



Tracing Change

Visual Art & Environmental Science

Klara Maisch - May 2025

Photo by Sean Reilly - U.S. Forest Service



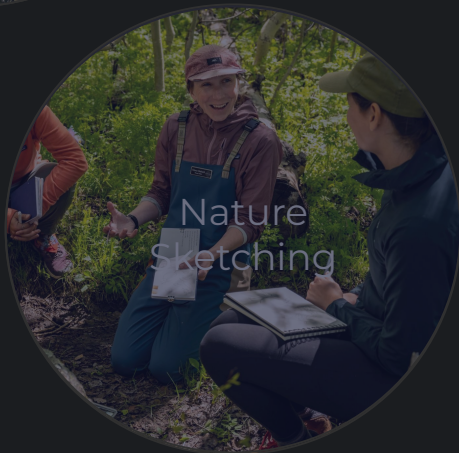
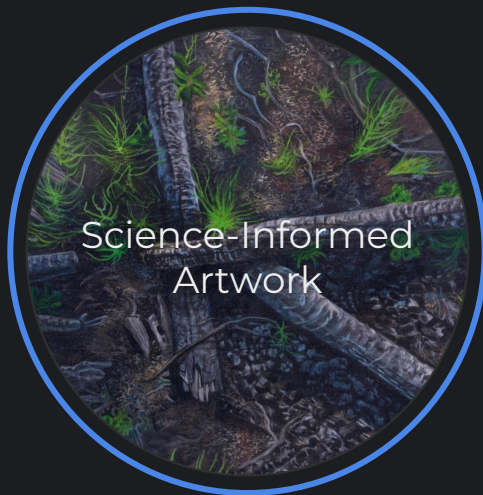




Iñupiat and Denaakk'e Homelands - Gates of the Arctic National Park /// *Grandmother Tree* - 30" X 44" - 2021

Dial, R.J., Maher, C.T., Hewitt, R.E. et al. Sufficient conditions for rapid range expansion of a boreal conifer. *Nature* 608, 546–551 (2022).
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-022-05093-2>







Dené (Lower Tanana) Homelands - Yankovich Fire /// *Plot Painting* - Oil on Linen - 40" x 40" - 2022

Supported by: *In A Time of Change* / Bonanza Creek LTER

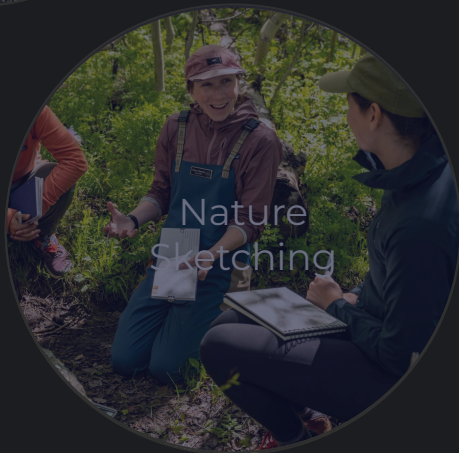


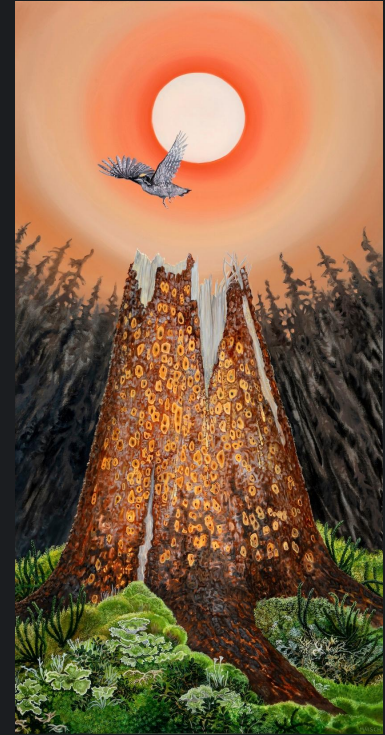
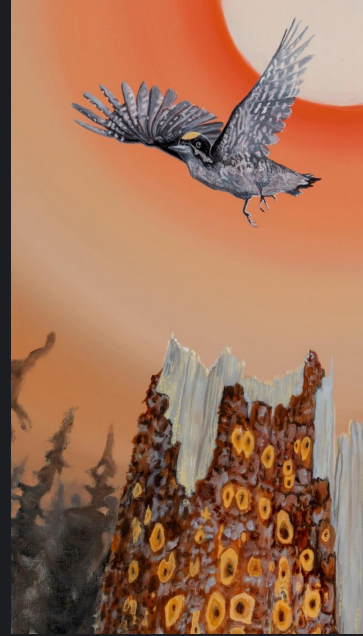
Denaakk'e and Dené (Upper Koyukon) Homelands - Hess Creek Fire /// *Feedback Cycles* - Oil on Linen - 30" x 30" - 2020



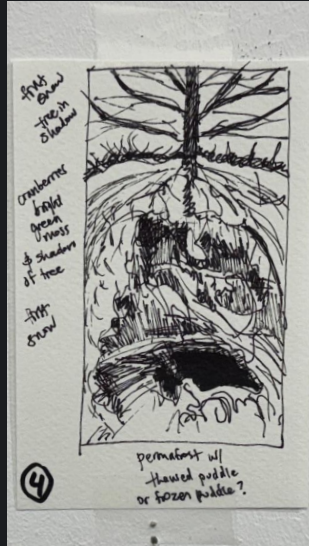
Fire Tapestry - Oil on Linen - 40" x 80" - 2022

Inspired by: *In A Time of Change* / Bonanza Creek LTER





Threshold 32°F /// Ten paintings - Oil on Linen - 48" x 24" - Completed in March 2025
Supported by: *In A Time of Change* / Bonanza Creek LTER / UAF Museum of the North



Fungal threads seek sustenance in loosened soil.

Deeper still, permafrost layers host landscapes from millennia past.

Time crawls.



Why partner with artists?

- Artists are trained as storytellers
- Enhance the quality of science communication and provide footholds for understanding
- Encourage complex systems thinking through deeper engagement
- Art validates lived experiences and can help elevate firsthand knowledge
- Build relations, broaden networks, and inspire action



What makes for a successful art-sci collaboration?

- Involve artists early in the process, including in the proposal stage
- Provide (or partner with artists) to ensure adequate compensation
- Consider including artists as observers or active helpers outside or in the lab
- Create space for unstructured conversations and iterative processes
- Build relationships based on mutual exchange and acknowledgement



Questions? Feedback? Ideas? Please keep in touch!



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