

CHRISTINE NEILL ESSAY

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My work chronicles the ephemeral states of the natural world in layered mixed-media paintings. By combining the immediacy of fluid paint mediums with digital processes, I interpret a life long fascination with biology and ecology. Through observations of biotic phenomena, I note intersections where environmental and anthropological worlds meet. The effects of climatic changes and invasive species on human life, and the reaction of the earth's habitat to these threats, underlie my investigations and images.

My practice typically involves scrutinizing the landscape for organic matter that suggests human activity and natural events. I then line my studio with the collected and photographed specimens, which I research before making a series of studies. Final drawings and paintings are created on watercolor paper and segments of digital photos are printed onto the handwork, then over painted until all surfaces have a coating of watercolor. As the layers coalesce, they depart from observation in favor of expressive interpretation.

Additionally, line drawings are often printed onto the framing Plexiglas, separated from the ground by spacers, allowing shadows from the front to fall on the painted and printed surface below. In other works, I use a laser cutter to incise holes in the paper, representing ruptures in imperiled species.

This work celebrates the intricacies of thriving ecosystems yet laments endangered species. Such dichotomies, in nature as in art, bind us together as living entities in, on and of the earth.