



Laura Waller



ON COVER: *C-Enforcer No. 1*, 2015, oil On linen, 36 x 48 x 1.5 in

ABOVE: *Rhea I. Bouchard No. 2*, 2015, Oil on linen, 36 x 48 x 1.5 in.

## Port Side: Paintings by Laura Waller



*PORT SIDE: Paintings by Laura Waller*  
*Dedicated to Barbara Hendry and the memory of Aaron Hendry*



*OIG Giant II No. 7, 2015, Oil on linen, 36 x 48 x 1.5 in.*



## Essay

Artist Laura Waller maintains studios in Florida and Maine, places where the coast is never far off. It's a perpetual proximity that can be felt in Waller's paintings. In them, she expresses her interest in the spaces where water and land meet, where people confront the ocean. Accordingly, Waller has been creating compositions portraying vessels at port in her Working Waterfront series since 2013.

In her new exhibition, Waller's Working Waterfront series undergoes a shift toward abstraction. However, it is a very particular sort of abstraction, one that doesn't obscure but elucidates. Through an intense and often spatially tight focus, Waller reclaims remarkable compositions, colors and visual rhythms otherwise moored and lost in the busy everyday scenes of port. The carefully selected perspective of each painting culls stunning hues and forceful lines – impressive abstract compositions folded deep into real working waterfronts.

For example, as the title of the painting and the ship's name implies, OIG GIANT II No. 10: The Reach depicts the bow of an enormous vessel, but only a small portion of it. However, Waller portrays it with a stunning compo-

sitional efficiency. A commanding gradating block of indigo, blue and rust curves into the canvas falling into a network of beams girding a platform. The port bow gently eases through hues, visually and structurally bracing the platform's turbulent body

of lines and angles. The graceful solid arc recalls the ship's buoyancy, and the angular trestlework its dynamism.

This piece also underscores another fascinating aspect of Waller's recent work: a



*Tanja Kosan No. 4*, 2016, Oil on linen, 36 x 48 x 1.5 in.

dynamic sense of scale. Rather than simply depicting the enormity of the freighters, Waller implies it and to much more powerful effect. She offers just enough of each vessel for the extent of its magnitude to stretch out of view and freely through the imagination. The canvases are large and still only contain a fractional amount of each ship's bulk, evoking a vivid sense of their looming immensity. Oftentimes, a composition's vanishing point is situated entirely off the canvas, impressing on a very intuitive level that the structures are just too large to capture.

These striking scales point to another: the selfsame ships amid expanses of water. Though mammoth in port and in these paintings, in life they float like single pixels through great sweeps of open ocean. Indeed, via the internet, Waller frequently traces the route of the vessels she portrays as they traverse the globe, transporting goods and people. In this way, matching the series' visual drama of scales, a quiet but powerful socio-economic drama of scales is present in each painting. Marks of wear and sun-beaten age in the vessels bespeak their global journeys in trade but also the day-after-day labor of individual hands.

In conversation with Waller, she once described these massive ships as "primordial." They lumber through harbor waters like ancient giants. The paintings bolster this image, aiming attention at taut ropes or the twists of suspended anchors, frequently emphasizing fleshy colors and vaguely organic forms. Perhaps more fundamentally, though, the series draws on the timelessness of seafaring. The paintings of Laura Waller are distinctly modern expressions. However, seaward arrivals and exoduses of immigrants, markets and labor huddled around harbors and ports – these stretch back almost beyond collective memory.

Thus, in several ways, Waller's work in this series enjoins the oft-dichotomous: abstraction and the figurative, a sense of enormity and smallness, local and global issues, trades ancient and modern. Compellingly, the paintings hint at large wholly enveloping scales while not neglecting to enjoy the minutiae of the artform and its subject, the working waterfront.



*Danny Olda is an art critic, editor and curator working on the west coast of Florida. His writing has been featured in regional to international journals such as Hyperallergic, Momus, Temporary Art Review, BurnAway, Daily Serving, Hi-Fructose Magazine, Beautiful/Decay, Eutopia, and Art Radar. Additionally, Olda has curated exhibitions, delivered lectures and moderated and participated in panel discussions for a number of various institutions, organizations and galleries.*



*Clipper Newhaven No. 2*, 2016, Oil on linen, 36 x 48 x 1.5 in.





*OIG Giant II No. 6*, 2015, Oil on linen, 36 x 48 x 1.5 in.



*OIG Giant II No. 10: The Reach*, 2015, Oil on linen, 36 x 48 x 1.5 in.





ABOVE: *Clipper Newhaven No. 1*, 2016, Oil on linen, 36 x 48 x 1.5 in.

RIGHT: *Clipper Newhaven No. 6*, 2016, Oil on panel, 12 x 16 x 1.5 in.



*Man At Work No. 1*, 2016, Oil on linen, 36 x 48 x 1.5 in





*OIG Giant II No. 3, 2015, Oil on linen, 60 x 90 x 1.5 in.*



*OIG Giant II No. 8, 2015, Oil on linen, 36 x 48 x 1.5 in.*





ABOVE: *Tanja Kosan No. 5*, 2016, Oil on linen, 36 x 48 x 1.5 in.

