

## **CHRISTINE NEILL Statement**

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[www.ChristineNeill.com](http://www.ChristineNeill.com)

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

However, my access to professional digital sources in 2020 has been severely diminished by shutdowns caused by the Covid Pandemic. The large-scale digital printer I use is accessible only intermittently; the large-size laser cutter is out of business altogether. The alternative firm is expensive, out of state and cumbersome to use. I've responded this year by limiting use of digital processes and working primarily in watercolor and traditional monotype printing.

My practice typically involves scrutinizing the landscape for organic matter that suggests human activity or natural events. I line my studio with the collected specimens, which I research before making a series of drawn studies. Drawings and watercolors are created. As the layers coalesce, they depart from representation in favor of a visual translation of the object.

In works prior to 2020 segments of digital photos were printed onto the handwork and over painted until all surfaces had a coating of watercolor. Additionally, line drawings were often printed on the inside of the framing Plexiglas, separated from the ground by spacers, allowing shadows from the foreground to fall on the painted and printed surface below. I also used laser cutters to incise holes in the paper, representing ruptures in imperiled species.

As an artist, I feel compelled to visualize the damaged condition of our environment as I've observed and researched. I'm aware how cultures, especially marginalized communities, are inequitably impacted by these perils. This work celebrates the intricacies of thriving ecosystems yet laments threatened species. Such dichotomies, in nature as in art, bind us together as living entities in, on, and of the earth.