

It's the WATER

An Exhibition of Painting and Photography by Seven Artists



APRIL WATERS – *Antarctica Paintings* & INVITED ARTISTS

Rich Bergeman
black & white
photographs

Duncan Berry
aerial
photographs

Gary Buhler
watercolor
paintings

Jeremy Burke
color
photographs

Rebecca Kiser
acrylic
paintings

Katia Kyte
plein air
oil paintings

Exhibition: March 15 – April 28, 2023 • Reception: Saturday, April 8, 3-6 p.m.



Oregon State
University

April Waters Oil Paintings

Water-Ice-Sky, Antarctica

Through my paintings depicting Oregon's rivers, creeks, and coast, I have sought to capture the qualities of reflection, transparency, and movement of the bodies of water that connect and sustain us. This fascination with water led to opportunities at both poles to explore different forms of water at the two most rapidly warming regions on Earth. As a participant in the National Science Foundation Antarctic Artists and Writers Program, I had a rare experience to be living and working on the Southern Ocean and West Antarctic Peninsula, where I was mesmerized observing the sea ice, ocean, icebergs, and Marr Glacier. I was also an Artist-in-Residence in Ilulissat, Greenland, where I experienced thunderous and stunning retreating glaciers. This work speaks to the beauty and vulnerability of our polar region's fragile and susceptible ecosystems.

"I hope that those who experience the paintings that April Waters has created from her Antarctic expedition feel awed and inspired to protect this place."

~Dr. Kim Bernard | Marine Biologist

"With every drop of water you drink, every breath you take, you're connected to the sea."

~ Sylvia Earle, Ph.D. | Marine Biologist

Pi Island, Antarctica; 2020, oil on canvas, 20 x 48 inches, (cover detail)
Water-Ice-Sky, Southern Ocean; 2022, oil on canvas, 24 x 36 inches, (detail)





Cirrus Spissatus Escape; 2022, pigment ink print from infrared camera, 12 x 20 inches, (detail)

Rich Bergeman
Black & White Photographs
Sky Palettes

The “patron goddess of idle men,” clouds have fascinated us for centuries. In the 1800s, scientifically minded cloud spotters began classifying them into ten categories, each with several species and varieties. The cirrus clouds fascinate me most. Latin for fiber or hair, cirrus form at high altitudes and are composed of ice crystals, giving them a silky, translucent appearance. Using an infrared-sensitive camera, I can isolate these faint clouds against the sky and dramatize their shapes, lines, and movement.



On the Horizon; 2023, acrylic on canvas, 36 x 48 inches, (detail)

Rebecca Kiser
Acrylic Paintings
Clouds

The ever-changing clouds of Western Oregon are a feast for the eyes. Clouds are the most abstract element of nature, and capturing a fleeting moment of atmospheric effect is a challenge for the artist. My desire is to evoke that intangible feeling we get when we experience clouds, whether from a distance or within the mist, and I hope those who view my paintings will appreciate the ephemeral nature of water in its most dynamic form.



Salmon River Estuary; 2021, aerial photography, 18 x 72 inches, (detail)

Duncan Berry
Aerial Photographs

Panoramas of Oregon's only UN Biosphere Region

I am fortunate to live at the epicenter of the Cascade Head Biosphere Region on Oregon's beautiful central coastline. This vibrant landscape is my muse and I create these panoramic photographs to reveal the story of this unique convergence of salt and water where 3,000 miles of land meets 5,000 miles of sea. May these artistic creations move you with their beauty and inspire you to be an advocate for stewardship of this remarkable place.



Water Wall; 2022, photography, 45 x 30 inches, (detail)

Jeremy Burke
Color Photographs
Rhythm of the Sea

Water is sacred and purifies my soul. The ocean takes that so much further. The raw power is mesmerizing, especially when mixed with the intense beauty created when the water meets the shore. No matter what the weather is or how small or large the swell, just smelling the sea gives me instant peace. I hope that this collection of moments gives you a similar feeling.



Cedar Creek Shimmering; 2021, watercolor, 53 x 43 inches, (detail)

Gary Buhler
Watercolor Paintings
Impressions of Hope

I paint the light and the darkness because one reveals the other. Without the darkness we don't see the true glory of the light. And without the light, we don't see at all. The essence of water as I see it is the cascading stream – intimate, reflecting, transparent, and ever-moving. The stream gives life wherever it goes. I find that water is a good metaphor for life, as it is beautiful, essential, and dynamic. May you find inspiration and hope in my work.



Ocean Rocks; 2021, oil on panel, 8.25 x 8.25 inches, (detail)

Katia Kyte
Plein Air Oil Paintings
Painting Life

My goal is to be authentic, honest, and vulnerable, and to listen to my intuition. I choose subject matter that excites me: interesting light, shadow patterns, value contrast, beautiful shapes, elegant lines, or surprising color combinations. I prefer painting directly from life because I perceive it first hand, and I create work more suggestive rather than refined to a polished state. The natural world is my teacher and it has all the visual information I need. Painting is like life itself – it teaches me to let go, to support myself.

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liquid - water solid - ice vapor - cloud

"We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one." — Jacques Yves Cousteau

Water is essential for all life and is the most abundant substance on Earth, yet water scarcity is one of the biggest issues facing us today. Water covers 75% of the Earth's surface, but only 3% is fresh water that can be used directly by people, animals, and plants. Water flows endlessly between the ocean, atmosphere, and land, but Earth's water is finite – the amount of water in, on, and above our planet does not increase nor decrease.

"Water is the driving force of all nature." — Leonardo da Vinci

Water is the only substance on Earth that naturally occurs as a solid ICE, a liquid WATER, and a gas VAPOR, thus creating a variety of habitats and microclimates. Water and how it moves through the oceans, the atmosphere, and on the land, changes between its liquid, solid, and gaseous forms. It is a powerful force that redistributes the Earth's energy and influences weather, climate, and other environmental systems. Water and culture are inseparable elements of human life. The way water is used and valued constitutes an integral part of a society's cultural identity. It encompasses lifestyles, value systems, traditions, and beliefs.

"In one drop of water are found all the secrets of all the oceans." — Kahlil Gibran

In both literature and art, water is considered the universal symbol for change. It is forever flowing and can take any course. The seven artists in this exhibit focus on expressing the power, beauty, and mystery of water, showing nature's complex interrelationships. In their creative works, the artists use water to symbolize purity and cleansing. Rivers, lakes, oceans, clouds, and ice may suggest ambition, tranquility, and life force. We share their insights through this selection of paintings and photographs in the hope of enhancing and renewing your appreciation and respect for our world's precious water. Through their talents, these artists, offer new visions and spiritual awakenings to you.

"You are water. I'm water. We're all water in different containers. That's why it's so easy to meet. Someday we'll evaporate together." — Yoko Ono

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Accommodations for disabilities may be made by contacting 541-737-2402 or lsc.services@oregonstate.edu