

Naomi VanDoren



## Letter of Interest

### Emeryville Bus Shelter

From Fertile Ground Art & Innovation

#### **Art Concept and Proposal:**

Emeryville, a city marked by the fusion of technology and nature, has undergone a remarkable transformation from its industrial past to its thriving present. My public art proposal, "From Fertile Ground Art and Innovation," aims to capture the city's spirit by presenting four fictional settings that reflect its unique essence. Each artwork visually represents transformation, honoring the city's innovative and restorative spirit, and highlights a thriving mixture of nature within an urban landscape.

#### **Approach:**

As a fantasy and surreal artist, I strive to create immersive experiences that engage viewers' imaginations while highlighting the real-world context inspiring the work. In this project, I have blended abstract elements with subtle references to Emeryville's landmarks, native plants, and wildlife. Each fictional setting depicts the city's transformation from past to present, with concealed elements hinting at its evolution.

I was immediately drawn to this prompt, which inspired me to create the corresponding preliminary artwork. The four pieces for this proposal are still in a rough form and require a bit more polish before they can be considered finished and ready for release.

**Inspiration:**

As a surreal and fantasy artist, my work is deeply inspired by nature and the seamless integration of technology with the natural world. Emeryville's ongoing revitalization and commitment to sustainable development greatly influence my art. I find inspiration in my daily walks through the city, appreciating its quiet natural spaces, convenient transportation options, and vibrant community. As a resident artist, I am excited to create pieces that celebrate the city's renewal, ignite the imagination, and reference real world experiences, merging the fantastical or surreal with the familiar.

**Challenges:**

A primary challenge is balancing abstraction and representation. While I wish to maintain creative freedom, honoring Emeryville's distinct identity is crucial. To achieve this, I have selected key references for each painting (e.g., mudflat artwork, overpasses, skylines, and rail lines) and included the many natural references to hint at our location. My daily walks around Emeryville have provided valuable observations and references from landmarks, wildlife, and native plants.

**Conclusion:**

"From Fertile Ground – Art and Innovation" captures the spirit of Emeryville by presenting fictional settings that showcase its unique blend of technology and nature. The artwork will invite viewers to explore the city's past, present, and future through visual storytelling, serving as a testament to the power of innovation and environmental resilience. I am eager to bring this vision to life, hoping the final artwork will inspire residents and visitors to appreciate Emeryville's transformative journey and enrich their lives by reminding them that creativity is everywhere, even in the day to day.





# NAOMI VANDOREN

## ARTIST & AUTHOR

### ABOUT

I am an author and artist that creates adventure-inspired fantasy worlds. Currently, I live in Northern California. I grew up and spent a large portion of my childhood on the islands of Indonesia. When not in the studio, I often explore nature, hike, and travel.

My work is mixed media with an emphasis on digital painting that has a watercolor-like quality. I also work in watercolor, ink, and gouache.

### CLIENTS

I am honored to have worked with select clients such as [Adobe](#), [Wacom](#), ArtStation Learn, Gen Con & Dragon Con.

### INTERVIEWS

- [Gen Con 2021 Program Featured Artist](#)
- [Wacom Article](#)
- [Ooh Deer June 2021](#)
- [ArtStation Learn](#)
- [Kron4 SF News interview](#)

### CONTACT DETAILS

Email: [REDACTED]

Location: Emeryville, CA USA

Website: [REDACTED]



## GALLERIES & ART SHOWS

- EveryDayOriginal - 2015-2022

### Group Exhibitions

- Changeling Artist Collective - (2017-2018)
- Spectra Group Show 2018 - Helikon Gallery
- Monty Python Group Show 2018 - Gallery 1988
- Animal Kingdom Group Show 2018 - Gallery 1988
- Postcard Correspondence Group Show 2017 - Gallery 1988
- Crazy 4 Cult Group Show 2017 - Gallery 1988
- Dreamlogic Group Show 2017 - Helikon Gallery
- Focus Features Group Show 2017 - Gallery 1988
- 30 Years Later Group Show 2017 - Gallery 1988

### Juried Art Shows

- Lightbox Expo - 2019, 2021
- Dragon Con Art Show - 2022, 2019, 2018, 2017
- Gen Con Art Show - 2019, 2018, 2017
- Spectrum Fantastic Art Live - 2017

## PUBLICATIONS & AWARDS

### Publications

- Magic Hour, Yearly Art Book - 2023
- Forest of Light, Yearly Art Book - 2022
- Gen Con Program Artist - 2021
- Dragon Con Art Show Program Artist - 2021
- Light Through the Pages, Yearly Art Book - 2021
- Naiya and the Foxdragon, An Illustrated Novel - 2020
- Crossing the Falls, Yearly Art Book - 2020
- A New Sun Rising, Yearly Art Book - 2019
- An Offering of Light, Yearly Art Book - 2018
- Whispers in the Winds, Yearly Art Book - 2017
- First Light, Yearly Art Book - 2016

### Publications (contributor)

- Ooh Deer June Artful Subscription box - 2021
- Spectrum Art Annual - 2019
- Infected by Art Volume 7 - 2019
- ImagineFX Magazine Workshop - Issue #181 - 2019
- "Tiny Dragons" & "Not So Tiny Dragons" ArtOrder - 2018
- Infected by Art Volume 6 - 2018
- Infected by Art Volume 5 - 2017
- ImagineFX Exposé. Issue #125 - 2015

### Awards

- Purple Dragonfly Award, Honorable Mention (x3) - 2021
- "Best Dragon" DragonCon Art Show - 2017











michele théberge



## **Sharon Wilchar Temporary Art Bus Shelter Program**

*From Fertile ground – Art and Innovation*

April 14, 2023

Dear Emeryville Public Art Committee,

In the 12 years I have been working from my Emeryville studio I have been inspired by the ample biodiversity even within its small urban boundaries. On a recent walk, I was able to catalog at least 13 different California species that have been planted nearby.

My proposal is to create four unique collages incorporating native California plants. Plants are so important to humans and I want to highlight, celebrate and express gratitude for them and their foundational importance to the biotechnology being innovated all around us here. Previously, I chose to approach the Temporary Bus Shelter project with naturalistic watercolor paintings of local bird species combined with hand painted inspiring quotes relating to avian species. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to share my love of Emeryville, nature, and art 11 years ago and would be thrilled to undertake another project continuing sharing the local species with the public.

I have studied native plants for many years and have deepest respect for the intelligence of plant life and their essential and vital importance in our ecosystem. I have converted my own yard from invasive Bermuda grass and blackberries to over 50 species of native California shrubs, plants, and trees. I honor and respect the local Lisjan Ohlone people who lived in reciprocity with this entire ecosystem for so many thousands of years and continue to use our plant neighbors in their medicines and ceremonies.

The medium of collage itself is a fertile ground for experimentation, not bound by any one material. Much like the innovation that happens in the biotech companies so close to me, in my studio I merge materials from the earth with the human made. I employ ochre and sienna pigments sourced from the earth with quinacridones and phthalocyanines synthesized in labs. I mix paper from trees and cotton plants with nylon and synthetic textiles. From these materials I cut shapes inspired by botanical forms, rocks, moon, sun, and mountains to combine with the collected natural materials.

My art also reveals the unseen world – this fertile ground of energy and spirit from which the physical world springs forth. The inspired forms, shapes, textures seek not to imitate life but to and reveal patterns and relationships that extend beyond what our logical right brains can comprehend. Each artwork is a packet of understanding and knowledge to be uniquely decoded by the heart of the viewer, just as our DNA is a richly encoded structure from which our physical bodies are developed. The layering of transparent, translucent pours of acrylics with sheer or loosely woven textiles refers

to the depth of ways of perceiving and processing reality from the micro to the macro, from physical reality to the realms of consciousness.

Plant life is so essential to our well-being most essentially to our existence – they generously create the oxygen we breathe. Yet so few of us can identify the plants that surround us by name. We walk by an abundance of food and medicinal plants daily without realizing what they have to offer.

My intention is to not only pay homage to these important plants but to invite Emeryville residents, workers, and visitors to become more familiar with the local plants by naming them and highlighting them in these works. I hope to title the works with their Chochenyno names, thereby honoring not only the plant's significance but our gratitude to the original people of this land. My wish is share with others the joy and appreciation for the rich abundance that surrounds us each day.

Thank you for this opportunity and taking the time to hear my ideas.

Respectfully,

Michele Théberge



*Salvia apiana*  
canvas, acrylic, gouache, papers, textile, *Salvia apiana* on paper  
2023  
10" x 8" (25 x 20 cm)





*Juncos patens*  
acrylic on yupo, pellaon and fabric, *Juncos patens* on paper  
2023  
10 x 8 in (25.2 x 20.5 cm)



Sample mock up of *Salvia apiana*



Sample mock up of Juncos patens

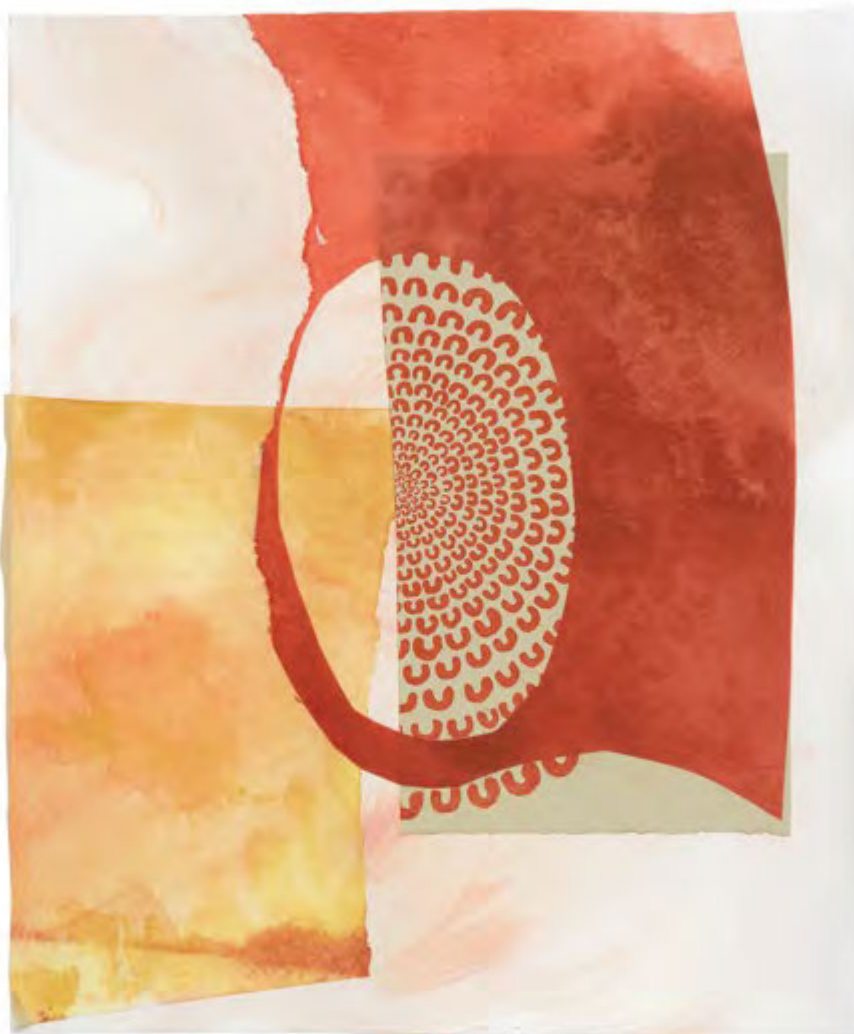


*Lace Meets Lichen in the Field of Play*  
lichen, lace doily, acrylic, watercolor on paper  
2023  
9.84 x 12 in (25 x 30.5 cm)



