

ON THE COVER

# LARA RESTELLI

## Everybody *Needs a Rock.*

Rocks: Beauty and Permanence

There's something about rocks and stones that attracts us since many share a unique fascination for them. Diverse colors, sizes, shapes, meanings - and even spirits - seem to emanate a special type of magnetic energy that pulls us in.

Indeed, these natural wonders have shared their spirit with us since the beginning of time, leading to a long-lasting relationship with humanity. Since the Stone Age, rocks were used as materials both for tools and weapons, just as they served as the solid foundations of great architecture and art. Ancient cultures have even associated them with symbols of eternity, immortality, permanence and legacy; even energy and spirit.

The ensuing longevity of these artifacts from ages past carries their association - perhaps rightfully so - with the eternal, the divine, and the spiritual world. As much as this spirituality may evoke a feeling of calm respect and admiration, it can also excite our senses and make our imaginations run wild when we think of outer space and meteors raining down from the sky.

It's clear that rocks and stones have forever been part of Mother Nature's art, and humans have been interpreting them in many ways since the beginnings of time. Admiring the colors, shapes, and sizes alone of stones can be mesmerizing. For some, precious stones even play a role in their well being, influencing emotions and states of mind. It all goes down to your own interpretation and your own 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.

"Everybody needs a rock" series is the way I express my curiosity and respect for them. Make it your own and help me share it with you.





"BLACK RIVER ROCKS" 40" x 60". Oil on canvas.



Lara Restelli is a Miami-based artist who has successfully exhibited in many well-established art shows, including Red Dot Miami (during Art Basel Week), Art Palm Beach, ArtsParks Miami, and Loyola School of the Arts Miami. Restelli's artwork has also found its way into the homes of private collectors, as well as many prestigious condominiums in Miami, FL like Aria on the Bay, Melody, Square Station, Flagler on the River, and Skyview.

Lara Restelli's education within the classical European school of realism allows her to create extremely realistic artwork with a blissfully contemporary perspective. Her dedication to accurately depicting the natural world makes her paintings fascinating to analyze and deconstruct. Viewers often find themselves increasingly drawn in to the paintings as they sink further and further into the multiple levels of detail. This spellbinding effect stems from Lara's clear evolution in each of her paintings from simple lines and blocks of colors to very complex and colorfully detailed scenarios drenched in high contrasts that are still artfully balanced.

Lararestelli.com

#### As one of her clients stated:

"It is my favorite piece of art in our home. I love how real it looks. It has become a conversational piece for people who visit our home. No other artwork had generated such attention in the past. Everybody notices her artwork and are immediately drawn to it." K. Key, Miami FL.

Lara Restelli's journey to the art world did not grow in a straight line. Lara was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1971. Her upbringing was filled with opportunities to be joyful, imaginative and creative. Spending long summers building fantasies, painting anything she would find, like wood scraps, old tiles and cardboard, kindled an initial flame that later grew into a roaring passion for the arts. However, her university studies shifted her focus to International Business, for which she obtained

her Bachelor degree in Buenos Aires. From these early professional years, she developed a successful career that finally brought her to the United States. Moving to the US in 2001 and creating a family of her own, far from everything she new and loved, created a big void in her life. The remedy to fulfill that void took the form of weekly art classes, which took her back to those inspiring summer days. Unknowingly, art would be her catalyst to a new life. As weekly art classes turned into years of experimentation, the restrained elegance of classical realism ultimately caught her eye and became her language of choice. Armed with innate talent and sheer passion, Lara had the honor of attending Alberto Pancorbo's European School of Art, a well renowned Spanish painter who teaches a very classical European approach to art education.

"At the Atelier, the old masters from bygone eras became the real teachers, whispering their secrets to students in between the brushstrokes of their most referential masterpieces." Alberto Pancorbo, in turn, became the mentor, while the students became the apprentices, much like in Renaissance times. In due time, Lara would come to master their technique, which she now applies in her own unique way.

The juxtaposition of finessed technique and graceful elegance with Lara's impactful family life has led to her ability to showcase the beauty in everyday moments. Now, she whispers her own secrets of serenity, stability, and spirituality through her art that hangs in private residences and graces the halls of well known condominiums and exhibitions.



# LARA RESTELLI

Interview DENISA PROCHAZKA

When and how did your journey as an artist begin?  
Tell us about who you are.

Art found me later in life, like a childhood friend that came knocking on my door after a long hiatus apart. This rediscovery of my love for art happened when I moved to the US from Argentina and had two beautiful boys. My new life was wonderful, but also very busy.

However, one day I realized that I had been doing art every afternoon with my kids, which brought back fond memories and warm feelings from my childhood. That old artistic friend had come back, and this time to stay.

I decided to begin educating myself in classical oil painting at different ateliers. I subsequently fell in love

with the medium and knew that I would paint until the day I died. Becoming a painter was the easy part; becoming an artist was the challenge. There were so many things to learn besides painting! I was not a young student anymore, so it was quite an effort to work on opening back up my imagination while also training rigorously to be able to learn all the different aspects of a career in the arts. But, I was determined to become a full-time artist, and I couldn't be happier with the decision I made more than 12 years ago.

