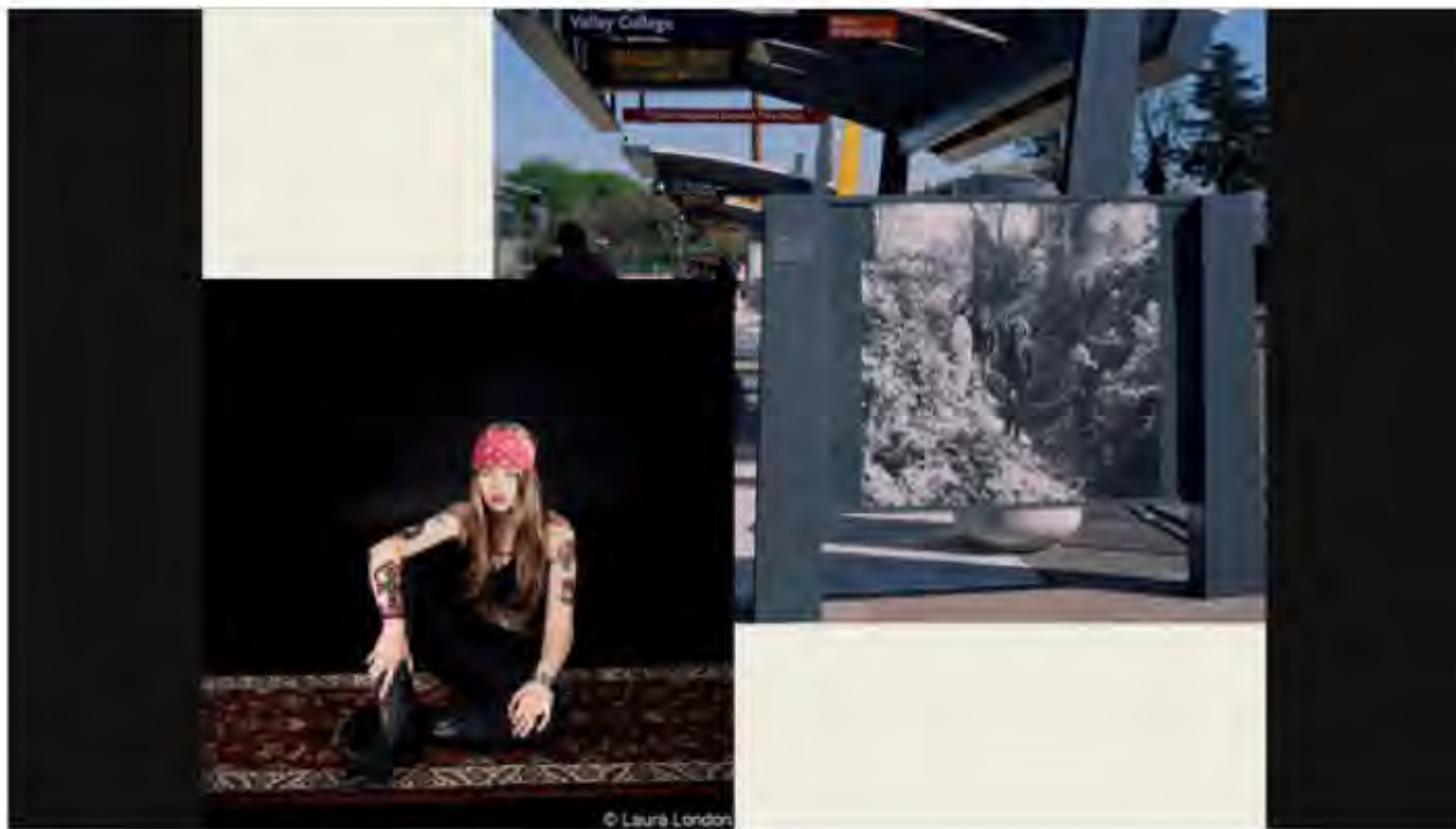


Ten questions with artist Laura London

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Arts & Exhibits newsletter

Laura London is an artist most well-known for her photography.

