**Laurie Blakely**

**“Prayer for a Desperate World”**

I'm a painter, sculptor, filmmaker, gardener, woods-dweller and caretaker of many rescued animals. I'm always learning more about art through workshops and self-study, but I attended formal art classes at Southeastern Missouri University- Cape Girardeau, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, John A Logan College and McKendree University.

To me, the language of art is the language of dreams. Images are sometimes symbolic and strange yet familiar.

My paintings are dreamscapes that explore loss and transformation, rebirth and redemption. I ponder these cycles of decay and growth on my daily walks through the Makanda woods where I live. I use a paint made from beeswax, tree resin and pigments (encaustic) to give my musings form.

Translucent layers of paint appear ethereal and allow us to see through them to other “realities” or “truths” underneath. My pieces often contain organic shapes like pods, seeds or eggs that symbolize not only the genesis of life, but also the metamorphosis of one way of being into another.

In “Prayer for a Desperate World”, I explore the current trauma to our earthly home and my fervent hope for a measure of restorative change.