What inspires you the most? Which subject matter are you passionate about in your paintings, and why?

I find inspiration in the details of things, in their characteristics, their stories, their meaning. My current

series of rocks is what I am most passionate about. There is something about rocks that fascinates me. These natural wonders have shared their spirit with us since the beginning of time. I started collecting many different types of stones, always looking for their uniqueness in color, design, or texture. By observing them through a camera lens, I discover a whole new world that the naked eye wasn't able to see. I find this process of discovering very inspirational.

Old vintage objects are also a source of attraction for me. I have also collected several over the years. Their story, their time of creation, their meaning intrigues me. It would be interesting to merge these two passions in my future paintings.

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"AGATES IN A JAR" 30" x 40". Oil on canvas.



"RAINBOW STONES" 24" x 48". Oil on canvas.





"BLUE RIVER STONES" 24" x 30". Oil on canvas.



"THE GREAT ESCAPE" 30" x 30". Oil on canvas.

**Where does the process begin for you? What techniques and materials do you use?**

My painting process is an evolution from simple to complex. I start with a basic drawing of my subject over a stained cotton canvas. I do that with a very diluted wash of oil paint and turpentine. That provides me with a middle tone ground that is very useful during the blocking layer. At this stage, I am only identifying lights and shadows to form basic shapes. It is at this point that I can quickly identify errors and make changes to the composition. What follows is a slow construction of details layer over layer. Oil paint is so rich and forgiving that it allows me to use a great variety of techniques during that process. Detailing can take months on a big painting, but it is absolutely mesmerizing. I think that's what I love about painting the most; to

be able to create something on a two-dimensional plane that can convince the observers that what they see is real.

**Is the artistic life lonely? What do you do to counteract it?**

An artist's life can be a little lonely or isolated if we don't pay attention. However, there are many ways to counteract that solitude. To be honest, I love and cherish my alone time in the studio, but I keep my balance and feed my need for human interaction with my art classes. I continue to educate myself and still take art classes. Those are my special days to interact with other fellow artists, where we share not only knowledge, but also experiences. It has become my escape to the daily routine. I also believe that exercise is essential for the mind and the soul, and definitely for the creative

process. I use this opportunity also to socialize. There is nothing better than a long run with friends.

**What is your most recent artwork or future project you're excited to create?**

My current series «Everybody needs a Rock» has definitely captured all my attention and jolted my creative mind. I am excited about all the many possibilities that I have within this subject. Rocks can be bare and simple, or they can be intricate and complex, and hold a lot of meaning depending on the story behind them. I can play with that to express a feeling, tell a story, and show a moment in time a depiction of a meaningful object or simple play with colors. The diversity in the subject also gives me the freedom to explore different painting techniques. Rocks can be rough, edgy, and porous, or they



## LARA RESELLI

can be smooth, shiny, and colorful like a jewel. The depiction of these characteristics is a joyful journey with endless possibilities. I foresee myself exploring this theme even further. I have so many ideas for new art pieces that I am confident that this series will continue to grow and evolve.

Beauty is purposefully imbued, rather than a happy coincidence. Would you say the pursuit of beauty is coming back into popularity in our current culture?

I certainly hope it is. Contemporary realism has so much to offer to art lovers in that regard. I firmly believe that this is a movement that has a strong future in a world that had once lost interest in all things realistic. The pursuit of beauty in art is a discussion that we can start but never end since it ignites such opposing opinions. However, I do not doubt that beauty in art begins with talented artists, and there are plenty of talented artists in our current culture. We need to learn to recognize them and celebrate them. Magazines like this one are an excellent place to celebrate beautiful art, creativity, and talent.



Lara Restelli in the studio



"PLAYING WITH BEADS" 30" x 48". Oil on canvas.



"AMBER" 48" x 30". Oil on canvas.

Professionally, what's your goal?

My aspirations are simple. I want to keep learning and growing as an artist. I want to be able to continue painting and sharing my work with people who appreciate it. Although my goals are simple, I know there is a road of hard work ahead of me, which I happily embrace.

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Contemporary Realism. Hyperrealism

*Instagram*  
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"PLAYING WITH BEADS" 30" x 48". Oil on canvas.





"GREY STONES I" 40" x 30". Oil on canvas.



"GREY STONES II" 36" x 48". Oil on canvas.

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*"There are three remarkable aspects of Lara Restelli's art: her positive inspiration in depicting the beauty of nature and humanity which makes her artwork uplifting and inspiring; her excellent mastership in the use of oil painting as her media, together with a skillful technique, making her realistic art to stand out and impress; and finally, her powerful management of feelings, color and composition, resulting in a final contemporary masterpiece, in order to create original and unique artworks that delight and deeply connect with the viewer."*

*Mariavelia Savino, Art Curator*





"INFINITE HOPE" 40" x 40". Oil on canvas.



"TURQUOISE" 36" x 48". Oil on canvas.