1. What age would you say you first began creating art?

Age three to four. I would bring home stacks of abstract watercolor finger paintings from preschool. My mom would put them up on the wall and I would rearrange them. The first show was at age six to eight of a pastel drawing at an art show at a Chicago social club. My first professional show was while I was in college. I showed two black and white photographs in a [juried show](#).

2. Did you create for the fun of it, because you simply couldn't *not* create art or some other reason?

Yes, as a child I made art for fun. As I grew up I became engaged in it and went to art school.

3. What age would you say you first began defining yourself as an artist?

High School age. I began photography at 14.

4. What are your opinions about being paid for art? Do you consider yourself a professional artist?

I am an artist and create artwork, which is an expression I create for myself. The work is then shown and offered for sale in galleries. I also produce pieces for commission.

5. Have you had formal training? If so, how do you feel it has helped you as an artist? How do you feel it has hindered you? If not, what are your thoughts about formal training?

Yes, I have had formal training. I received a BFA from the University of Arizona and an MFA from California Institute of the Arts. It definitely helped me develop my art. I had the opportunity to study with professional, well-known artists who were teachers. I attended school with a talented group of fellow students. Attending lectures and studio visits with visiting artists and art professionals, access to equipment, labs, studio darkroom, classes and other resources also assisted to develop my art making practice. The final reviews/critiques each semester in front of six to twelve teachers was good practice for learning to talk about ones work.

I believe formal training is good for people who would like to become artists. With or without formal training, working in your chosen medium, as well as looking at different types of artwork and studying art history is important, as well. Learning the other aspects of being a professional artist, such as the business side, is also valuable.

6. If you could create art with a different medium than the one you are most well-known for, what would it be?

Film/video, installation, digital drawing, silkscreen, printmaking

7. What inspires you? Do you have some sort of "something" you do that when you do it ideas for new projects just seem to flow? Do you ever record your ideas for future use? If so, what is your favorite way?

My ideas grow out of "day in the life" activities. Memory and observation play a part as well. I record my ideas for new projects and take notes for locations, time of day, models and shoot documentary snap shots that serve as kind of a sketchbook. Various elements from these groupings later get set up, constructed and shot in the studio and on location. I create visual narrative in my images through the language of photography.

8. What profession other than yours would you like to attempt?

Another related art field, such as design, film/video, architecture or fashion. It was fun to work on the [Metro Orange Line](#) commission, for which I designed two large-scale steel enamel photo panels and two large scale Terrazzo Ellipses.

9. What's next for you? What else is possible?

I am back in the studio working on new artwork and several projects.

Also, "[Translations: Artists of The Metro Orange Line at Los Angeles \(L.A.\) Valley College Art Gallery](#)". The exhibition runs October 11 through December 13, 2012.

10. Anything else you would love to share here about you, your life, your art...anything? I love all the visual and performing arts. I felt I was best in photography and pursued that for a career.

I still use film and shoot with vintage cameras, a medium format and 35mm. I make archival digital photographic prints, traditional black and white prints, and shoot with natural and [tungsten](#) light.

Some of the best things about living and working as a [photographer](#) in Southern California are the beautiful quality of light and spaciousness of the landscape. Another great thing is the studio space to work and shoot, and to have a darkroom.

I am pleased that my work has been extensively exhibited in solo and group shows nationally and internationally. I have produced commissioned work and editions for public spaces and artist organizations. I am the recipient of two L.A. county Metropolitan Transportation Authority Grants, one permanent and one temporary art installation. My work is included in many collections, both private and corporate. I have been featured extensively in the press. I teach at [Otis College of Art and Design](#). For a more detailed biography, <http://www.lauralondon.com/bio.html>

If someone would be interested in seeing, buying art you already have created and/or commissioning you for an art project; what would be your preferred way, currently, to have them contact you?

I currently have a show at [Coagula Curatorial](#), 977 Chung King Road, Los Angeles, CA 90012 that runs through Oct. 21, 2012.

I may also be reached through my website, www.lauralondon.com



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Lori is an adventurer, artist, photographer and writer living in L.A., making art a great fit for her images and words to celebrate and share all that is art in L.A..

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