

ANDREA FESTA

Lauryn (Red) Welch creates paintings to bridge an experience gap between herself and the people she loves. This gap manifests in various ways: the rift in language to express pain, navigating chronic illness, negotiating energy and vulnerability to give and receive care, and the function of home in both illness and health.

Using acrylic and oil on canvas, she paints these negotiations through the framework of a house. This house is a composite of places where she and her partner currently live and have previously lived across New Hampshire and New York. The house represents a body big enough to contain them and the entire world they need to survive (and perhaps even thrive). Although they have moved several times, the house's essence remains distinct. The architecture and location change, but the house's soul stays unchanged.

The genres of her paintings span still life, landscape/interior, and portraiture. Welch believes that the exchanges of energy between objects, places, and humans create an ecosystem where it is easier to imagine a sense of collective agency rather than relying on an independent body. She employs optical mixing painting techniques and high chroma popular with the post-impressionist Nabi painters to delve into the psychological tension that accompanies coming to terms with an unstable body.