

Brooke Lanier

BIO

Brooke Lanier is a Philadelphia-based painter most known for her depictions of water and boats. She grew up in Minnesota and spent extended periods of time observing patterns of waveforms, light, and colors in water. This experience continues to inform her paintings.

Lanier earned her Master of Fine Arts in Painting from Tyler School of Art, where she spent her first year studying in Rome, Italy. She also holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. She has exhibited her work in Prague, Rome, New York, and across the U.S. In 2007, she received 2nd award in Volkswagen's "Driven" competition for young artists with disabilities; the prize-winning work was inspired by her retinal detachment. She received a grant and had her work displayed in the Smithsonian Institute and the John F. Kennedy Center before going on a two-year national tour.

During her time in Philadelphia, Lanier became fascinated by the historic ships on the Delaware River within walking distance of her studio. Initially

compelled by their commanding forms and fascinating textures, her curiosity led her to seek more information about the history of the ships through conversations with their conservators. As a member of the Philadelphia Ship Preservation Guild, she volunteers to help restore the 1901 Portuguese tall ship Gazela, the inspiration for many her paintings. Lanier was named the ship's Artist in Residence 2022-2023. Through her art, she also formed a relationship with the SS United States Conservancy and had the privilege to tour America's Flagship three times before it departed its berth in South Philadelphia. She uses art to facilitate dialogues and to share her favorite things with others.

Brooke Lanier is blind in her right eye and developed obstructive floaters from a posterior vitreous detachment in her left eye in 2023. Determined to find a way to make art even if she went completely blind, she began taking ceramics classes. She makes hand-built sculptures and low-relief wall pieces as tactile companions for her paintings, making the artwork more accessible to a wider audience.