RIGHT: *Gallant Lady No. 1*, 2015, Oil on linen, 48 x 36 x 1.5 in.



*OIG Giant II No. 2*, 2015, Oil on linen, 36 x 48 x 1.5 in.





*OIG Giant II No. 9: The Conversation*, 2015, Oil on linen, 36 x 48 x 1.5 in.



*OIG Giant II No. 15.*, 2016, Oil on linen, 36 x 48 x 1.5 in.





*Bouchard Tugboat No. 1, 2016, Oil on linen, 60 x 84 x 1.5 in.*



*ABOVE: Capt. MacIntire No. 1, 2015, Oil on linen, 36 x 48 x 1.5 in.*  
*LEFT: Rhea I. Bouchard No. 3, 2015, Oil on linen, 36 x 48 x 1.5 in.*





# Biography

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Laura Waller received her undergraduate and master's degrees from Newcomb College and Tulane University in New Orleans, LA. Concurrent with studies in sociology, psychology and social work, she developed a passion for art and art history.

After an eleven year career as a professional therapist, Laura Waller became a certified financial planner and founder of the successful Waller & Wax Advisors firm in Tampa, FL. Throughout her thirty-year career in finance, she continued to paint and study independently with prestigious artists in Arizona, Florida and Maine. Waller was selected in 2013, 2014 and again for 2015, for artist residencies at the Vermont Studio Center.

As a fulltime artist, Laura Waller works out of her two studios in Maine and Florida. Her Port Tampa Bay paintings were featured in a winter 2015 solo exhibition at the Clayton Galleries, Tampa, Florida. Her Working Waterfront paintings were featured in a summer 2016 solo exhibition at Elizabeth Moss Galler-

ies, Falmouth, Maine. New paintings from the Working Waterfront series will be featured in an upcoming solo exhibition which opens January 2017 at Clayton Galleries in Tampa, Florida.



Waller was awarded the Arts Council of Hillsborough County 2016 Individual Artist Grant in 2016. Her paintings are collected by individuals and corporations nationwide.

# Resume

AWARDS			
2016	Carolyn Heller Visual Arts Award, Arts Council of Hillsborough County, FL	2013	Maine Coastal Islands, Headquarters, National Wildlife Refuge, Rockland, ME
2016	Individual Artist Grant, Arts Council of Hillsborough County, Tampa, FL	2013	Maine Icons and Special Places, River Arts Center, Damariscotta, ME
2014	Selected artist, Creative Capital Foundation Professional Development Program funded by the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs.	2013	Oil Paintings by Laura Waller, Corporate Headquarters, Maine Home and Design Magazine, Portland, ME
2014	Award of Excellence, 9th Biennial National Art Exhibition, Visual Arts Center, Punta Gorda, Florida; Juror Carl J. Samson, former Chairman of The American Society of Portrait Artists.	2012	The Human Side, River Arts Center, Damariscotta, ME
2013	Best of Show, 27th Annual All Florida Juried Exhibition, Lee County Alliance for the Arts, Fort Myers, Florida; Juror, Frank Verpoorten, director and curator of the Baker Museum of Art, Naples, Florida	2011	Holiday Show, Jonathan Frost Gallery, Rockland, ME
		2011	Travelscapes, Nuance Galleries, Tampa, FL
		2010	New Works by Laura Waller, Taylor Ikin, Nuance Galleries, Tampa, FL
		2010	Holiday Show, North Light Gallery, Millinocket, ME
		2009	Waller and Ikin Exhibition, Nuance Galleries, Tampa, FL
		2008	Two Friends Return, Laura Waller, Taylor Ikin, Nuance Galleries, Tampa, FL

PUBLIC ART			
2016	Selected Artist for ArtPop!	2008	Annual Florida Watercolor Society Exhibition, Old School Square Cultural Center, Delray Beach, FL
	Billboard public art project sponsored by Arts Council of Hillsborough County, Tampa, FL	2006	Oncology on Canvas, exhibition organized by Eli Lilly and Company, premiered at Royal Academy of Art in London UK, and traveled worldwide.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS		TALKS	
2017	PORT SIDE: Paintings by Laura Waller, Clayton Galleries, Tampa, FL; January 27 – March 11	2016	"How an Artist Sees the Working Waterfront", Farnsworth Art Museum Docent Talk, Rockland, ME
2016	The Working Waterfront: New Work by Laura Waller; Elizabeth Moss Galleries, Falmouth, ME	2015	Artist Presentation, 4th National Working Waterfronts & Waterways Symposium; Tampa, FL
2015	The Working Waterfront: Port Tampa Bay – New Paintings by Laura Waller, Clayton Galleries, Tampa, FL	2015	Artist Presentation, Women Artists of Sarasota, Sarasota, FL

