



▲ Soaring, oil, 30 x 30.

► What Did She Say, oil, 36 x 18.



## LORRAINE SACK

AS A CHILD GROWING up in rural Minnesota, Lorraine Sack would listen raptly as her mother pointed out the unique features and behaviors of different birds around their home. “I was pretty intrigued,” says Sack. “Birds mark the seasons for us, whether through migration or nesting or spring-time, and they touch on so many aspects of our lives, from omens to hope to happiness.” Plus, she adds, “They are so magical and fanciful. What else flies that has so much color?”

Today the Tucson, AZ, artist routinely portrays birds in her figurative and still-life

paintings as she explores both lighthearted and serious narratives inspired by her feathered muses. Sometimes the bright plumes of a parrot might spark an idea. Other times, says Sack, “It’s a phrase or a quote I’ve come across, and I’ll ask myself what bird fits it.”

As a classically trained artist, Sack works in the realist style, but she takes an imaginative approach when depicting her subject matter. To create background scenery, for example, she likes to set up a magnetic chalkboard featuring her own whimsical drawings of birds, landscapes, Art Nouveau designs, and other colorful imagery. She

even attaches tangible objects to the board using magnets, sometimes draping fabric over a corner. “It’s a lot like theater,” says the artist. “I love the magic you can create with illusions.”

Another hallmark of Sack’s work is her penchant for combining her two favorite genres, which allows her to build upon color harmony, depth, movement, and narrative as she pairs her models with carefully planned still-life arrangements. “It’s always a puzzle, and I like that part of creating very, very much,” she says. Find Sack’s work at [www.lorrainestudios.com](http://www.lorrainestudios.com). —*Kim Agricola*