*New World, Disorderly*  
acrylic, canvas, and watercolor on paper  
2023  
12 x 10 in (30.5 x 25.4 cm)





*Portal*  
acrylic, gouache, letterpress print,  
watercolor on paper  
2021  
12 x 10 in (30.5 x 25 cm)



Vessel  
acrylic, canvas, paper, gouache on paper  
2021  
11.875 x 10 in (30 x 25 cm)

# michele théberge



## selected public commissions, awards, residencies

- 2022 Kaiser Permanente Oakland Medical Center, *All Together Now*
- 2019 University of California, San Francisco Precision Cancer Medical Building, three paintings  
commissioned  
San Francisco Arts Commission Prequalified Artist Pool  
In Cahoots Artist Residency, Petaluma, California
- 2014 City of Emeryville Temporary Bus Shelter Project, Public Art Commission, California  
Center for Cultural Innovation Grant, San Francisco, California
- 2006 Morris Graves Foundation Residency, Loleta, California
- 2000 Judge's Choice Award, California Small Works, Sonoma Museum of Visual Arts

## selected solo exhibitions

- 2019 *You Are My Heaven*, Fourth Wall Gallery, Oakland, California
- 2017 *Seeds of Hope: A Project in Support of Immigrants*, New Museum of Los Gatos, California  
& The Laundry Gallery, San Francisco, California
- 2014 *The Sky Touches Every World*, a.Muse Gallery, San Francisco, California
- 2013 *This Quiet World*, Butte College Art Gallery, Oroville, California
- 2007 *Harmony in My Head*, Bocana Gallery, San Francisco, California
- 2006 *Breathing Room*, Works/San Jose, San Jose, California
- 2005 *Into the Open*, Lisa Coscino Gallery, Pacific Grove, California
- 2004 *A Certain Tiny Ecstasy*, California College of the Arts, San Francisco, California

## selected group exhibitions

- 2023 *Spiritual Visions*, Fontbonne University Art Gallery, St. Louis, Missouri
- 2022 *Positive/Negative 37 National Juried Art Exhibition*, Slocumb Galleries, Johnson City, Tennessee



## selected group exhibitions, continued

- 2022     *Art Bridge*, Dotouan, Sakai, Japan  
           Emeryville Celebration of the Arts, Emeryville, California
- 2021     *Art Bridge*, Irohani Gallery, Sakai, Japan  
           *2021*, Flat File Gallery, New York, NY (online exhibition)  
           *Emeryville Celebration of the Arts*, Emeryville, California
- 2020     *Bird, Nest, Nature*, Bedford Gallery, Walnut Creek, California  
           *Gatherings*, Patricia Rovzar Gallery, Seattle, Washington  
           *Gatherings*, Gail Severn Gallery, Sun Valley, Idaho  
           *Emeryville Celebration of the Arts*, Emeryville, California
- 2019     *Recent Works on Paper*, Avenue 64 Gallery, Emeryville, California  
           *International Art Bridge*, Irohani Gallery, Sakai, Japan  
           *Emeryville Celebration of the Arts*, Emeryville, California
- 2018     *Introductions 2018*, Trestle Gallery, Brooklyn, New York  
           *Emeryville Celebration of the Arts*, Emeryville, California
- 2017     *Art Bridge*, Sakai City Museum, Sakai, Japan  
           *Art Bridge*, Irohani Gallery, Sakai, Japan  
           *About Abstraction: Bay Area Women Painters*, Bedford Gallery, Walnut Creek, California  
           *Emeryville Celebration of the Arts*, Emeryville, California
- 2016     *Pacific Bridge*, Irohani Gallery, Sakai, Japan
- 2015     *A Sense of Place*, Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art, Augusta, Georgia  
           *Positive, Negative*, Tipton Gallery, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee
- 2014     *Kalassal*, Kala Institute, Berkeley, California  
           *Emeryville Celebration for the Arts*, Emeryville, California
- 2013     *Berkeley-Sakai Art Bridge* Museum of Kyoto and Sakai Cultural Hall, Japan
- 2011     *Chain Letter*, Shoshanna Wayne Gallery, Los Angeles, California  
           *Mail to*, Drift Station Gallery, Lincoln, Nebraska
- 2010     *Proof of Purchase*, Samson Projects, Boston, Massachusetts
- 2009     *Altered States: The Collection in Context*, di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art, Napa, California

## selected group exhibitions, continued

- POP NOIR*, Southern Exposure, San Francisco, California
- 2008 *Art Cologne*, (Michael Rosenthal Gallery), Cologne, Germany  
*Aqua Art Fair*, (Michael Rosenthal Gallery), Miami, Florida  
*Art Now*, (Michael Rosenthal Contemporary Art) New York, New York
- 2007 *Red Dot Fair*, (Michael Rosenthal Contemporary Art), Miami Beach, Florida  
*Bridge Art Fair*, (Michael Rosenthal Contemporary Art), London, England  
*Marks*, Lisa Coscino Gallery, Pacific Grove, California  
*Moshi Moshi!* Richmond Art Center, Richmond, California
- 2006 *Sakai-Berkeley Art Exchange Exhibition*, Sakai Cultural Hall, Osaka Prefecture, Japan  
*Monotype Marathon 2006*, San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art, San Jose, California
- 2005 *Bay Area Bazaar*, Pulliam Deffenbaugh Gallery, Portland, Oregon  
*International Mail Art Invitational*, Sharjah Art Museum, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
- 2002 *Unwearable Art: Clothing in New Media*, Museum of Craft and Folk Art, San Francisco, California  
*Think Again*, Southern Exposure, San Francisco, California
- 2000 *California Small Works*, Sonoma Museum of Visual Art, Santa Rosa, California  
*Garments*, WomanMade Gallery, Chicago, Illinois

## education

- 2004 M.F.A. Painting and Drawing, California College of Arts and Crafts, San Francisco, California
- 1988 B.A. cum laude, French, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts
- 1988 B.F.A. Painting & Drawing, School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts
- 1985 Université de Strasbourg, France

Art Concept / Jess Cook  
From Fertile Ground – Art and Innovation  
Sharon Wilchar Temporary Art Bus Shelter Program

My inspiration for these artworks draws heavily on the natural world in flux, but also more provocatively, the pull between history and now and the wildly contrasting versions of our future that residents hold – the tensions between authenticity and purity and advancement and capital. Captivated by the potential of doing good by all - by the original inhabitants of this land - and generating good with the resources we have available. The art I create is meant to contribute to Emeryville being a landscape of curiosity and inquisitiveness: sparking interest through aesthetics.

### *Emotional Investment in Emeryville*

As a part-time resident in Emeryville's marina, I watch my 4-year-old son's fascination and my own learning as we observe the seasons, the shifts, the injustice, the glory - and direct human impact on the bay. The bluster and bruise of storms, the vibrancy of pelicans fishing overhead in the midst of a gale, the migrations of waterfowl, moonrise over the ridge, the ferries and commercial fishing boats announcing their return from sea, endless play in the parks, the red tide rise, the deluge of human waste overflow, the regal presence of herons, intermittent and ethereal found object artworks propped on the stone retaining walls, feeding crabs discovered by the light of a headlamp. As windsurfers and recreationists, my partner and I have traversed the bay waters between Emeryville and Berkeley countless times under all sorts of wind; we have biked on work commutes through Emeryville, swum in the community center pool, patronized Arizmendi bakery as devotees, completed projects while sipping at Peets, shared Peruvian food) and played at the whale playground at The Public Market. We have taken the Emery Go-Round (our son's first-ever bus experience) and public bus system and pointed out artworks – at the bus shelters, under the overpass, over doors and in plazas – as we moved throughout the city with our little one. This is a life that has harbored in the Emeryville Marina for over 8 years, critical years of creating partnership and growing a family. Contributing my own experiences and aesthetic to spaces in the city that encourage looking up and out at public transit stops would be providing a bit of myself in gratitude to the complexities of this place.

### *Artistic Evolution & Technique*

As an artist I spent years with drawing and charcoal, which evolved into printmaking during my tenure at Clark University, then papercut, block printing, and photography for personal projects. After moving to Oakland in 2015 I rediscovered stencils, this time as it connects to street art traditions and social justice art traditions.

Now I hand cut stencils shaped by my own rendering style, and utilize water-based spray paint, enabling a layering of rich tones and high contrast. I have shared skills with children in art-making, photography, and mural-making, and now am a part-time art exploration partner to our four-year-old son. My spray stencil work predominantly draws inspiration from the natural world, as well as cultural references. I am currently drawn to site-specific botanicals with unique histories and living stories to tell. My works have been featured on the walls of a collective children's space in a historic Barcelona mill building, a two-story fanciful treehouse in Napa, and in interior decor for private homes.

#### Concept Piece 1: Skeletons as Structure

With prolific aquatic life as inspiration, this piece plays with the idea that paying attention to nature and history will be our salvation in a rapidly changing world - that even our technology gains dramatically when mimicking biological mechanisms. Crustacean exoskeletons (as well as those of insects and mycelium) provide a sugar compound called chitosan, which has endless possible uses - with the ability to transfer kinetic to electrical energy, enable medical devices, and create alternative fabrics. The backdrop of the Ohlone Emeryville shellmound reminds us to honor and learn from history, and make just space for living traditions - through which we can learn to care for the earth and for community.

#### Concept Piece 2: Red Tide

A microscopic look at the red tide algae, *Heterosigma akashiwo*, alongside a life-size rendering of the ancient bay-dweller sturgeon, leads us to question the connection, and maybe find moments of beauty and hope amidst tragedy.

#### Concept Piece 3: Ephemerality

In the tide zone everything is ephemeral: shifting with the tides, the seasons, the storms. The mudflats and scrub brush provide a critical ecosystem function - filtering, cleaning at the interface of ocean/bay and convergence of land and watershed. Their shift and gifts also continuously provide inspiration to makers, puttering with found objects washed ashore, casual architects, and artists with a larger vision. The driftwood art movement in the Emeryville mudflats documented in the 60's and 70's and continued today along different parts of the Emeryville shoreline give way to a background of freeway crisscrossing and Oakland's wastewater treatment plant.

#### Concept Piece 4: Filter

This piece draws on the power of microorganisms and natural processes to provide essential filtering and cleaning services along Emeryville's coastline, illuminating the macro effect of individual micro in nature, questions of water quality and waste, and the essential wonder of nature in its details.

# JESS COOK

Dynamic and effective multi-media artist, program manager, community partner and team leader with 20 years of experience in program design, concept development, partnership facilitation and community development initiatives. Track record of effective execution, authentic relationships and practical skills in project strategy, partnerships and outreach with a commitment to cross-cultural collaboration and social justice.

