

## **Artist's Statement: Tamara Robertson: Finding the Light**

Making art has been essential to my life since my earliest memories. I have always had a passion for drawing, painting, and making objects from various odds and ends encountered in my living space.

I still thrive on the influence of my surroundings, thus many of my art works begin as ordinary or “found” objects, coming from my sojourns across the southern U.S. and the environment surrounding my studio on Caddo Lake. When I begin a new art object, it can start as a particular shape I wish to build upon, a new texture I want to explore, or a new material that intrigues me. Something ordinary can be extraordinary.

The current body of work which makes up *Finding the Light* had its genesis in a period of recovery and discovery after completely losing my identity of “artist” during my late husband’s duel with stage 4 colon cancer. For quite some time, the world was black and devoid of the magic I was certain had always existed therein. Bit by bit after my husband’s passing, I slogged through other creative processes which appeared to have nothing to do directly with the visual arts. However, forcing myself into the discipline of those processes helped rekindle my brain’s creative side and gradually gave me confidence I could regain my absent but beloved visual arts and my identity of “artist”. I was able to recover the magic—the light which comes with life and creativity.

My hope is that in attending this show, you, my viewers, will feel a sense of elation in seeing everyday objects taken out of their ordinary context and placed into an unfamiliar and enchanted setting. While the works are non-objective, each piece is made of recognizable individual elements which result in an unfamiliar whole, ranging from discarded firecracker tubes to soda pop caps, to scrap hardware.

Each art work in this exhibition has a minimum of two separate states of being. The first state is that of an artwork normally viewed, with appropriate lighting to accentuate the relevant highlight and shadow areas. The second is with the overhead lights reduced, allowing the art to shine from within as *you* find the light and potential mystery it holds.