

# Shifting Tides

Studio Art Quilt Associates, Inc. (SAQA)

## Meet Nan Thompson Moose Pass, Alaska



### Artwork on Display

*Copper River Flats*

Nan Thompson lives “off-grid” in the Kenai Mountains in Alaska. She makes art to express the joy and wonder she experiences in the natural world. For most of her adult life she has lived in Anchorage where she practiced law and raised a family. After retiring Nan left the city to focus on making art and playing outside. Her husband is a commercial fisherman who catches salmon in Prince William Sound. In the summer they work together on a tender boat; picking up fish from the boats that caught it and delivering it to the onshore processors. Nan has a small studio space on the boat; and an infinite source of inspiration. She has sewn since she could hold a needle and has always enjoyed art, although with no formal training. Nan has had the privilege of developing as a fiber artist with the support of many talented friends and teachers.

### Artist Statement

This is an image of the Copper River Delta in Western Alaska where my husband works as a commercial salmon fisherman. Changes in ocean temperature have affected the wild salmon runs. After three to eight years in the ocean, they return to their freshwater river birthplaces to spawn. Commercial fishers harvest them on the river deltas like the one in this image. Over the last thirty years, Chinooks have gotten smaller in all of the ten rivers studied by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Hence the allowable catch is now restricted for commercial and sport fishers and people who live along the river who depend on salmon as a food source.

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