## Public Art Works

Custom spray paint stencil installation for collectively-run children's space in historic mill buildings  
La Nau Espa Familiar/Barcelona Spain 2022

Mural production & facilitation with high school students and lead artist Kate Decocco  
LIFE Academy/Oakland CA 2017

Art facilitation & poster workshop for *Milk with Dignity* farmworker rights campaign outreach  
Migrant Justice/Burlington VT 2014

Photography exhibitions Easthampton City Arts In-Sight Photography The Green Bean  
Massachusetts 2014

## Freelance Writer & Editor Oakland CA 2019-present

Effective independent drafting and purposeful editing with team coordination for grant proposals, strategy documents and reports related to social and environmental justice, human rights, cultural strategy, entrepreneurialism and art features. Photography and editorial published in [Orion Magazine](#) and [Edible East Bay](#).

## Development & Communications Manager, Executive Team Oakland CA 2014-2019

### CultureStrike

Successfully secured \$3.5m over 4 years through Development team efforts. Strategized, organized and implemented fundraising strategies to transform public sentiment around migration through art, integrate cultural strategy in migrant rights organizing and promote equity in arts programming.

## Teaching Artist & Advisor Oaxaca Mexico 2014

### Centro Ollin Tlahtoalli Center of Languages and Culture

Planned and implemented arts workshops with youth (photography, painting, videography) to explore questions of identity, power and community. Organized exhibitions, planned outreach and provided guidance on community connections.

## Country Director Macedonia 2004 - 2006

### Aid to Artisans

Responsible for the daily operations and evaluation of collaborative seven-person team and \$2.65m project for creative sector development in a transitional economy. Led capacity-building and marketing activities for over 300 small and medium enterprises to promote cultural industries through bi-annual craft fairs and exhibitions.

## Education

**M.A. Community Development and Planning** (2002) Clark University Massachusetts

Fulbright Scholar - Madagascar (2001)

**B.A. International Development and Social Change** (2000) Clark University Massachusetts

Minor Geography/Natural Resources Management

Concentrations: Women's Studies, International Studies Stream

## Community Service in the Arts

La Gran Marcha - community fundraising campaign support for youth arts program in Lima, Peru 2016

Enfoque Youth Photography/Oakland High School - initiated, designed and implemented 6-week photography workshop for Central American unaccompanied minors 2016

First Exposures - event volunteer for community photography family Portrait Day 2016

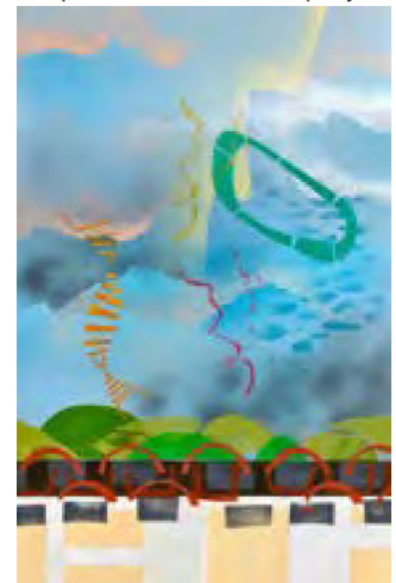
In-Sight Photography - volunteer show preparation and silent auction photo donations 2014

Migrant Justice/Arts workshop facilitator - *Milk with Dignity* campaign outreach for farmworker rights 2014

Peoples Climate March NYC - art volunteer 2014

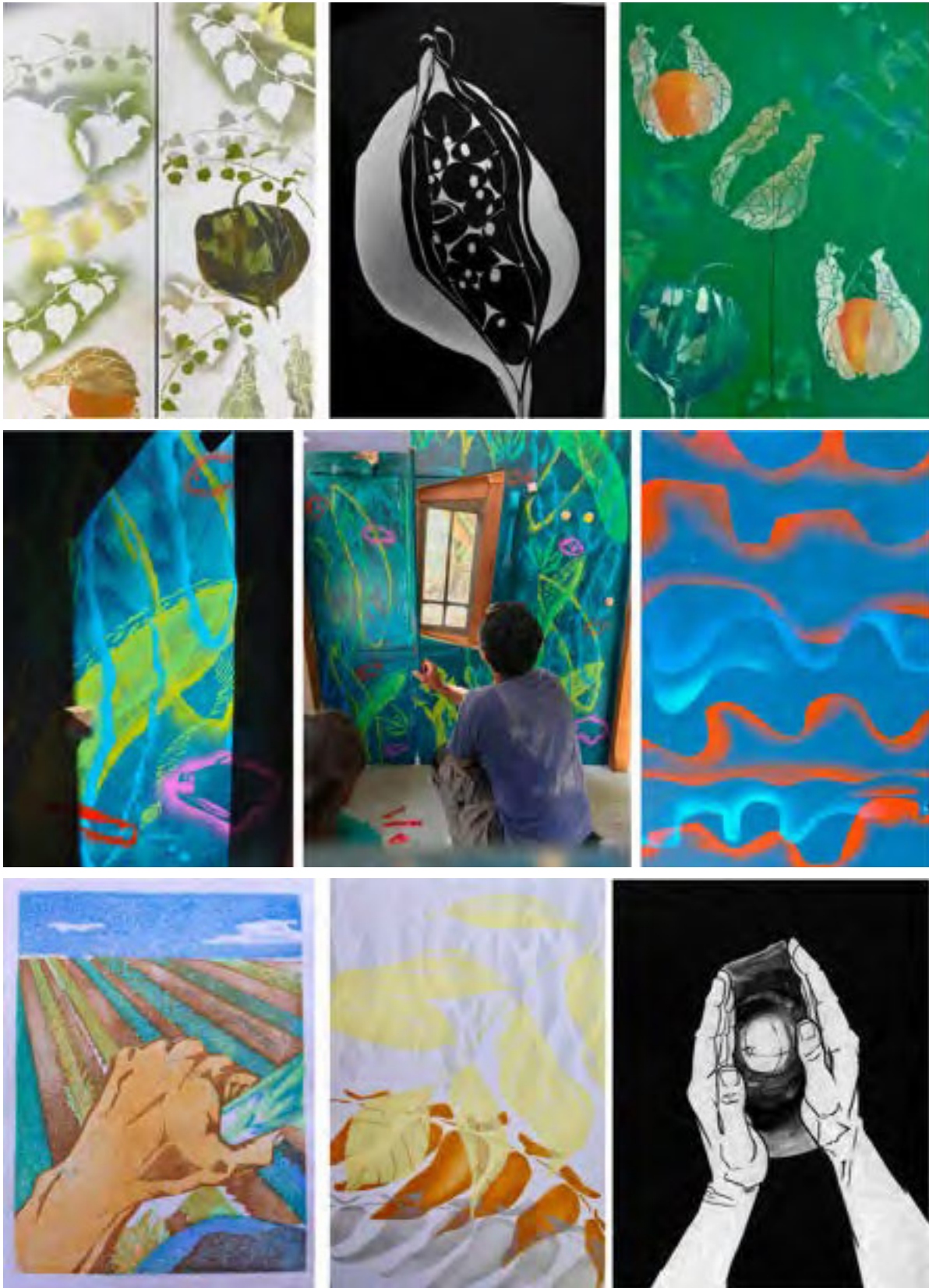


La Nau ( ' the ship ' ) Espa Família - aquatic-themed community space for children's collective play space Barcelona Spain 2022 (stencil/spray)



Banana leaf bathroom community space salvage redwood with California native grasses public utility box proposal 2023 (stencil/spray)



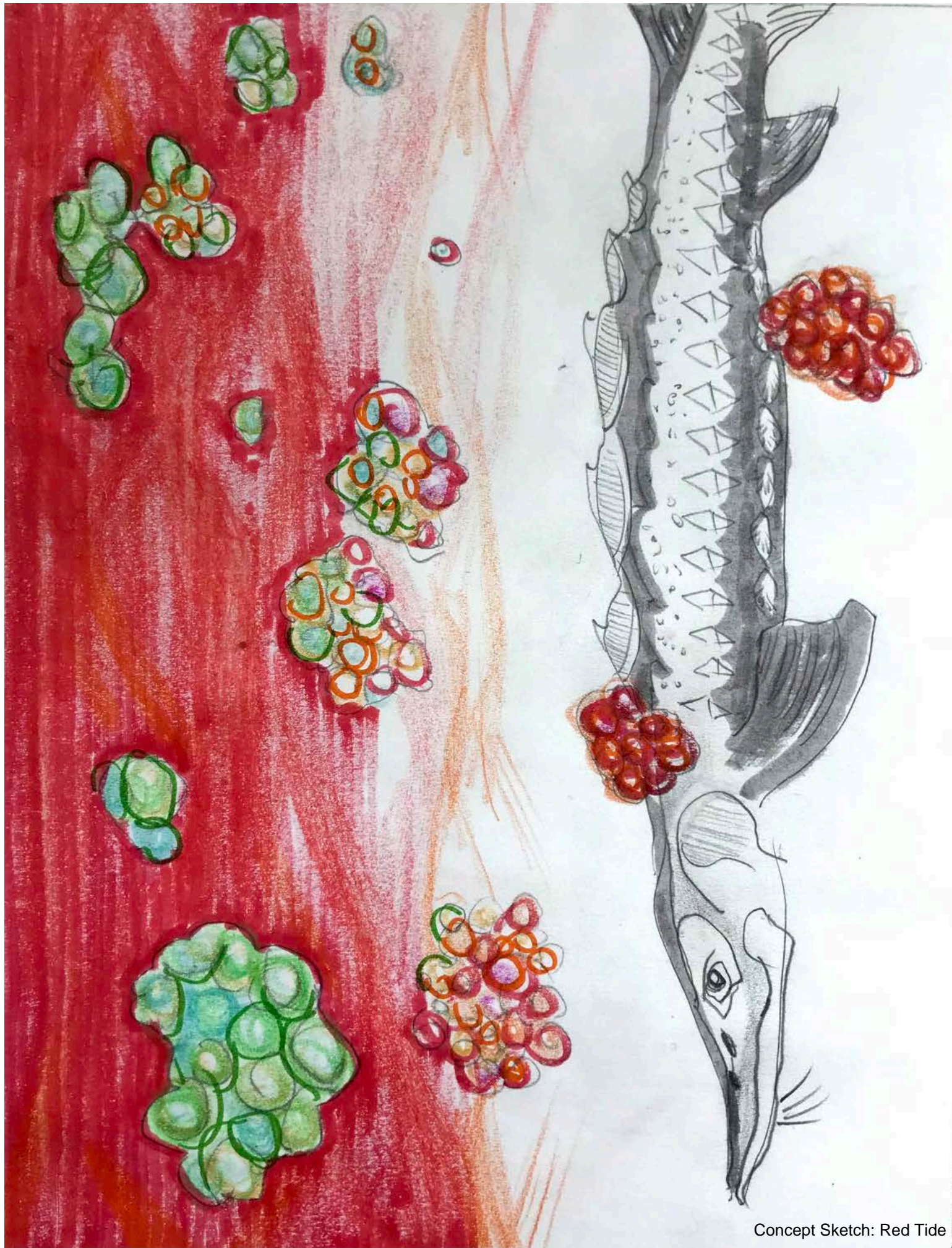


Jess ca Cook — Recent Works *Husk Cherry* Inter or Shutters (stencil/spray) *Bottle Tree* stencil *Casa Del Arbol* Treehouse (stencil/spray) *Working Hands* (Moku Hanga print) *Ash Homage* (stencil/spray) *Hands' Energy* (charcoal & ink)



