ARTIST STATEMENT

LAURIE DANIAL
Beauty and The Long Walk Home, 2026

Beauty and the Long Walk Home, the theme of my current body of work, is a metaphor for my creative process: The search for an image that expresses my aspirations, and the long struggle it often takes to bring that image into being. What I am searching for I call beauty, though not beauty in its traditional sense. The beauty I pursue is in defiance of cliché and perfection. It is subjective. I have a penchant for finding it in what others might consider commonplace or ugly.

The search starts with the compulsion to make the best painting I can, often measured by what brings me closure and satisfaction. Like many artists working in abstraction, I begin without a predetermined vision of what the painting should be, a practice I call working blind. The "long walk home" is the slow process of making and unmaking that ensues. "Home" is the image I finally arrive at, one that is formally sound and asks for nothing more. Above all, it is an image I am glad to keep looking at.

Over the last two years, through improvisation and unmediated gesture, I have delved more deeply into what I consider play: following the hand rather than a plan. In doing so, I have allowed the intrusion of an idiosyncratic mix of images, such as a face, a flower, text, eyes stealing glances, and Rococo flourishes, the latter a new obsession of mine. These interlopers complicate and enrich the painting's trajectory. In the end, the tension between control and letting go pushes the work forward and makes room for beauty to become the "home" of my endeavors.

Laurie Danial

November 2026

FROELICK GALLERY

714 NW Davis Street
Portland, Oregon 97209
T 503 222 1142
www.FroelickGallery.com