

LAURA TANUWIDJAYA

TEACHER ARTIST

Artist / Poet / Visual Arts Teacher



SOCIAL MEDIA

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MEDIA/TECHNIQUE

Watercolours, Inks, Digital



"Midnight", by Laura Tanuwidjaya

ARTIST STATEMENT & CREATIVE PROCESS



My practice centres on portraying women through watercolour, using the medium's transparency and fluidity to explore emotional depth, vulnerability, and transformation. The works presented here are part of an ongoing series that reflects the many facets and layered complexities of a woman's inner world. Rather than aiming for literal representation, I approach portraiture conceptually—using the face as a quiet entry point into psychological and emotional states that are often unseen.

I draw inspiration from portrait photography, particularly images that capture subtle expressions, moments of stillness, or quiet tension. These references allow me to observe the nuances of identity, emotion, and presence, which I then reinterpret through paint. My visual language is shaped by contemporary illustrators and painters such as Stephanie Mun, Audrey Kawasaki, and James Jean, whose works influence my use of delicate line, dreamlike atmospheres, and symbolic elements.

Watercolour is central to my process. I work in layered washes, allowing pigments to bleed, settle, and interact organically. This sense of surrender mirrors the themes I explore—imperfection, emotional transparency, and resilience. Nature often appears intertwined with my figures, not as decoration but as metaphor. Leaves, flowers, and organic forms echo the rhythms of growth, decay, and renewal, reinforcing my belief that a woman's soul is as intricate and powerful as the natural world itself.

Through these paintings, I invite viewers to pause, reflect, and connect with the quiet strength and complexity that exists within every woman.

“WHAT CHALLENGE(S) DID YOU FACE WHILE CREATING THIS PIECE, AND HOW DID YOU WORK THROUGH THEM?”



One of the main challenges I faced while creating this series was navigating an overwhelming abundance of ideas. Working over several months, I found myself deeply inspired, yet paradoxically struggling to sustain focus and momentum from one piece to the next. Beginning a new work—especially within the intention of building a cohesive series—often felt more difficult than continuing an existing one.

To work through this, I learned to shift my approach from waiting for clarity to trusting process. Gathering visual references through platforms such as Pinterest helped me organise my thoughts and distil inspiration into clearer starting points. More importantly, I relied on a personal system I have gradually developed: setting aside specific times and spaces dedicated solely to painting, and allowing myself to begin without the pressure of immediate resolution or perfection.

Once I committed to simply starting, the work often found its own direction. This structured yet gentle discipline helped transform scattered inspiration into sustained practice. In many ways, this challenge became integral to the series itself—mirroring the layered, nonlinear nature of the inner worlds I was attempting to portray. Through this process, I learned that consistency does not always come from control, but from creating supportive conditions in which creativity is allowed to unfold.