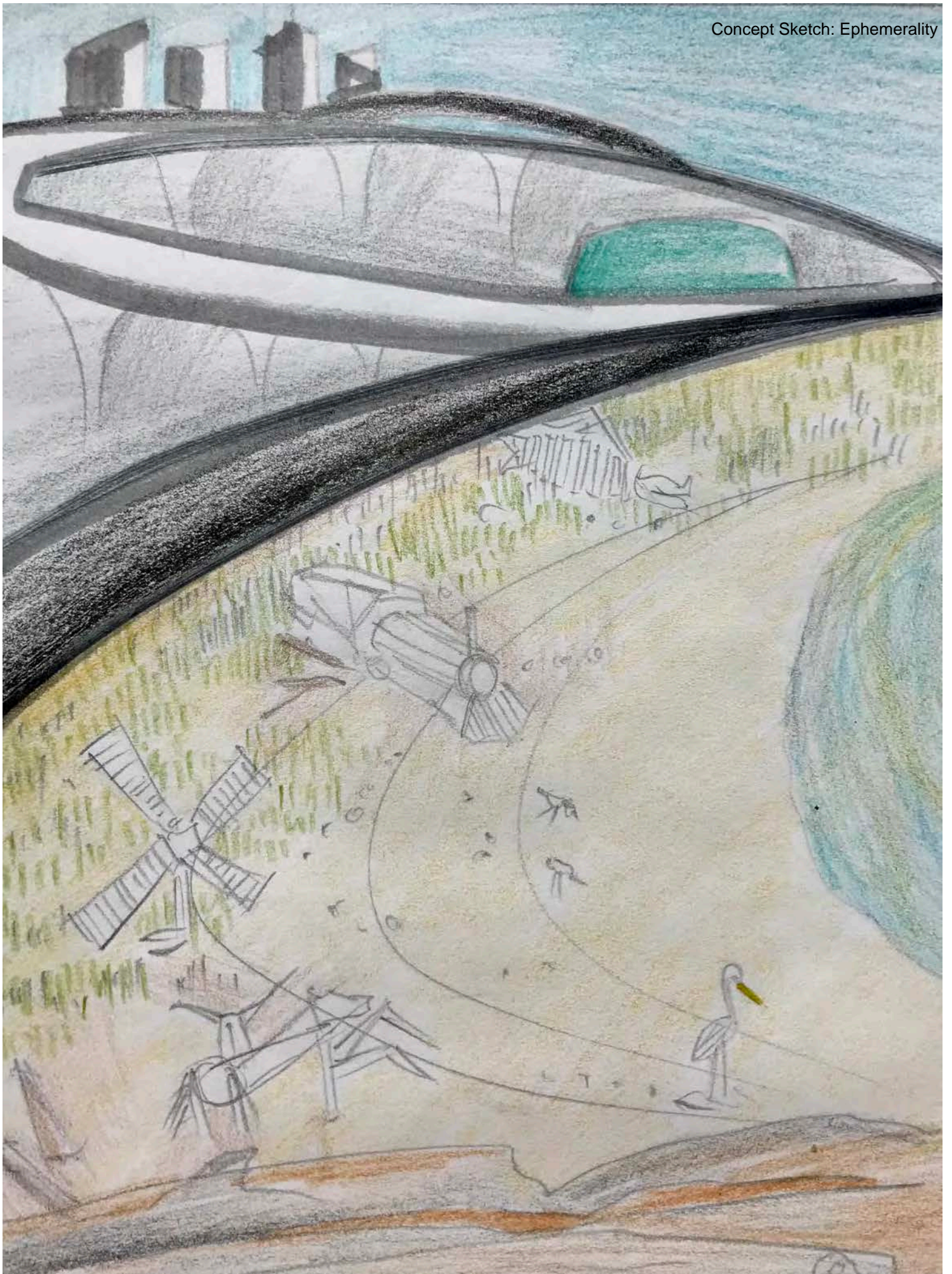






Concept Sketch: Red Tide



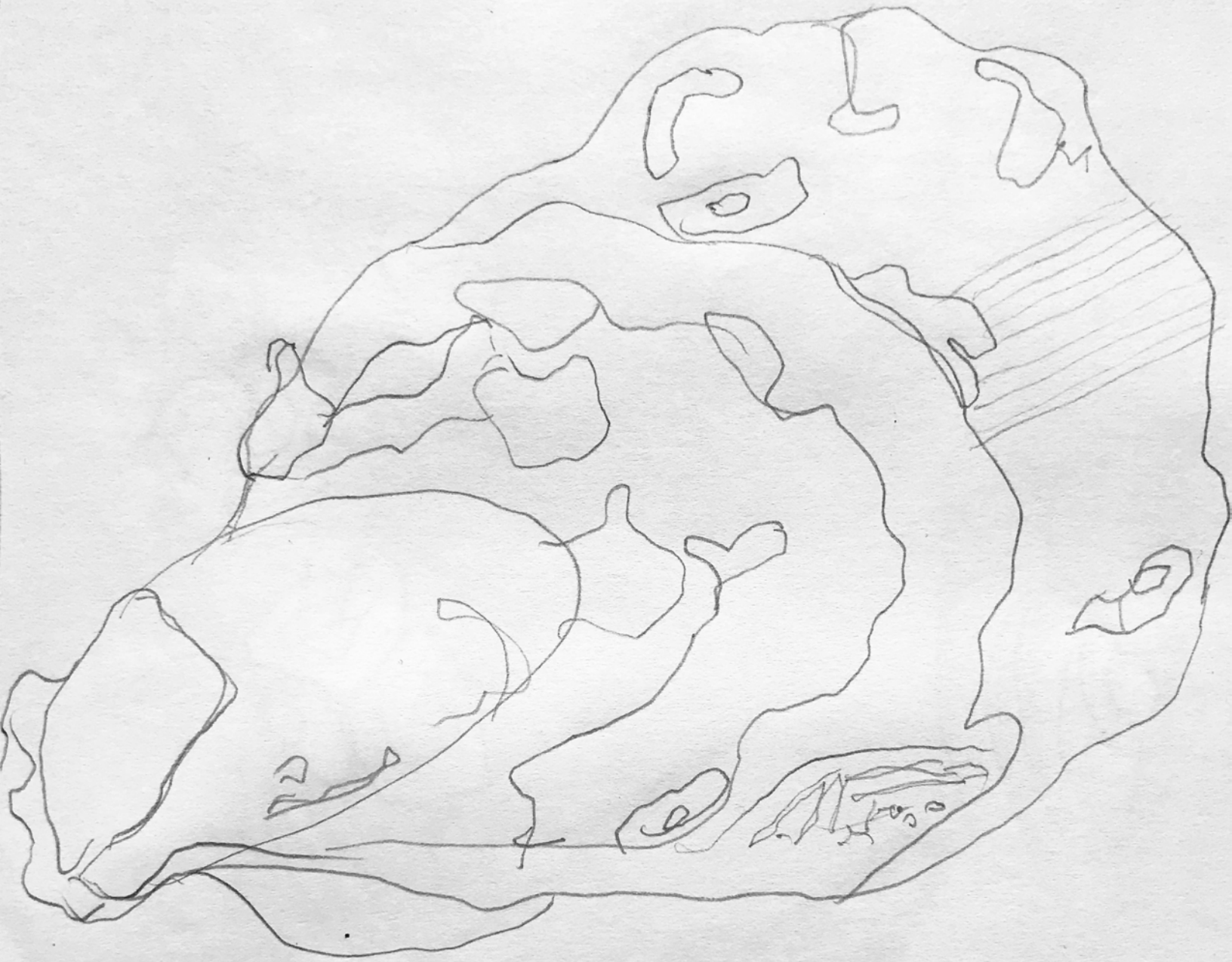








Concept Sketch: Olympia  
(stencil to incorporate images of agriculture,  
Ohlone shellmound, gold mining, in textures  
of the Oyster shell)



Lisa Rock

*Sharon Wilchar Temporary Art Bus Shelter Program*

**Statement:**

My paintings investigate overlooked moments of my everyday surroundings. I am drawn to the relationship between natural and humanmade forms and use snapshots from my daily walks as reference. Fences, gates, and windows often become framing devices that natural elements either have to negotiate or sit comfortably within. Saturated colors, patterns and textures create dense images which incorporate light and shadow as graphic elements. The paintings ultimately become studies of the formal issues of color, pattern, and composition.

I work in Emeryville and often go on walks throughout the city on my lunchbreak. I've made paintings and drawings from the things I see in Emeryville. I plan to make paintings and drawings that use Emeryville as inspiration that invite the viewer to take a closer look at the quiet moments in their immediate surroundings.

**Bio:**

Lisa Rock is an artist born in Massachusetts who lives and paints in Oakland. She received her MFA in Studio Art from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and her BFA in Painting from the Rhode Island School of Design. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Overgrowth* at Johansson Projects in Oakland in 2022, *Merge Visible* at NIAD Art Center in Richmond, CA in 2017 and a solo exhibition at the Monterey Museum of Art's Currents gallery in 2018. Rock was an artist in residence at the Vermont Studio Center and an artist in residence at the Black Rock Desert NCA (AIR) program Summer of 2022.

**Applicant:**

Lisa Rock

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Employer:**

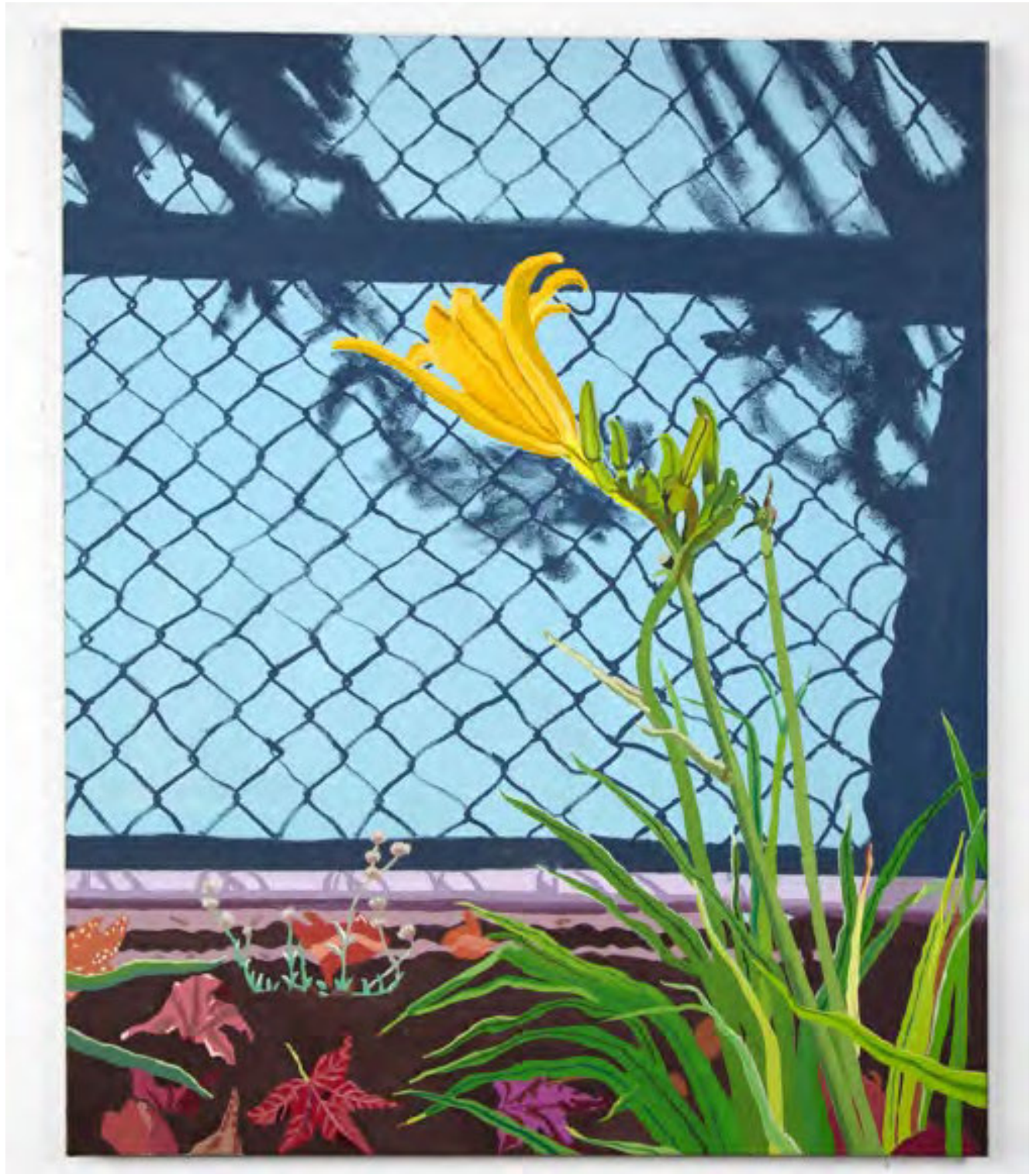
45th Street Artists' Cooperative, Inc.

