

Caroline Stoughton and The Colors That Sing

Written by Liv Pancheri

Caroline Stoughton is an award winning artist from the suburbs of Philadelphia. Stoughton studied art in New York, Paris, and Rome but recently earned her Bachelor's of Fine Art degree in Painting at Tyler School of Art and Architecture in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This year she has been granted the *Richard Cramer Color Award* for her defined connection with color.

Stoughton is a contemporary painter whose use of color floods her surfaces like rain on parched earth. The freedom she allows her pigments nourishes the canvas and viewer alike. Her color and subjects are taken from life, influenced by the wild animals and lavish nature she has come across in her travels. Her work embodies the marriage of an unexpected pair: the zest of Lilly Pulitzer and the charisma of Henri Rousseau.



(Left) *Scene 104*, 18 x 24 in., Acrylic on Canvas, 2019



(Right) *Hey! We Live Here Too*, 60 x 39.5 in., Acrylic and Oil on Canvas, 2019

The radiating presence of her subjects seize control over the works. At times they rid themselves of the bounds of stretcher bars and become larger than life, growing around the viewer to stretch the length of an entire wall. Her larger works make the viewer feel as if they are strolling down an overgrown trail on a warm day. Within every piece, she awakens the colors of the outside world to portray its richness- an abundant state that exists too oftenly in our blind spots.



Untitled, 132 x 48 in., Acrylic and Oil on Unstretched Canvas, 2020

The painting above is a piece Stoughton has been working on during her time in state lock down. The youthfulness and regeneration in nature acts as the subject of this work adorned by the flexibility of her pigments. The flora and fauna that climb up the painting do so gracefully. The viewer can feel the piece breathing and might find themselves trying to breathe with it in an effort to capture its essence of fresh air.

Her overall body of work- spanning floral bouquets, forest scenery, skylscapes, wild animals, and occasionally people- is a reminder to look out and appreciate the vitality of life outside of daily preoccupations. Her work is hopeful, forgiving, and pays love forward. Stoughton believes her work is especially present during this pandemic as we see the natural world healing and reclaiming its space as we are locked inside. I strongly encourage browsing through her portfolio in these times when we are all searching for some connection. You can find Caroline's work on instagram [@carolinestoughton_art](#), facebook [@Caroline Stoughton Art](#), or on her website, carolinestoughton.com.