

Shifting Tides

Studio Art Quilt Associates, Inc. (SAQA)

Meet Carla Stehr

Normandy Park, Washington



carlastehr.com

Artwork on Display

Diatom 8

Carla Stehr uses cloth, paint and stitch to express her fascination with marine life. She lives near Seattle, WA, close to where she grew up exploring the beaches of Puget Sound and the Pacific Ocean. Her obsession with tide pools motivated her to become a Marine Biologist. Carla's scientific work included studying and photographing marine life with a scanning electron microscope. Several of her photos have been exhibited or published. She took drawing and watercolor classes in her spare time, then explored quilt-making and discovered that fabric and stitch could be used to make art. She often includes hand-dyed fabric, paint, colored pencil and more in her work. Some of her pieces are inspired by her science-art photographs. Carla retired from research but continues to use her scientific curiosity as inspiration for her art.

Artist Statement

Diatoms are tiny, single-celled aquatic plants. A microscope reveals they have complex multilayered cell walls with stunning patterns. A liter of sea water may contain up to a million of these microscopic algae. Diatoms generate about 25 percent of our oxygen and absorb 30 percent of earth's carbon dioxide. Water temperature and nutrients influence diatom growth, but this complicated balance is also affected by climate change and ocean acidification. These changes may affect the future ability of the ocean to sequester excess carbon dioxide. Fish, bird and mammal populations may also change because they depend on the diatom-based food chain. The microscopic beauty of diatoms is a reminder that even the tiniest organisms are incredibly important for life on earth.

To view full exhibit - <https://visionsartmuseum.org/shifting-tides/>