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Recommended

Lisa Rock

*Sharon Wilchar Temporary Art Bus Shelter Program*





*Sharon Wilchar Temporary Art Bus Shelter Program*



Lisa Rock

*Sharon Wilchar Temporary Art Bus Shelter Program*





Lisa Rock

*Sharon Wilchar Temporary Art Bus Shelter Program*



Lisa Rock

*Sharon Wilchar Temporary Art Bus Shelter Program*





Lisa Rock

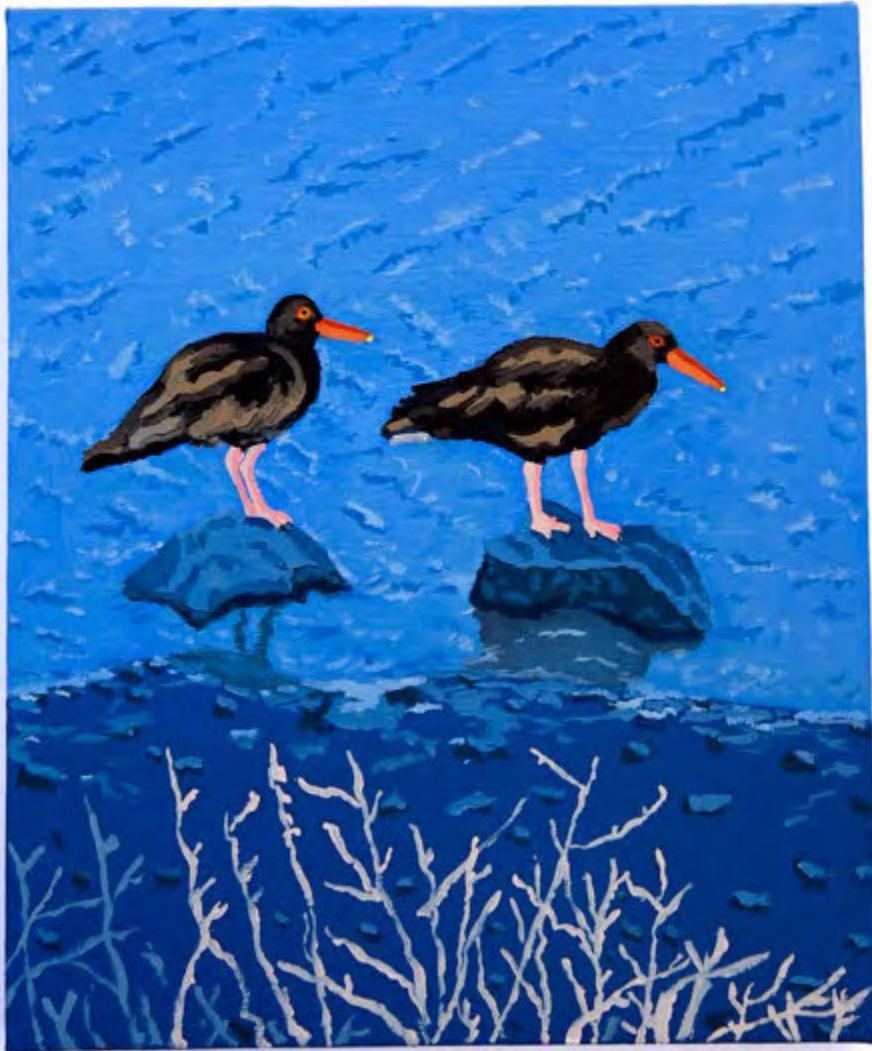
*Sharon Wilchar Temporary Art Bus Shelter Program*



Lisa Rock

*Sharon Wilchar Temporary Art Bus Shelter Program*

Not Recommended



Lisa Rock

*Sharon Wilchar Temporary Art Bus Shelter Program*



## **Lisa Rock**

1239 E. 22nd St. Unit B, Oakland, CA 94606

[lisa.rock.1@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.rock.1@gmail.com)

[lisa-rock.com](http://lisa-rock.com)

978-618-4956

## **Education**



Lisa Rock

*Sharon Wilchar Temporary Art Bus Shelter Program*

- 2015 MFA, Painting, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV  
2007 BFA, Painting, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI

**Solo Exhibitions**

- 2022 *Overgrowth*, Johansson Projects, Oakland, CA  
2018 *Monterey Museum of Art: Year of the Woman*. Current and Flux Gallery. Monterey, CA  
2017 *Merge Visible*, NIAD Art Center Annex Space, Richmond, CA  
2015 *Paradise*, Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, Las Vegas, NV  
2015 *Dots & Stripes*, Grant Hall Gallery UNLV, Las Vegas, NV

**Two-Person Exhibitions**

- 2022 *Leave No Trace* in Collaboration with Courtney Sennish, McKinley Arts Center, Reno, NV

**Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2022 Root Division's Annual Art Auction, San Francisco, CA  
ICA San Jose Art Auction: "*In Their Own Words*," San Jose, CA  
2021 *Still-Life-s*, Available Space Art Project, Las Vegas, NV  
*35th Annual Emeryville Art Exhibition*, Emeryville, CA  
*Two or Three Things I know About Abstraction*, Summerlin Library, Summerlin, Nevada  
2020 *42nd Annual Juried Show*, H.A.R.D., Hayward, CA  
2016 *27th Annual Juried Show*, Contemporary Art Center, Las Vegas, NV.  
2015 *3rd Annual Juried Art Show*, Piedmont Center for the Arts, Piedmont, CA.  
*Zap! 7: The Artists that took over Maryland Parkway*, Nevada Humanities Project Gallery,  
Las Vegas, NV  
*UNLV Group Show*, Brett Wesley Gallery, Las Vegas, NV  
*Out of Vegas*, CCA Galleries, Oakland, CA  
*The Auction*, MCQ Gallery, Las Vegas, NV  
2014 *Comedians and Magicians*: curated by Andreana Donahue, Trifecta Gallery, Las Vegas, NV  
2013 *Art Odyssey*, Life is Beautiful Festival, Las Vegas, NV

Lisa Rock

*Sharon Wilchar Temporary Art Bus Shelter Program*

*Selected Works by UNLV MFA Candidates*, Trifecta Gallery, Las Vegas ,NV

*In-Between*, Contemporary Art Center, Las Vegas curated by Lisa Rock

*GLAMFA*, Cal State Long Beach, Long Beach, CA

2012 *Splitting Image*: Sam Carr-Prindle and Lisa Rock, Some Walls, Oakland, CA Double Vision:

Sam Carr-Prindle and Applicant, Classic Cars West Gallery, Oakland, CA

2011 *6ARTISTS*, Parts Room Gallery, Oakland, CA

*Solo Show*, Bonny Doon Vineyards, Santa Cruz, CA

2010 *Farnum Six*: September 10, 2010 at Lowe Mill, Huntsville, Alabama

2009 *New Index Paintings*, Motiv, Santa Cruz, CA Midsummer Saltations, the Art Store,

Charleston West Virginia

*Expand the Room 2nd Annual Art Show*, Spin Magazine, New York NY

## **Publications**

2021 <https://www.ktnv.com/vegas-things-to-do/still-life-s-showcases-artists-with-las-vegas-connections-from-watercolors-to-tattoos-to-photography>

2016 LVL3 Artist of the Week: <http://lvl3media.com/artist-of-the-week-lisa-rock/>

2014 <https://lasvegasweekly.com/ae/fine-art/2014/jun/04/witty-works-humble-materials- trifecta/>

## **Awards/Residencies**

2022 Black Rock High Rock Desert (AIR), Gerlach, NV

2015 Zap7: Maryland Parkway, painted mural on utility box for Clark County, NV

UNLV GPSA Sponsorship Recipient Spring Semester

2014 Zap6, Utility Box Painting, alternate, Clark County, NV

2013 Vermont Studio Center, July Resident, Johnson, VT

UNLV GPSA Sponsorship Recipient Spring Semester

## **Teaching Experience**

2021 Youth Art Instructor, Adobe Art Center, Castro Valley, CA

2017-2020 Youth & Adult Art Instructor, Studio One Art Center, Oakland, CA

Lisa Rock

*Sharon Wilchar Temporary Art Bus Shelter Program*

2016 Drawing Instructor, Cañada College, Redwood City, CA

2012-2015 Drawing/2D Design Instructor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

### **Lectures**

2020 Color Conversations, Montserrat College of Art, Beverly, MA

# Art Bus Shelter Program

The City of Emeryville Public Art Program

PROPOSAL Submitted by **Grégoire Vion**



## 1 - Intent and Approach – Connections

As a life-long creative and innovator, I've always thought of the city – with its intricate physical and social features and configuration, and its wonderfully inhabitants– as an especially fertile ground. And I am also fascinated by the natural world, but in my mind, these two realms are not so distant; I see effervescence, and wonder equally in both realms, and especially beauty in connections, in how we travel back and forth between culture and nature, the physical and the intangible.

My paintings are most often improvised - I first apply color to the canvas in broad spontaneous strokes, let shapes and hues fall where they may. Then I consider this first, loose level of expression and begin to outline with white paint the areas that seem particularly promising, and with the same white pigment, blank out what seems inert, but of course these white fields - the in-betweeness – take a life of their own, and I observe that carefully as well, shaping and refining emptiness as much as what is full. Meaning begins to arise, in the positive and negative forms, and true joy comes from seeing the harmony rise through it all. My work is all about connectivity, about finding beauty in all beings and things, and very much in the space between things.

