

Peatland Bryophytes: A Printmaking Perspective, at the Beaty Biodiversity Museum, Vancouver, British Columbia

February 20th to late August, 2025

This art exhibition explores the microcosm of peatland mosses through printmaking, blending science and art to reveal the beauty and ecological importance of these unique plants. 21 prints, including oil-based woodcut, water-based Japanese-style woodcut (mokuhanga), and copper etching, explore the anatomy and ecology of peatland bryophytes. The show includes an interactive station for visitors to create rubbings of small woodblocks that I carved. On April 29th I'm scheduled to give an in-person exhibition tour and artist's talk. More information about the artworks, the process behind them, and the ideas behind it all, can be found here:

<https://explore.beatymuseum.ubc.ca/peatland/>

A lovely article was recently featured in the The Ubysey here:

<https://ubyssey.ca/culture/lisa-matthias-microscopic-landscapes-at-the-beaty/>

Here are a few images from the show. Installation photos are by Blaine Campbell:















Artists and Education Grant Residency at École Meridian Heights School, Stony Plain, Alberta

March 2025

In April 2024 I created a project proposal to undertake an artist residency at a local public K-9 school (my kids' school) to introduce collaborative printmaking to the approximately 600 students. The school was awarded a grant from the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Artists and Education Funding, for me to carry out this project in March 2025. I set up in the school's underutilized art room, and each day teachers brought down their classes for individual instruction. I also held a lunchtime art drop-in club, which was very popular (with up to 70-80 students attending during some of the lunch hours!) It was so much fun working with the students each day - they were all amazing.

I taught relief printmaking (with scratchfoam plates, brayers, and water soluble block printing ink) to the youngest students (K-3), and gelli plate monotype printmaking to the older grades. I asked each student to donate one of their print proofs to me for making some collaborative collages. These large, colourful print collages are scheduled for public exhibition at the grand opening of the new civic centre in the City of Spruce Grove in May 2025.

Here are a few photos:













Artist Residency at the Mokuhanga International Lab, in Echizen, Fukui Prefecture, Japan

June 15-July 19, 2025

I'm very excited to head to Japan for the first time this summer, for a 5-week artist-in-residence program in advanced mokuhanga (water-based woodcut printmaking). This kind of woodcut is very different from what I normally do in my studio. Each step, from planning to carving, to inking up the block and printing, is entirely different between oil-based woodcut and mokuhanga, with the latter being very complex. The carving tools, the way an artist needs to hold the tools, the numbers of blocks needed to register together for one image, the registration method, the type of ink used, the way ink is applied, are just a few of the unique characteristics of mokuhanga.

While my research will be largely self-directed, the residency organizers have curated a program that combines workshops, instructional sessions, excursions, and networking opportunities with both visiting and local artists, complementing the independent research and creative time. I'll be staying in traditional accommodations in a historical washi village.