

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Helen Chellin

Living and working in Hawaii changed how I perceived the world around me. My paintings and artist books tell stories about how the forces of nature and culture are brought together. The door of the natural world opened and I passed through and over Hawaii to Alaska, Iceland, Japan, and other volcanic realms and now multi-dimensions. My home base is currently in San Francisco.

Thirteen years ago I founded the Red Cinder Creativity Center on the Big Island of Hawaii. I was the director of this artist-in-residency program until it closed in 2012.

I was an artist-in-residence at the Cite International in Paris and the de Young Museum in San Francisco and received a State of California Arts Council grant as a teaching artist.

In 2008 I created Tsunami: The Great Wave of Plastic Pollution. This was a science and art installation and performance at the Army Corp of Engineers Bay Model in Sausalito, California.

At 455 Market Street in San Francisco, I had a one person show titled Toxic Beauty using marine debris plastics collected at South Point Beach in Hawaii.

In 2009 my work about volcanoes was shown at a USGS Open House in Menlo Park in an exhibit called The Art in Science as well as at Harvard University in an exhibit titled Runaway Nature.

I completed a painting series titled One Hundred Views of Kilauea Volcano. The first fifty paintings in this series were exhibited at the Wailoa Arts and Cultural Center in Hilo, Hawaii in October 2013. This series exists in book form as a two volume set.

Summer 2013 took me to Japan to do fieldwork for my artist book The Art of Arranging Japanese Volcanoes. Here I paint the forces that produce instability inherent in Japan's natural world and contrast that world with the human desire for systems of order, balance, harmony and calm often found in Japanese Ikebana (flower arranging). The travel that brought me to Japan included attending the conference of International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior (IAVCEI) 2013. The printed multiple edition of this work was published March 2015. There is a unique edition of the journal as an artist book as well.

In 2014 I participated in the 50/50 Show at the Sanchez Art Center in Pacifica, California, building on images from the art of arranging Japanese volcanoes series.

During Dec. 2016 my work was viewed in a group show at the Canessa Gallery in San Francisco.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Currently I am painting stories about fragmented realities.

Lines of pencil and paint connect worlds that are concrete and abstract.

Woven fiberglass roving is pulled apart into strands that use their glass structure to power and reflect light. Together the fiber, pencil and paint construct a composition with tangible and varied relationships between people and structures in worlds that are measured, precise and seen. My abstract worlds are not easily measured, going from darkness to light, from unseen to seen with movement and momentum.

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