My career as painter is preceded by 30 years as graphic designer; in that capacity I have often worked with scientists (and again as recently as last month, as it happens), in conversation with them creating images that help support their research and represent the essence of it in a concise, accessible manner. My art studio in Emeryville is surrounded by biotech companies, this theme of Fertile Ground you propose is an invitation I cannot resist.

## 2 - Resume

Born in Ermont, France, Grégoire Vion earned a Master's degree in product design from the Ecole Supérieure de Design Industriel in Paris.

Grégoire's graphic work has garnered numerous awards and has been featured in *Print, How, Communication Arts* and other graphic trade publications and books, also in exhibitions at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts of San Francisco and the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. He has taught Corporate Identity Design at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. He provides consulting and art direction services in design and illustration to a broad clientele; from local food retail to international biotech, print and multimedia publishing, institutions, consumer-goods, health care, and more.

In 2012, Grégoire began shifting the core of his activity from commercial graphic design to fine arts, working mostly in soft pastel on paper and more recently in acrylic on canvas. He works as a full-time artist in Emeryville, at the Compound Studios in Emeryville.

More of his paintings can be seen online at [REDACTED]. For information and samples of his commercial graphic work, please visit [grgwr.com](http://grgwr.com).

## Grégoire Vion

email: [REDACTED]  
web: [REDACTED]  
Instagram: [REDACTED]  
phone/text: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



### 3 - Paintings

The paintings shown in this presentation were produced before I was informed of your current RFP, but they have never been sold or exhibited in public and I would be very pleased if you found them applicable for your program. I am also happy to create entirely new pieces for you; since my artistic process involves improvisation, I am reticent to sketch out specifically what that would be, but these images (including the one shown on the cover of this document) give you a good sense of the general look and feel of what I can create at your request.



Mock-up - preview of art display



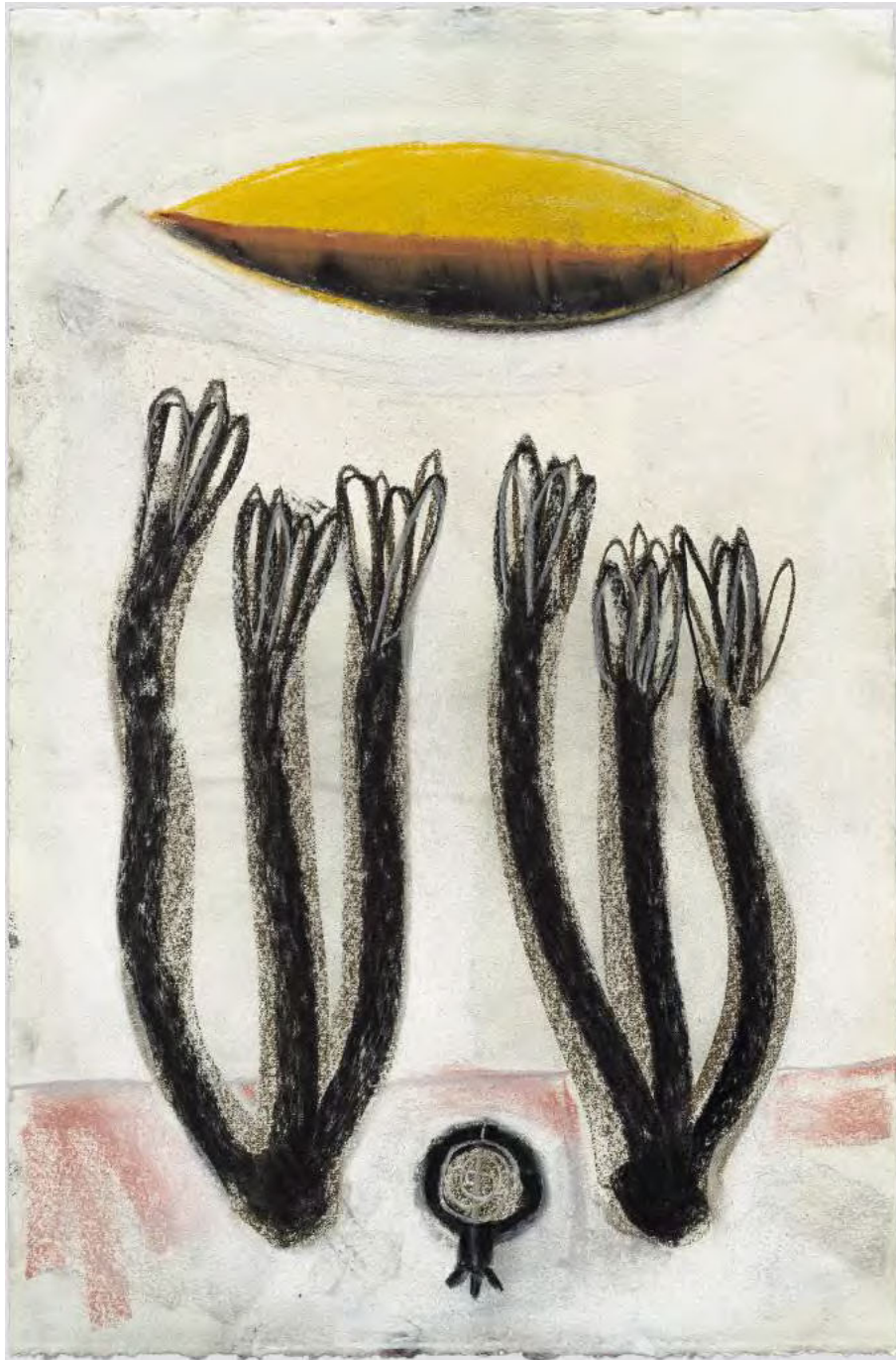
### 3a - Paintings

I like to paint the convergence of culture and nature, and often depict scenes or beings where what is natural converses or even merges with what is manufactured. The general aesthetic is urban, but the details are full of life and growth and intriguing connections.



### 3b - Paintings

A seed in the ground, and then growth upward, and from there flying beyond.





## 3c - Paintings

A world of pliable surfaces, self-organizing and expanding.



## 3d - Paintings

This one is all about flow, and things moving in time.





## 3e - Paintings

Pushing oneself and growing beyond artificial restrictions and constraints.



## 3f - Paintings

Again, a merging of organic and manufactured forms, connecting and inviting the explorer.





### 3g - Paintings

This one is on one level about music (see the keyboard evoked on the left) but more generally about energy, a cultural world alive with vibrations at all scales.



# Thank you for your consideration.

Grégoire Vion

gvion@me.com

web: gregoirevion.com

Instagram: @gregoirevion

phone/text: 510-595-3775

5900 Hollis Street, Suite A  
Emeryville, CA 94608



Mock-up - preview of art display

**Erin Fong**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



*Letter of Interest:*

I am excited to submit my proposal for the Emeryville Art in Public Places Program. As an artist who has lived and worked in Emeryville for over a decade, I am passionate about creating art that celebrates the community and connects people through the surprise and delight of color.

My proposal, "Local Color," features four unique designs for the four different bus routes in Emeryville. Each design features an individual color palette inspired by the surrounding environment. Each bus route's design will be unique and reflective of the particular surroundings it passes through. For example, the color palette for the route that passes by the Bay Street shopping center could incorporate the colors of the storefronts and signage, while the palette for the route that goes by the Emeryville marina could incorporate the colors of the water and local flora and fauna. This approach will create a sense of cohesion and recognition for each route, while also highlighting the distinctive characteristics of each area with the goal of encouraging viewers to notice and appreciate the beauty of their surroundings.

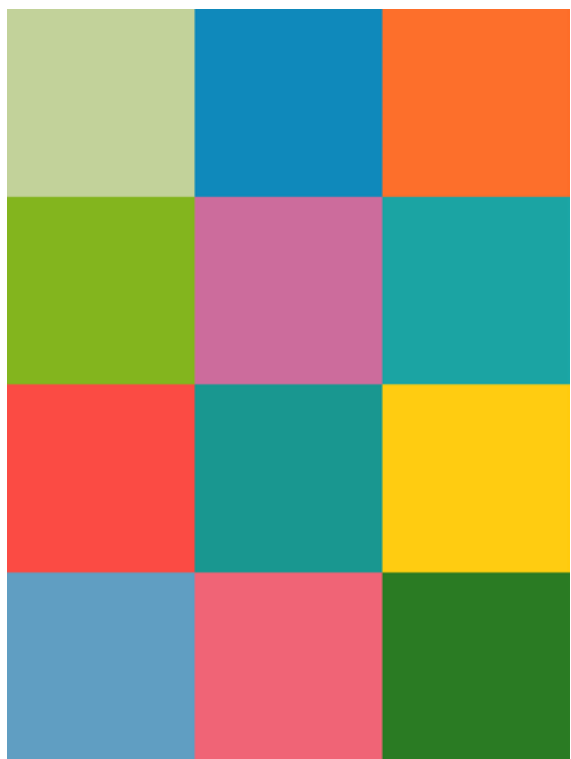
Studies have shown that the practice of noticing our environment and its colors can have a positive impact on our mental health and promote overall well-being. By incorporating intentional color choices into public spaces, we can create environments that promote positive emotional and physical health for all members of the community. As an artist with a background in letterpress and color matching, I have a deep appreciation for the psychological impact of color and its ability to create connections between people and their environment. I am including general mockups of the designs, though if selected, I will walk each bus route to identify the specific colors that passengers may see along the route.

By exploring Emeryville through the lens of color, I am able to showcase the diverse elements that make up the city. It is a dynamic amalgamation of big-box stores, biotech companies, artist studios, and breathtaking natural scenery. As an artist committed to human connection, community building, and color, I am confident that my proposal embodies the core pillars of my work while also celebrating the fertile ground of Emeryville. Additionally, by encouraging viewers to notice and appreciate the beauty of their surroundings, my proposal creates opportunities for individuals to feel a deeper connection to the city and natural surroundings.

Overall, I am thrilled about the opportunity to contribute to the Emeryville Art in Public Places Program and to create art that reflects the vibrancy and diversity of our little city. I am confident that my experience and passion for color will allow me to create a series of designs that will engage and delight all who pass through Emeryville. Thank you for considering my proposal.

*Preliminary Images*

**Option 1 - Color block swatches.** These are sample layouts pulled from a mural I painted with the same concept. I would provide a digital file once I compile the colors of Emeryville.



**Option 2 - Airbrush spots.** Examples of a painting series that I've done but could be translated to this concept. I would create the paintings based on the matched colors and the paintings would be photographed.





## *Bio + Experience:*

I am an accomplished letterpress printer and emerging artist based in Emeryville, CA with over 13 years of industry experience. Throughout my career, I have focused on creating unique artist books and editions, working alongside bookbinders and other letterpress printers. In fact, I co-founded Western Editions, a letterpress studio that specialized in custom design and small-batch printing while also producing artist prints and curating gallery shows with my co-founder for seven years.

In 2019, I shifted my focus to prioritize my personal studio practice and began creating work that celebrates the power of color, human connection, and experimentation. Along the way, I have collaborated with a diverse range of commercial brands like Hush Puppies and Allbirds, have created work for offices like Square HQ and the Google Artist in Residence program, and have printed colophons and text for several artist editions, including renowned names such as Maira Kalman, Clare Rojas, Malick Sidibé, and Wayne Thiebaud.

