

Carolyn Lord // Livermore, CA

Artifacts Along the Lincoln Highway, oil on canvas, 2018

I reimagine our world where the use of fossil fuels is considered archaic, the environment is restored, and the infrastructure left behind become artifacts of the Anthropocene epoch. My painting, *Artifacts Along the Lincoln Highway* utilizes elements of capriccio paintings that were popular in Europe from the mid 1700's to the early 1800's. These fanciful, light-hearted paintings would depict philosophers, poets, and artists lingering amongst the ruins of monumental temples and baths. Instead of the Classical orders that embellish Roman architecture and built of brick, concrete, and stone, my painting's columns and spans are typical of 1960's Brutalism, with un-ornamented, angular, concrete forms. *Artifacts Along the Lincoln Highway* is a studio painting, based on several small field studies of the demolition site of an over-pass along the Lincoln Highway, in Tracy, California.

The original Lincoln Highway was completed in 1913 and was the first transcontinental road for automobiles. Lead by the founder of the Indianapolis 500 racetrack, then joined by Goodyear, Packard Motor Company, they created a "Coast-to-Coast Rock Highway" to promote driving. On completion, this gravel road spanned from Lincoln Park, San Francisco to Times Square, New York City and was the beginning of an organized, national system of highways.

