

**Laurel Jones** has always been interested in the arts. She began painting from photographs and this led her to see a variety of photographic artwork. Laurel was inspired to learn photography through the Linda McCartney photography books.

Life has not been easy for Laurel due to severe learning disabilities. Dyslexia, aphasia and a faulty short-term memory made traditional school instruction difficult. She was in special education classes all through school and was very frustrated by her learning progress.

Despite her learning disabilities Laurel applied to the Ohlone College Disability Center to take photography classes. Unfortunately she was refused and told that the center was dedicated to those with less severe disabilities.

Laurel then applied to Chabot College. After a trial period of 3 months she failed the written disability test and was told by the disability counselors that she would have to drop out of the photography program.

Her teachers recognized her talent in photography and through their support the finding of the disability center was changed to allow Laurel to continue with the Photographic program.

Laurel is still a student at Chabot College where she studies traditional photography. She has since earned a number of A's in her photographic studies and been awarded a photographic arts program certificate from Chabot College.

Over the last year Laurel has joined the Fremont Art Association where she has been learning about digital photography with Ralph Cooksey-Talbott.