As a professional artist, I excel at creating public art that engages the community through social practice. For instance, at the Jewish Community Center, I curated a letterpress print and paint station as part of the Stern Grove Festival. Visitors were encouraged to create postcards while taking a moment to reflect and write thoughtful notes. My approach included stamps and a mailbox for easy mailing to remove that barrier. Another example of my work in public art with a social practice element has been with the San Francisco Ferry Building for two years in a row in 2021 and 2022, coinciding with Earth Day. I was commissioned to create a piece that enlivened and filled the space after vendors left due to Covid. In 2021, I gathered responses from the community answering the question "How are you an ally to Earth?" and letterpressed these responses into a colorful array spanning 88 feet. Utilizing this same concept in 2022, I worked with local shops and vendors at the Ferry Building to share their sustainability practices to fill the hallway. Through these projects, I have developed a deep understanding of how to create public art that is not only visually striking but also encourages community engagement and social change.

My largest solo exhibition to date, [The Sensation of Color](#), recently debuted at Bedford Gallery in Walnut Creek in January, where I filled the spacious 3500 square foot gallery with prints, paintings, and two large-scale site-specific installations, all centered around the ways in which color impacts our daily lives often in subconscious ways. Building on this exploration of color and my appreciation of nature, my proposal for the Emeryville Bus Shelter draws from my daily walking practice, which has honed my ability to notice the colors and details of my surroundings. As an artist with a background in color matching, I am uniquely positioned to create a shelter that not only serves its functional purpose but

also acts as a beautiful and thought-provoking piece of public art. I have already successfully executed a similar project in 2022, when I was [commissioned to paint a 40' mural](#) at the bustling corner of Hayes Street and Divisadero in my former neighborhood. Using my walks around the area as inspiration, I carefully matched 27 colors that reflect the vibrant hues found in the surrounding environment. I believe that my experience in this type of public art makes me the ideal candidate for this project and I am excited to bring my vision to the Emeryville community.

## **EXHIBITIONS**

2023 The Sensation of Color, Bedford Gallery, Walnut Creek, CA | solo show  
2022 Emeryville Celebration of the Arts, Emeryville, CA | group show  
2022 Faith, Hopes, and Dreams, Realm Gallery, Los Angeles, CA | group show  
2021 Emeryville Celebration of the Arts, Emeryville, CA | group show  
2020 The Friendship Project, Rare Device, San Francisco, CA | solo show  
2019 The Friendship Project, Wild Child Children's Museum, Oakland, CA  
2018 Emeryville Celebration of the Arts, Emeryville, CA | group show  
2017 The Peep Show, Mule Gallery, San Francisco, CA | Co-curated  
2016 Greetings From California, Alite Gallery, San Francisco, CA | duo show

## **EDUCATION + OPPORTUNITIES**

2022 Google Artist in Residence  
2022 Rare Device Mural commission  
2022 Ferry Building Earth Day commission  
2022 Square HQ commission  
2021 Ferry Building Earth Day commission  
2019 California College of the Arts Letterpress Instructor  
2019 In Cahoots Residency | March  
2012 San Francisco Center for the Book | Non-profit volunteer  
2009-2012 Codex Foundation | Non-profit volunteer  
2004-2009 University of Nevada, Reno  
Liberal Arts degree with a focus in studio art, women's studies, and sociology.

**ALTERNATES**



## Letter of Interest

I have lived in Emeryville on the Bay in Watergate condos for fifteen years since our move from Pennsylvania. I discovered this refuge, this little heaven, peaceful and inspiring sanctuary right here in the crowded East Bay, closest to San Francisco city. Emeryville Marina has been a constant source of inspiration for me and my creativity. I walk along the Bay every morning and rejoice in the movement and energy of waves, clouds, birds, plants, and trees. Since the very beginning of this year, we have seen severe weather and heavy winds and rains that have ravaged many of the Marina trees who have been my constant companions for the last 15 years. I felt very saddened and shocked and was reminded of the Creek and Diablo range wildfires in 2020 in which the Emeryville Marina experienced orange smoke in the air. I can't forget the eerie feeling that morning as I went for the walk despite the bad air quality. It was painful when I saw the red sun and deep orange atmosphere. I took pictures of the trees of Marina as they appeared black against orange. I returned home and did several sketches of these trees and charcoal. Looking at these drawings I feel closure now that at least I have preserved the images of those trees which are lost to us forever. However, the Bay is always an area of hope and inspiration for me. The birds come and gather on the rocks and take the wing and fly in murmuration. As they fly in formations, I see them appear and as they turn, now I do not see them. Watching the dance of the waves and the birds gives me hope and the pleasure of living in Emeryville. I am always inspired and have written poems and created paintings to remember them.

Following are two poems which express my two themes in this proposal-

### **O Tree**

When I saw you in that fiery orange light

You appeared as black burnt wood

Wildfires are burning your sisters

Were you mourning?

Sun is behind the layer of orange

Smoke has filled the air

I want to save you

Preserve you

Sing with you

Recreate in my art

My memory is etched

In solidarity with your family

I will grieve with you  
And grow more trees...

### **Birds and the Waves**

I watch these birds at the Bay shore,  
Flying together as community,  
Chirping, laughing, flying freely.  
I marvel at their speed and flexibility,  
Turning bodies upside down with agility  
Making sharp U turns,  
Keeping the same distance  
And holding all together  
They never collide or hurt each other,  
Neither push to go in front of another  
Like waves they swirl above the waters  
Absorbing the new energy of the new day  
Complying with the order of the Nature willingly...

On my daily walks around the Bay, I have been documenting with images and voice memos that will become a collection of "Unfolding Stories: Every Morning at the Bay," a series of paintings and accompanying poems that convey the Bay's tranquility and natural beauty.

Salma Arastu





**Salma Arastu**



**Painter, sculptor, poet**

As an internationally exhibited woman artist I bring a unique global perspective due to the fact that I was born into the Sindhi and Hindu traditions in Rajasthan, India, and later embraced Islam and moved to USA in 1986. As a woman, artist, and mother, I work to create harmony by expressing the universality of humanity through paintings, sculpture, calligraphy and poetry. Inspired by the imagery, sculpture and writings of my Indian heritage and Islamic spirituality, I use my artistic voice to break down the barriers that divide to foster peace and understanding. At birth I was given the life-defining challenge of a left hand without fingers. Seeing the unity of an all-encompassing God, I was able to transcend the barriers often set-forth in the traditions of religion, culture, and the cultural perceptions of handicaps. My works are lyrical, spiritual, figurative, and calligraphic. I have tried to bring together Eastern spirituality and Western techniques of painting learned over the years. Through the contrasting elements in my work, I yearn and search for unity balance.

My works are greatly influenced by my studies and experiences in different cultures around the world. After graduating in Fine Arts from Maharaja Sayajirao University in Baroda, India, I lived and worked in Iran and Kuwait, where I was exposed to a wealth of Islamic arts and Arabic calligraphy. Calligraphy, miniatures, and the folk art of Islam and the Hindu tradition continue to influence my work today.

I was invited to Germany twice, first as a Resident Artist in 2000 at Schwabisch Gmund and again in the Spring of 2011, by the Westphalia Wilhelm University in Münster, Germany invited to publish my paper "Art Informed by Spirituality" in the publication on the International Symposium: 'God Loves Beauty: Post Modern Views on Religion and Art. I have presented my work and given talks at Stanford University, Commonwealth of San Francisco, Seattle University, Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley, and Museum of Contemporary Religious Art, St. Louis Missouri. I was invited to Morocco for a one-month Artist Residency Program in March of 2018 through Green Olives art Gallery.

As a visual artist I have had 45 solo shows nationally and internationally and have won several prestigious awards including the East Bay Community's Fund for Artists in 2012 and 2014 and 2020. The City of Berkeley's Individual Artist Grant Award in 2014, 2015, and 2016. I have public art pieces on display in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and San Diego, California and I have also written and published five books on my art and poetry including my recent with ecological consciousness from Quranic verses "Our Earth: Embracing All Communities."



