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Electrifying Brushwork at Gallery C

Noted painter Laura Lacambra Shubert
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By Susan Farrington
Herald Correspondent

Orlando, FL-Florida based artist Laura Shubert returns to the Triangle area for an all –new exciting exhibition of her work at Gallery C in Raleigh. “The Goof Life” exhibit is an event that shouldn’t be missed.

Growing up on both sides of the Atlantic and encouraged by a Basque father and American mother, Shubert knew from an early age that a career in art would be her destiny. She studied painting, drawing and printmaking at Southern Methodist University, receiving her Bachelor of fine arts degree in 1986. “I was drawn there for two reasons,” Shubert recalls, “because the school has such an outstanding art department and because I wanted to explore another part of our country.

Armed with this art degree, Shubert spent the following year studying painting at Academie Port Royal in Paris, France, returning to the United States, where she immediately began exhibiting in solo and group shows across this country and abroad.

In 2000, Shubert was named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in London, a prestigious body established in 1754, whose impressive list of Honorary Fellows includes His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, Nelson Mandela, Professor Stephen Hawking and Dame Judi Dench.

“Although I am painting and exhibiting all the time, I also constantly attend workshops,” says Shubert. “Just recently, I was in Petaluma, Calif., working with an artist whose focus was on the architectural aspects of painting. It’s important to keep expanding your fund of knowledge.”

Shubert’s distinctive style, based on her studies and the inspiration of earlier great masters such as 15th century Albrecht Durer and a contemporary of John Singer Sargent named Joaquin Sorolla, was already developed by the time she returned to the United States from France. Her works vibrate with life because of the long, loose brush strokes used while applying exceptional amounts of paint. Whether working on stretched linen, panel, or canvas she starts with acrylic, “because it dries quickly and gives good cover.” Afterward, she paints over everything with oil—“lushes it up,” is Shubert’s apt description. The resulting paintings often reflect the shimmering lights one finds in Mary Cassat’s “Lydia Crocheting” or the crystalline blues seen in the swirling waters of Berthe Morisot’s, “The Harbor at Lorient.” Her interesting arrangement of cutlery in a glistening still life is reminiscent of David Hockney’s works, and the cavorting echoes of Sorolla’s “The Two Sisters” can be discerned in a painting of “Boys on a Beach”

Shubert says she paints from photographs and rarely on scene, especially in Florida, where humidity strongly affects light. “What I look for is a crisp and perfect day, a rarity in Orlando.” Describing her studio, Shubert says the exterior looks as if it belongs on one of the French farms she visited abroad. It’s very simple, stuccoed and full of air and sunlight.”

The artist’s originals range in cost from \$975 for a 12” x 12” canvas to \$3,950 for a 30” x 40”, Giclees, which will not be on sale at Gallery C, can be purchased from Image South.com Photographic Design through info@image-south.com or (404) 307- 1404. Prices are \$950 for a 30”x30” pieces and \$475.00 for 18”x24” pieces. For additional information on Shubert and to view more of her work, visit www.lsstudios.com.