SELECTED DUAL AND GROUP EXHIBITIONS		RESIDENCIES	
2015	Best in Show: The Past Decade, Lee County Alliance for the Arts, Ft. Myers, FL	2015, 2014, 2013	Vermont Studio Center Residency in Art Program, Johnson, VT

2014/2015	Fine Art Exhibition, Tampa Bay Lightning/Amalie Arena, Tampa, FL				
2014	Cityscapes: The City As I See It; The Gallery at the Watershed, Eugene, OR				
2014	28th Annual All Florida Juried Exhibit, Lee County Alliance for the Arts, Ft. Myers, FL				
INDEPENDENT STUDIES					

2013	Maine Coastal Islands, Headquarters, National Wildlife Refuge, Rockland, ME	1968	Master's Degree, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA
2013	Maine Icons and Special Places, River Arts Center, Damariscotta, ME	1966	Bachelor of Arts Degree, Newcomb College of Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, Phi Beta Kappa
MUSEUM, CORPORATE AND PUBLIC COLLECTIONS			
		American Victory Museum, Tampa, FL	
		Eli Lilly and Company, New York, NY	
		Liquid Pictures 3D, Laguna Beach, CA	
		Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN	
		Raymond James Financial, St. Petersburg, FL	
		Rockland Public Library, Rockland, ME	
		City of Rockland, Rockland, ME	

BIBLIOGRAPHY			
2016	"Femme Visuale: Laura Waller," Creative Loafing, Tampa Bay, June 16	2016	"Focus Artist of the Week: Laura Waller," Elizabeth Moss Galleries, June 15
2016	"Artists Receive Grants from Arts Council", The Tampa Tribune, March 9	2016	"Fourteen Local Artists Receive Grants from Arts Council," Hillsborough County Arts Council, February 29
2015	"ArtPop Tampa Announces Jury-Selected Winners for Billboard Space", Hillsborough County Arts Council, May 28, <a href="http://tampaarts.com/artpop">tampaarts.com/artpop</a>	2015	Jet Fuel Review – Spring Issue
2015	Jet Fuel Review – Spring Issue	2013	"Alliance Announces Winners in 27th Annual All Florida Juried Exhibition," Michael Kiniry, The River Weekly News, Vol. 12, No. 24, June 21
2013	"Best of Show, Owl's Head, Gives Viewers a Respite from Confrontational World," Thomas Hall, The Examiner, <a href="http://www.examiner.com">www.examiner.com</a> ; June 8		



Port Side:  
Paintings by Laura Waller

January 27 - March 7, 2017

Clayton Galleries  
4105 S MacDill Ave, Tampa, FL 33611      Phone: (813) 831-3753

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Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners.



List of Works in Exhibition

<i>Capt. MacIntire No. 1</i>	2015	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>C-Enforcer No. 1</i>	2015	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in
<i>Gallant Lady No. 1</i>	2015	Oil on linen	48 x 36 x 1.5 in.
<i>OIG Giant II No. 2</i>	2015	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>OIG Giant II No. 3</i>	2015	Oil on linen	60 x 96 x 1.5 in.
<i>OIG Giant II No. 4</i>	2015	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>OIG Giant II No. 6</i>	2015	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>OIG Giant II No. 7</i>	2015	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>OIG Giant II No. 8</i>	2015	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>OIG Giant II No. 9: The Conversation</i>	2015	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>OIG Giant II No. 10: The Reach</i>	2015	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>Rhea I. Bouchard No. 2</i>	2015	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>Rhea I. Bouchard No. 3</i>	2015	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>Sheila Moran No. 1</i>	2015	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>Tanja Kosan No. 1</i>	2015	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>Top Island No. 5</i>	2015	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>Top Island No. 7: Anchor 2</i>	2015	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>Bouchard Tugboat No. 1</i>	2016	Oil on linen	60 x 84 x 1.5 in.
<i>Clipper Newhaven No. 1</i>	2016	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>Clipper Newhaven No. 2</i>	2016	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>Clipper Newhaven No. 3</i>	2016	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>Clipper Newhaven No. 4</i>	2016	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>Clipper Newhaven No. 5</i>	2016	Oil on linen	20 x 24 x 1.5 in.
<i>Clipper Newhaven No. 6</i>	2016	Oil on panel	12 x 16 x 1.5 in.
<i>Clipper Newhaven No. 7</i>	2016	Oil on panel	12 x 16 x 1.5 in.
<i>Dorothy No. 2</i>	2016	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>K. Brave No. 3</i>	2016	Oil, acrylic on linen	20 x 24 x 1.5 in.
<i>Man at Work No. 1</i>	2016	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in
<i>OIG Giant II No. 14</i>	2016	Oil on linen	20 x 24 x 1.5 in.
<i>OIG Giant II No. 15</i>	2016	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>Tanja Kosan No. 4</i>	2016	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in
<i>Tanja Kosan No. 5</i>	2016	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.
<i>Tanja Kosan No. 6</i>	2016	Oil on linen	36 x 48 x 1.5 in.

BACK COVER: *Dorothy No. 2*, 2016, Oil on linen, 36 x 48 x 1.5 in.





# CREDITS:

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