

## MEET THE ARTIST



LEAH VARNELL

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## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Leah Varnell is a self-taught abstract and landscape artist. Working with her soft touches of oil pastel and interesting marks of color, Leah creates pieces that evoke peace, intentionality and timelessness. For Leah, creating was never not an option. As a painter, writer, songwriter, singer and speaker, Leah thrives off of creating depth and purpose into her work. She instills what she is learning and experiencing in life into each work, as she believes that meaning matters and so do you.



WEARY AND LIGHT







Existing as a group of 8 works, The Not Collection is a homage to my post-grad season. Each piece is on gallery wrapped canvas done with acrylic and oil pastel thoughtfully titled and intentionally worded. When I began The Not Collection, and even now as I write this, I live in a time of uncertainty. I don't know what is ahead or the answers to the questions I have, almost daily. However, I do know what the answers are *not*. I know that I was not created to hide myself, that I am not alone, and am not ashamed of what I am experiencing. There is a lot I do not know, yet trust helps me stand in the gap. I hope this collection also stands as a testament to what is *not*, so you may find what *is*.



# NOT BY SIGHT

With its darker hues and moody expression, Not by Sight lives as the piece I created when I was the most blind. Out of a season where "I don't know" was constant, "Not by Sight" reminds us that even in the darkness, there will be light again. It encourages its viewers to keep walking, even when you cannot see what's ahead.



DETAILS: 30 X 30'



# NOT LINEAR

Not Linear is a complex piece that emphasizes the difference between the way we believe life should go and the way it actually exists. Not Linear echoes, through its touches of unexpected oil pastel marks, that we are beings who experience life on a complicated plane instead of in a story tied up with a bow. Not Linear gives freedom to individuals to fully jump into the mess of life without having to figure it out.



DETAILS: 30 X 40'



# NOT QUITE

Not Quite retracts power from its visual tension of feeling unfinished. Created to evoke an intentional relation to how we often feel about ourselves. The thoughts that come to us as “I’ll be okay once I finally finish xyz” or “I’ll be successful when I can get to xyz”. Living in a constant state of somewhere, but not quite there yet, this piece pulls its viewers into the important question “What if you’re already exactly where you need to be? And what if in the midst of your doubt you truly are whole and loved?”.



DETAILS: 40 X 40'



# NOT HIDDEN

Standing out with its powerful colors and stark marks, "Not Hidden" challenges us to live authentically. This piece draws on our desire to be known, yet to often hide who we really are. However, with the help of our friends and loved ones, we can come out of hiding and present ourselves to the world; imperfect, yet deeply loved and full of purpose.



DETAILS: 24 X 18'



# NOT BY DOING

With its peaceful colors and ease of movement, this piece brings hearts to a centered place where their worth is not dependent on what they do or accomplish, but who they are. For the one who measures their days on how much they do or how many claps of approval they receive, this piece is for you. It is for those of us who desperately want to rest, but are unsure how. "Not by Doing" asks us to operate from fullness of rest instead of desire to be seen.



DETAILS: 48 X 36'



# NOT IN A HURRY

Not in a Hurry contextualizes the need for rest in a hurried world. Created with comforting colors and soft touches of oil pastel, "Not in a Hurry" invites us into the kind of living where we are sure of our pace and do not run to catch up. It speaks to the hurried heart, "life is not a race and you are not behind".



DETAILS: 20 X 16'



# NOT ALONE

Not Alone stands as a statement to the heart that we never experience anything alone. By visually connecting two pieces of color, it is emphasized that we are constantly connected. Alone does not exist, but is a human invention formed to isolate. Instead, Not Alone, beacons its viewers to imagine all the ways they are supported and safe through its intentional lines and structure.



DETAILS: 30 X 40'



# NOT ASHAMNED

Marking its territory with color and intentional design, "Not Ashamed" pieces together what it feels like to show up as your true self, unashamed. Without room for perfectly curated lines or airbrushed finishing, this piece exists as a statement of faith for those who are coming out of hiding and ready to take on real life as they really are.



DETAILS: 40 X 40'