

ARTIST STATEMENT

I am a record keeper. I track the passage of time, the migration of birds, the decline of native species, and the blooming of spring ephemerals. Painting is how I document and adore the specific natural spaces I inhabit. Adopting a schematic approach allows me to see closely and experience intimately while keeping my romantic tendency and solistalgic grief at bay.

Currently I am documenting the 625 species listed as Endangered, Threatened or Special Concern in Connecticut. I research each species and paint a symbolic representation; each taxonomic classification has a different method of representation. Plant species are represented by painted watercolor strips, while amphibians are represented by small paintings suspended in liquid-filled specimen jars. Learning the names of forgotten species is my way to honor and make visible the beauty, diversity and wonder that is unseen and at risk.

As a child I routinely visited the plants around my yard and in the forest. Nowadays I make visits to the Nature Preserve near my home to find the skunk cabbage as it pushes up through melting ice, the unfolding May Apples and unfurling Ferns, the new pink Maple leaves. The spring ephemerals excite me the most until the meadows are filled with Joe-Pye Weed, Ironweed, and Pods of Milkweed.

Born from my walks to the New Canaan Nature Center, recent rules-based projects represent my intense desire to deeply connect with the natural world. The impossibility of an unmediated experience of nature, and my passionate need to have one, compels me to spend time enmeshed here, noticing, observing, and absorbing. The resulting work is my attempt to translate my lived experience, and an acknowledgement of the impossibility to completely share the ineffable, almost sacred experience of nature.

BIO

Cynthia MacCollum/Bio
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Cynthia MacCollum is a painter, printmaker, and photographer who lives and works in New Canaan, CT. Her work has been shown at the Katonah Museum of Art in Katonah, NY; the Center for Contemporary Printmaking in Norwalk, CT; Elisa Contemporary Art, NY; First Street Gallery in New York; The Kellogg Gallery at Cal Poly Pomona, Blue Print Gallery in Dallas, Panopticon Gallery in Boston, and internationally in Cadaques, Spain, the UK, France and Hong Kong. In 2013 Cynthia's work was selected by curator Donald Kuspit, one of 32 pieces out of thousands of submissions, to be part of the First Street Gallery National Juried Exhibit in New York City.

As a child, MacCollum spent countless hours out of doors, often near the creek in the ravine behind her home. This early connection to nature instilled a reverence for the natural world that pervades all of her work.

MacCollum's daily habit of walking through the nature preserve near her home has informed and inspired much of her work over the last several years.

MacCollum is a member of New Canaan's Silvermine Guild, the Center for Contemporary Printmaking, and Odetta Digital. A graduate of Washington University in St. Louis with a major in Art History and a minor in Fine Art, she has continued her studies at the Center for Contemporary Printmaking, and through monthly critiques with the CritLab. Artist Residencies for three summers, at the Skopelos Foundation for the Arts in Skopelos, Greece, have deepened MacCollum's interest in the intersection of nature and art, and of painting, printmaking, and alternative processes. In addition to private collections, her work can be found in the Fine Art Collection of the Montefiore Health System and Memorial Sloane Kettering.

