

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Laura Ball

Cosmos

January 20 — February 25, 2023

Opening Reception: Friday, January 20th, 5 - 8 pm

Free and open to the public | Artist in attendance

David B. Smith Gallery is proud to present *Cosmos*, by Laura Ball, the artist's fourth solo exhibition with the gallery. Featuring 18 new watercolor paintings, Ball's deep connection to the natural world, ancient religious and mystical traditions, and her dedication to ecological conservatorship come to the forefront.

Throughout human history there have been recurring themes linked to animism. Across disparate cultures, spanning millennia, metaphors reflecting the psyche and the dark reaches of the galaxy have been linked to beasts great and small. Tapping into the collective unconscious, Ball draws inspiration from the primordial, dreamlike state of mind that connects consciousness to the non-verbal, vast cosmos. In the eternal worlds that she creates, interlinking creatures draw strength from one another as they twist and flex in fantastical unison.

Colossal tangled serpents, roaring tigers, and charging horses, many of which are critically endangered species, recur throughout works included in *Cosmos*. In her compositions, creatures ebb and swell, sometimes tearing into one another in their ferocious unending dance. While each work contains its own unique cultural references and spiritual meanings, themes such as the inner cosmos, gates and guardians, and the ouroboros are important thematic pillars in *Cosmos*. Through these metaphors a powerful rumination on existence and its infinite reach connect to this moment.

Within Ball's works there are moments of stillness met by surging forces. From conception to execution, each of her highly detailed compositions embody the weight of her intention, down to the use of pigments made of pulverized crystals, minerals, and precious metals. In her own words she states, "These new watercolors represent access points and maps to the primeval places we all have in common, a familiarity outside of logical explanation, as if connected to the mycelium of the universe." In the endless cycle of life and death there is beauty and potential, and in *Cosmos*, Laura Ball makes this exquisitely evident.

About Laura Ball

Laura Ball's work combines her technical achievements in watercolor with an ongoing part-psychoanalytical, part-environmental project she has explored over the last ten years. A recipient of numerous awards and grants, Ball has exhibited in galleries across the United States and internationally. Her work is in important private and public collections, including recent additions to the Denver Art Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), and 21c Museum. Ball received her MFA in 2004 from the University of California, Berkeley. Ball lives and works in San Diego, California.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as *Artforum*, *Art in America*, and *ARTnews*, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. *The New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering "an exciting contrast of cutting edge works" and *The Denver Post* declared that it is the "premiere commercial space" in Denver. The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.

David B. Smith Gallery is a member of the New Art Dealers Alliance (NADA).

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Laura Ball, *Cosmos*, 2022, watercolor, ink, gouache, acrylic, and graphite, 51.5 X 42 in. (130.8 x 106.7 cm)