

The Faculty Club:

Laurel Mines: *Spring Light*

By ANDRIA WATSON / CASA

ARMED WITH A LOVE FOR NATURE AND A WILL TO PROTECT IT, Laurel Mines' created *Spring Light*, an exhibit that will be on display at UCSB's Faculty Club through April 30th, with a reception on April 10th, from 5 to 7:30pm.

"I wanted to emphasize the beauty we live in and try to share those images with other people," shared Mines of her work. "People are going to see a variety of oil



Laurel Mines

paintings at my show. I've painted scenes from Big Sur and Santa Barbara and there are some still lifes... all very colorful."

As a seven-year-old, Mines

remembers seeing her grandfather's art studio in Seattle. He, as well as her father, encouraged her to pursue her artistic interests. By the time Mines was eight, she had begun painting outside, *en plein-air*.

"I seriously started considering art when I was attending Dos Pueblos High School," Mines shared. I was also interested in oceanography and geology because I loved being outdoors. But my art teacher, Audie Love, made me believe it was possible to have a career in art."

Mines was born in New York, but moved to Santa Barbara when she was three, after

her father received a teaching position at UCSB, where Mines later

studied.

"I grew up in Winchester Canyon. I spent most of my time running through the fields, exploring, and riding my bike to the beach," Mines related. "I loved the plants, and flowers, and seemingly untouched coastline. That's really what inspires my work today – raw beauty."

India, France, Italy, England, Scotland, and Spain are a few places Mines has traveled. She appreciates Santa Barbara the most because of its unique climate and natural treasures. Mines is a member of Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment (SCAPE), and she donates a portion of her painting sales to help preserve nature.

"Because of my love for this location, I hope to ensure these places are protected and cared for," Mines added.

Marcia Burt, Mines' mentor of ten years, has also encouraged her expression as an artist. The two met while Mines was attending Santa Barbara City College's Continuing Ed program.

"I admire her not only for her fantastic artwork, but also for who she is as a person," Mines shared. "She is one of the most giving people I have ever met. I look up to her in many ways."

Art in the community is important to



Herb Garden at Casa Herrera by Laurel Mines

Mines. "It directly affects me and my work. I think artists in this town have a strong appreciation for the land and that should motivate all of us to protect it"

"Art is a balance," Mines remarked. "In a world where technology reigns supreme, art is a hands on, creative process that allows us to use our brains and imagination. When I'm standing on the Bluffs on Ellwood, and am able to enjoy painting in the moment, I feel privileged to do what I do. This is how I give back."

The Faculty Club is located on UCSB's west campus, and is open Mo-Fr, 11:30-1:30pm. For information, call 893-3096.



Aloe Over Water by Laurel Mines