

SURFACE CURRENT: CYANOTYPES

January 18, 2020 to April 5, 2020

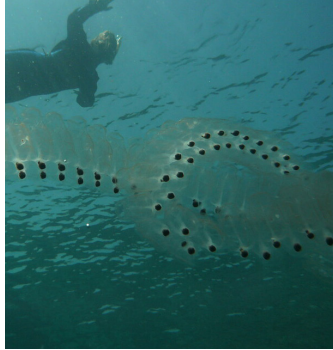


Image Credits: "Salp, influencers of the planet's climate" by Lars Plougmann is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0 ; *Tunicata III: Grassroots* by Sandra Sider, Photography by Deidre Adams

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Tuesday - Saturday
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday
12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Sandra Sider

In this exhibition, Sandra Sider draws inspiration from invertebrate sea creatures called salps. A part of the tunicate family of marine invertebrates, salps are generally tubular, transparent and gelatinous. Ranging from 1 to 10 centimetres in length, salps propel themselves forward by pumping water through their bodies. While salps can exist on their own, they generally form into a long, string-like aggregate. In some cases, they can be found in swarms. Rare species are bioluminescent. As Sider describes it, "When I first saw a colony of salps in the ocean, they seemed to be dancing and having a fine time, a party above the sea grasses. It was a happy sight."

At first glance, salps seem to resemble jellyfish, but in fact, they are more closely related to humans and possess a nervous system that distinguishes them from jellyfish. For Sandra, the salps' function and behavior in the ecosystem offer important metaphors for challenges facing human society today, including climate change, political tensions and social injustice. In these quilts, she inspires us to heighten our awareness of the world around us and to act with compassion.

Based in New York City, Sandra earned a Doctorate in comparative literature and Renaissance studies from the University of North Carolina and a Master's Degree in art history from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. She is currently the Editor of *Art Quilt Quarterly* and Curator of the Texas Quilt Museum. A former president of the Studio Art Quilt Association (SAQA), she is a noted author, speaker and teacher.

In creating her work in this exhibition, Sandra used whole-cloth cotton sensitized with cyanotype chemicals, six-strand cotton embroidery thread, Dual Duty thread, and cotton felt backing. Her techniques include sun-printing of photograms, hand embroidery, and hand embroidery as quilting.