# Inspired From Emeryville Marina

Salma Arastu



Birds and The  
Waves-I Acrylics  
and Pen & Ink





Birds and The Waves-II  
Paper, Acrylics and  
Pen & Ink





Birds and The Waves-III  
Acrylics and Pen & Ink





Birds and The Waves-IV  
Paper, Acrylics and Charcoal





Trees-I  
Rust &  
Charcoal



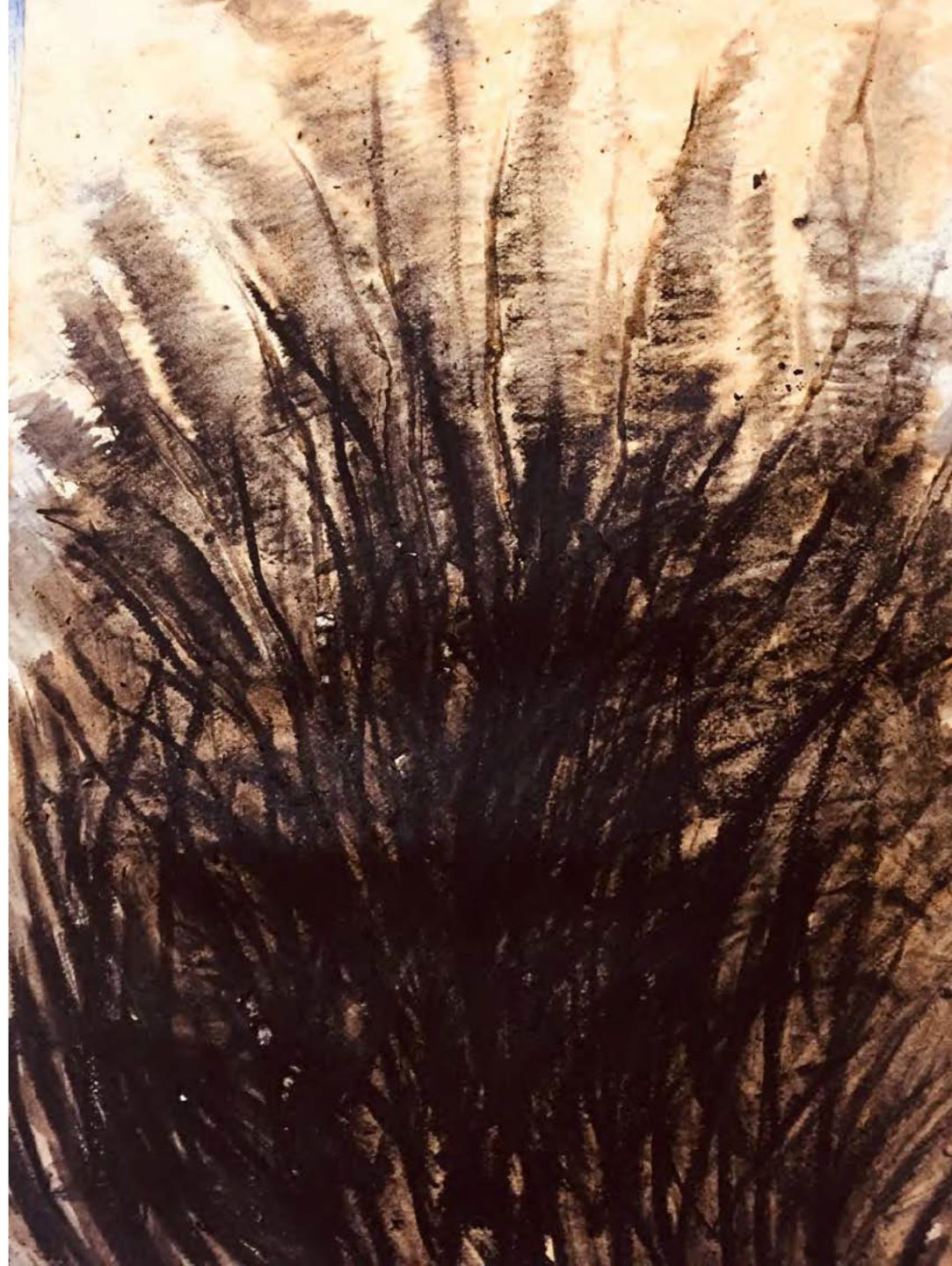


Trees-II  
Rust & Charcoal



Trees-III  
Rust & Charcoal





Trees-IV  
Rust & Charcoal





### **Selected Recent Solo Shows**

- Lindsay Dirx Brown Galley, San Ramon, We Are All One: How Did We Get Separated? March 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023
- Abrams Claghorn Gallery, Albany, Our Earth: Embracing All Communities, April 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- Think Round Fine Art, San Francisco, Meditations on Rumi, January 9<sup>th</sup> to March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- Oakland Asian Cultural Center, Oakland, Memory Vignettes, March 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020
- Graduate Theological Institute Library Gallery, Berkeley, California, Seeking Oneness, October 11<sup>th</sup> to January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- Arts at CIIS, San Francisco, California, Myth & Mystery, March 18-June 30, 2018
- ArtReach, First Congregational Church, Portland, Oregon, April 2 through May 2017
- Peninsula Art Museum, Burlingame, CA, January 17-March 23, 2016
- Multicultural Center, University of California Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA September 30 to December 11, 2015
- Museum of Contemporary Religious Art. St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO September 13--December 6, 2015
- Levantine Cultural Center, Los Angeles, CA, March 2015
- Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara, CA, September-November 2014
- Robert Graves Gallery, Wenatchee Valley College, Wenatchee, WA, Feb-March 2014
- Art @ the Y, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL, March-April 2013
- Dominican University Gallery, San Rafael, CA 2012
- King Gallery, Unitarian Universalist at San Francisco, San Francisco, CA 2012
- A temporary exhibition, Art in Embassies, US Department of State, US Embassy Rangoon, Burma. 2011-2013
- Commonwealth Club, San Francisco, CA 2011
- CIIS-California Institute of Integral Studies Art Gallery, San Francisco, CA 2009
- Chandler Fine Art Gallery, San Francisco, CA 2007
- ArtJaz Gallery, Philadelphia, PA 2006
- The Hope Horn Gallery, Scranton University, Scranton, PA 2005
- Fayberger Gallery, Penn State University, Reading, PA 2005
- Radford University Art Museum, Radford University, Radford, VA 2005

### **Selected Recent Group Shows**

- The Natural Other, Mercury 20, Oakland, March 31<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023
- Bay Area figurative from Abstraction, Uncle Credit Union gallery, Livermore, CA, February 14 to April 23, 2023
- Women Of Northern California: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow, John Natsoulas Gallery, Davis, CA March 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023
- Stories from My Childhood: NIU Art Museum, Northern Illinois University DeKalb, IL, Nov 29<sup>th</sup> 2022 to Feb 17<sup>th</sup> 2023
- The Language of Nature: Luna Gallery, San Juan Bautista, California, October 1<sup>st</sup>-November 20, 2022
- 36th Emeryville Annual Art Show, Emeryville, California, October 2 – 31, 2022

- Essential Truths: bay Area Artists in Color, Sanchez Art center, Pacifica, CA 15<sup>th</sup> July-15<sup>th</sup> August, 2022
- Eco-artwork: 11 Artists from 8 Countries, Various Small Fires, Los Angeles, June 25 – July 30, 2022
- THE WILD SIDE: California Women Celebrate the Untamed, Arc Gallery, San Francisco, June 18 – August 13, 2022
- 35th Emeryville Annual Art Show, Emeryville, California, October 2 – 31, 2021
- Four Squared at Arc Studios and Gallery, San Francisco, September 21st-October 22nd, 2021
- Deadlocked and Loaded at ArtRage Gallery, Syracuse, New York, February 11 to April 18, 2021
- Traces at Danville Village Art Gallery, Women Eco Artists Dialogue group show, February 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2021
- The Writing is on the Wall at K Gallery, Rhythmix Cultural Center, Alameda, 19<sup>th</sup> January-March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- Work & Worship at Abrams Claghorn Gallery, Berkeley, CA March 3-31, 2020
- The Word at Arc Studios and Gallery, San Francisco, January 21<sup>st</sup>-February 22nd, 2020
- Universal Messages: New Vistas Berkeley Art Center Nov 3-Dec 4 2018
- Art as Spiritual Metaphor: Harrington Gallery, Pleasanton, CA April-May 2017
- Crossing to Safety at Abrams Claghorn Gallery, Berkeley, CA March 3-31 2016
- Novus Conceptum at Hannah Bacol Busch Gallery, Bellaire, TX April 9 – Sep 30
- Juanita Salazar Lowe Art Gallery, Imperial Valley College, Imperial. CA April 2015
- Intersections: Asian American Narratives, Lindsay Dirks Brown Art Gallery, San Ramon, CA, February 3 - 27, 2015
- 'Serenity' at UCSF Women's Health Center, San Francisco, CA April 15 – July 14, 2015
- Living with Endangered Languages: Root Division, San Francisco, CA January, 2015
- Sacred Voices: Canton Museum of Art, Canton, OH December 2013- April 2014
- Under Currents: SomArts Cultural Center, San Francisco, CA May, 2013
- Echo of Islam: Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara, CA February, 2013
- Honoring Women Rights: The National Steinbock Center, Salinas Valley, CA 2012
- Invoking Peace: Euphart Art Museum, De Anza College, Cupertino, CA 2012
- Visions of Paradise: Art & The Power of Faith at Sonoma Valley Museum of Art, Sonoma, CA
- Picturing the word: The Visuality of Text at Doug Adams Gallery, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA 2012
- The Art Gallery at Cleveland University, Cleveland OH 2010
- Exaltation of the Insignificant: Terra Galleria, Santa Monica, CA 2009
- Expanding Circles: Delaware Contemporary Center for Arts, Wilmington, 2007
- Stanford Art Spaces, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA 2007
- Four shows sponsored by Pennsylvania Council on the Arts in State College, Harrisburg, Pittsburg and Philadelphia, PA 2006
- Spring show, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA 2005

### **Awards**

- East Bay Community Foundation's "Fund for Artists", Oakland, CA 2020
- City of Berkeley Individual artist grant, Berkeley, 2014, 2015, 2016
- East Bay Community Foundation's "Fund for Artists", Oakland, CA 2014
- East Bay Community Foundation's "Fund for Artists", Oakland, CA 2012
- First Place, Northeastern Regional Art Show, Marywood University, Scranton, PA 2004.
- First Place, Lehigh Art Alliance Annual Show, Bethlehem, PA in 2004
- Honorable Mention-Berks Art Alliance Show, Reading Art Museum, Reading, PA, 2001
- Honorable Mention-Harrisburg Art Museum, Harrisburg, PA in 2001

- Vermont Studio Center: won residency fellowship for two weeks in October 2002.
- In the summer of 2000 Salma won a (6) week Artist-in-Residence Award. She lived and worked and held exhibition of her works in Swabisch Gumund, southern Germany.

### **Talks and Presentations.**

- October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 “Seeking Oneness” talk presented at Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley.
- February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Search for Meaning Book Festival at Seattle University’s School of Theology and Ministry, Seattle, Washington
- December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Museum of Contemporary Religious Art, St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO presented talk in panel discussion “So That you Know Each other”
- July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015, Commonwealth Club of San Francisco “Unity of Sacred Symbols, Words”
- April 2013. Leonardo Art Science Evening Rendezvous (LASER) she presented a talk on Celebration of Calligraphy and Journeys of Love.
- October 2012, Stanford University International Club Invited her to present her talk and slide show about her works “My Journey Towards My God.”
- June of 2011, Westphalian Wilhelm’s-University in Münster Germany invited Salma Arastu to read her paper “Art informed by Spirituality” in their International Symposium: God Loves Beauty: Post Modern Views on Religion and Art.
- August of 2011, Commonwealth Club of San Francisco invited her to present her paper on “Sacred Heritage: A blending of Hindu and Islamic Traditions.

### **Curatorial Experience**

- “Universal Messages: New Vistas” with an exhibition of Muslim Women Artists from the Bay Area at Berkeley Art Center, November, 2018
- “The Word: Visual Interpretations” with Local Muslim Women Artists is invited by ARC Gallery, San Francisco in January –February 2020.
- “Work & Worship” with an exhibition of Muslim Women Artists from the Bay Area at Abrams Claghorn Gallery, Berkeley, CA March 3-31, 2020.

### **Selected Public Art Collections**

- Museum of Contemporary Religious Art, St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri
- Counseling Office in St. Louis. Missouri
- Al Mayya LLC, Fujairah -UAE
- 9/11 Memorial Museum, New York, NY
- Islamic Museum of Australia, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- Artsquest, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
- St. Lukes Hospital, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
- Counseling and Wellness Center at University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida
- Alameda County Arts Commission, Oakland, California
- State Museum of the Arts, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
- Museum of Modern Art, Hyderabad, India
- Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad, India
- National Gallery of Art, New Delhi, India
- Lehigh Valley Hospital, Allentown, Pennsylvania
- Pennsylvania Power & Light, Allentown, Pennsylvania
- Spring Health Clinic, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania



- At US and Internationally more than 400 paintings in private collections.

**Publications**

- Six books are published with poems and paintings.

**Education**

- Master's degree in Fine Arts from Maharaja Sayaji Rao University in Baroda, India, 1974
- Associate degree in Graphic Arts from Northampton Community College, Bethlehem, PA 2088
- Certification in Public Art from Public Art Academy in East Bay in January 2010.

Letter of Interest :

I am writing to express my interest in the public art project in Emeryville that focuses on expressing the natural beauty of the city and it's people I have come to know and love. My concept, "Greener on the other " focuses on black line art with various colors to fill in the space to celebrate Emeryville's biodiversity and ecological heritage. In the spirit of being eco-friendly, my art materials were either thrifted or traded for. As an artist, I draw inspiration from the natural world and human joy from said world. Nature becomes extra magical when it can spark joy in many people. The endless birthdays, weddings and celebrations held at Emeryville's parks showcase nature as the core to happy memories. I had conducted extensive research on the local flora and fauna as the super bloom was upon California. It also gave me justification to spend hours staring at beautiful flowers that City of Emeryville had to offer. Just as new life is breathed back into nature, so has inspiration for me to create. Here are a few things on my mind. Thank you for considering my proposal.

With best regards,  
Muna Abdulahi

Biographical and contact information:

Muna Abdulahi

City of emeryville Community Service Dept. ,City of Emeryville [csd@emeryville.org](mailto:csd@emeryville.org) (510)596-4353



















