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## Laura Zerebeski

ARTIST

**LAURA ZEREBESKI ALWAYS** wanted to be an editorial cartoonist. She loved reading *Mad Magazine* as a kid and did a stint as the cartoonist for the University of British Columbia paper.

"But I'm not negative enough," she says. "I want to create bright and cheerful scenes that make people happy."

She also likes a challenge. So, rather than focus on "happy" subjects like nature or wildlife, flowers or gardens, her muse is city scenes, particularly her home of Vancouver.

"It's a city of illusions," she says. "With the mountains and towers, fog off the water, things look far but they're really close. Size gets distorted."

The magical element adds a dynamic feel that she intensifies by jumbling together details and features with an impressionist's flair.

"When you cram more into a scene it creates the same impression you get when you're moving around a city at just the right pace," she says.

When she's researching a painting, she rides her bike

and takes up to 40 pictures of a scene from all sorts of different angles and perspectives.

"I want to capture the best angle of every landmark and then put them all together in the painting," she says. "You can't do that with photography, but you can with imagination and paints. Art allows me to create my own reality."

[laurazee.com](http://laurazee.com) ●