

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

**Laura Ball**  
*Chimera*

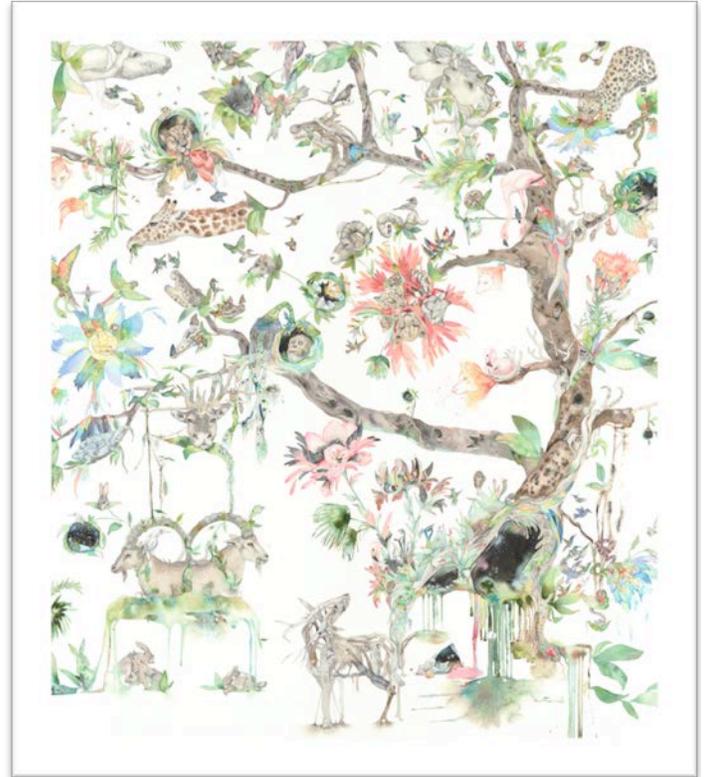
December 14 – January 26, 2019  
Opening Reception: Friday, December 14th, 6 - 8 pm  
Free and open to the public/ Artist in Attendance

David B. Smith Gallery is proud to present *Chimera*, the third solo exhibition of new works by San Diego-based artist Laura Ball.

Adeptly harnessing musings of the subconscious mind, Ball utilizes recognizable yet otherworldly imagery. Mythological creatures, swirling parrot wings, and fantastical flora join together and are pulled apart as their forms metamorphose, lending meaning to the title of the exhibition.

The Chimera, as known in ancient lore and modern science, is a beast that holds the genetic material of two separate entities. As described by Ball, “The creatures that crawl out of this mystic muck, the Chimeras, grow up from twisting masses of genetically different tissues, as mutations and irregularities grafted together from animals and plants, from good and evil, from life and death.” Meanwhile, dark chasms in the undulating figure-ground plane in Ball’s compositions allude to forces unseen.

Existing as both representational depiction of life and dreamlike reverie, duality and multitudinous truth underscore the works featured in *Chimera*. In her exceptionally detailed watercolors, Laura Ball’s skill and vision are immediately felt and understood by the viewer. Whether standing before two hulking tigers in the throes of savage battle, or following sage owls between our world and the underworld, the low groan of primordial jungles and the cries of life beginning and ending and beginning again ring in the distance of Ball’s channeled realities.



*Tree of Knowledge (Vaq Tree)*, 2018, watercolor and graphite on paper, 51.5 x 45 in. (130.81 x 114.3 cm)

**About Laura Ball**

Laura Ball's work combines her technical achievements in watercolor with an ongoing part-psychoanalytical, part-environmental project she has explored over the last ten years. A recipient of numerous awards and grants, Ball has exhibited in galleries across the United States and internationally. Her work is in important private and public collections, including recent additions to the Denver Art Museum and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). Ball received her MFA in 2004 from the University of California, Berkeley. Ball lives and works in San Diego, California.

**About David B. Smith Gallery**

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region’s most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as *Art in America* and *ARTnews*, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated a strong regional, national and international collector audience. *The New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering “an exciting contrast of cutting edge works” and *The Denver Post* declared that it is the “premiere commercial space” in Denver. The gallery also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.