Cynthia MacCollum

Solo and Group Exhibits

2021 *Thirteen Moons*, solo exhibit, Carriage Barn Arts Center, New Canaan, CT
2021 *Flowers and Flyers*, Elisa Contemporary Art, Riverdale, NY
2020 *Affordable Art Fair*, Elisa Contemporary Art, NY, NY
2019 *Shades of Blue*, Panopticon Gallery, Boston, MA
2019 *Affordable Art Fair*, Elisa Contemporary Art, NY, NY
2019 *Spring Prologue*, 2 Person exhibit, ArtWORKS Gallery, Norwalk, CT
2018 *Live Auction, Monothon*, Center for Contemporary Printmaking, Norwalk, CT
2017 *Artists Showcase*, Group Show, Avenue Gallery, Norwalk, CT;
Invitational
2016 *Flora & Fauna*, Nest Arts Factory, Bridgeport, CT; Invitational
2016 *Spring Fling*, Group Show, Avenue Gallery, Norwalk, CT; Invitational
2015 *ART On The Line*, Invitational International Art Show and Exhibit, The Space, Hong Kong
2015 *ART SHOW: BEDFORD*, Benefit, Bedford, NY; Invitational
2015 *Full Bloom: The Artist's View of Gilded Age Botanicals*; Lockwood Matthews Mansion Museum, Norwalk, CT
2014 *New Members Exhibition*, Silvermine Guild Arts Center, New Canaan, CT
2014 *Continuum*, Solo Show, H. Pelham Curtis Gallery, New Canaan, CT
2014 *On and Off the Wall*, First Street Gallery, New York, NY;
Invitational
2014 *Spring Fling*, Group Show, The Avenue Gallery, Norwalk, CT;
Invitational
2014 *Works on Paper*, The Road Gallery, New York, NY; Invitational
2012 *Panorama*, Members Show, Center for Contemporary Printmaking, Norwalk, CT
2010 *Members Show*, Carriage Barn Arts Center, New Canaan, CT
Juried Exhibitions
2022 *Intimacies*, MAPspace, Port Chester, NY
2021 *Spinning Plates*; Odetta Digital, Artsy.net
2021 *Page-Turner*; Odetta Digital, Artsy.net
2021 *Flow*; Odetta Digital, Artsy.net

2021 *Art Essex*; George Billis Gallery, Westport, CT
2020 *International Biennial Footprint Exhibit*, Center for Contemporary Printmaking, Norwalk, CT
2019 *The Edge Effect*, Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, NY
2019 Site: Brooklyn, Works on Paper, Brooklyn, NY
2019 *Spectrum*, Works on Paper, New Canaan, CT
2018 Silvermine Guild Juried Member Exhibit, Susan Ely, Juror
2018 *Spectrum*, Carriage Barn Arts Center, New Canaan, CT
2016 New Work/New Directions, Juried Members Exhibit, Silvermine Galleries, New Canaan, CT
2015 Annual Mini Print International, Cadaques, Spain and Bages, France
2015 *Spectrum*, Carriage Barn Arts Center, New Canaan, CT
2014 *International Biennial Footprint Exhibit*, Center for Contemporary Printmaking, Norwalk, CT
2013 *In the Layers*, Juried Members Exhibit, Silvermine Guild Galleries, New Canaan, CT
2013 *Ink and Clay 39*, Kellogg Gallery, California Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA; juried show
2013 *National Juried Exhibition*, First Street Gallery, New York, NY, Donald Kuspit, Juror
2013 *Spectrum*, Carriage Barn Arts Center, New Canaan, CT.
 *Awarded First Prize for Works on Paper
2013 *Sea and Sky*, Liz Afif Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
2012 *Spectrum*, Carriage Barn Arts Center, New Canaan, CT
2012 *American Pastoral*, Carriage Barn Arts Center, New Canaan, CT
2010 *Members Show*, Carriage Barn Arts Center, New Canaan, CT

Residencies

2017 and 2016 Skopelos Foundation for the Arts, Skopelos, Greece

Affiliations

Center for Contemporary Printmaking, Norwalk, CT
Silvermine Galleries, New Canaan, CT
Elisa Contemporary Art, Riverdale, NY
Blue Print Gallery, Dallas, TX
Lionheart Gallery, Bedford, NY

Related Experience

2000-2006 Homefires Rugs, Atlanta, GA, Licensed and Proprietary Rug Design
2000-2001 Sylvestri, Boston, MA and Asia Society of New York, NY, Licensed Designs
1995-1999 Totes Umbrellas, Cincinnati, OH, Licensed Designs
1994-2002 Hang the Moon Art by Cynthia MacCollum, Head Designer and CEO, Norwalk, CT

Education

2005-2013 Center for Contemporary Printmaking, Norwalk, CT
2010 Santa Reparata International School of Art, Intensive Printmaking Workshop, Florence, Italy
1993 Fashion Institute of Technology, New York, NY
1987 Washington University in St Louis, BA, History of Art, St. Louis, MO

