an antique that belonged to her and holds a special place in my heart. The warm and rich colors of the rocks symbolically represent her personality.

**"Playing With Beads"**  
It has a more whimsical meaning. This painting was born after a frustrating intent of creating a bead necklace for myself. Absolutely drawn to the contrasting colors of these gems, I found a much more satisfying experience painting them. Setting up the composition resulted in lots of fun followed by four weeks of utter enjoyment.

**"The Great Escape"**  
It is another example of a playful moment. The creation of this painting was sparked by the desire to use these beautiful howlite gemstones. I imagined a game where the stones were trying to break free from their containment, and only a few managed to get out, waiting patiently for the rest to join them. Color is again a very significant element in this composition.



*"The Great Escape", oil on canvas, 30 x 30 in*

*"Seaglass"*  
Oil on canvas, 40 x 40 in



**"Sea Glass"**

It was inspired by light. During the creative process of this painting, I was experimenting with light. I wanted to highlight the transparency, smoothness, subtlety, and intensity of colors intrinsic to these stones. Light played an essential role in this composition, particularly backlight, which was the crucial element that made it all possible.

*"Black River Rocks"*  
Oil on canvas, 40 x 60 in



**"Black River Rocks"**

It was one of the early paintings of the series. It has a very different feeling and significance; earthy, balanced, soothing. It is a precise dance between big and small, warm and cool, shiny and dull, mild yet sophisticated. It represents nature with all its complexity and variety.