

## **Artist's Statement: Tamara Robertson: Seizing 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 art works in *Seizing the Light* are non-objective, meaning they are not a picture of some existing matter or scenery, but are each composed of a repetition of recognizable individual elements to make a completely new object. The elements are often familiar, everyday articles which range from firecracker tubes from New Year’s celebrations, to buttons collected by many grandmothers, to discarded hardware accumulated from multiple craftsmen and women.

Each art work in this show has at least two separate ways in which it should be viewed. The first is how an artwork is traditionally viewed — with overhead lighting. The second is with the overhead lights reduced, allowing each piece to shine on its own. Each art work in the show, *Seizing the Light*, has its own source of light to add one of the most important elements found in art: magic.

The current body of work which makes up *Seizing the Light* had its genesis in a period of recovery and discovery after completely losing my identity as “artist” during my late husband’s struggle with stage 4 colon cancer. For quite some time, the world was black and devoid of the magic I was certain had always existed. 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. 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 bond with the visual arts. The magic—the light which comes with life and creativity—was recoverable.

My hope is that in attending this show, you, my viewers, will feel a sense of elation in seeing everyday humdrum objects taken out of their ordinary context and placed into an unfamiliar and enchanted setting.