

Statement

Climate events around the world have inspired technofixes (e.g., SpaceX, Svalbard's Seed Vault) that perpetuate myths about the division between nature and humankind. In the vein of speculative feminism (e.g., Donna Haraway's invocation for Gaia stories), I am interested in how life emerges in precarity. My works are intimate meditations on the interrelations between nature and human vulnerability.

I use water and paint to create layers; I scrape through them to reveal colors. These diffuse and spontaneous actions create organic patterns resembling landscapes in flux. Following the practices of anthropologist Anne Tsing, my visual mark-making speculates on the "art of living on a damaged planet." What kinds of life or ways of living unfold? As bright, vulnerable shapes hover, what is at stake?

Bio

Melissa is a self-taught artist. She studied writing at the University of California, San Diego and received her M.A. in English from the University of California, Davis. She taught and researched science-fiction as a PhD candidate at UC Davis before segueing into tech, where she created visual content and design systems for companies like Facebook and Google.

In late 2019, she quit her job to pursue art-making as a means of inspiring social and ecological liberation. In a world increasingly reliant on and distanced by technology, she finds it essential to re-imagine our relationships and narratives about nature, especially due to climate change.

Since then, she has participated in shows throughout the U.S, including the Woman Made Gallery, Kala Art Institute, and the de Young Museum with a forthcoming solo exhibition at Root Division (Frank-Ratchye space). Her artwork has been published in *The Decolonization Project* and can be found in private and corporate collections. Currently, she is a studio artist at Root Division in San Francisco.

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CV

- Education University of California, Davis | Master of Arts (English) | Davis, CA | 2015
University of California, San Diego | Bachelor of Arts (Writing) | San Diego, CA | 2007
- Solo/
Two-Person
Show *We're The Ones We've Been Waiting For*, **Root Division** (Frank-Ratchye Space), San Francisco, CA | Feb 2021
Assemblages, **Armstrong Redwood Forest**, Guerneville, CA | July 2020
Moonlighting (two-person show), **The Red Vic Hotel**, San Francisco, CA | Aug 2018
- Group
Shows *On the Edge*, **de Young Museum**, San Francisco, CA | Oct 2020 - Jan 2021
Hope / Revolution, **Stay Home Gallery** (curator: Lauren Jackson), Paris, TN | Oct 2020 - Jan 2021
19th Annual Art Auction, **Root Division**, San Francisco, CA | October 2020
Response, **Kala Art Institute** (curator: Gabriela Yorque), Berkeley, CA | Aug - Nov 2020
Touch, **Woman Made Gallery** (curator: Gina Lee Robbins), virtual | June 2020
Local Love, **MusePop** (curator: Justin Young), virtual | April 2020
The Ground Upon Which We Stand (curator: Elizabeth Addison, Robert Abrams and Natalie Borges), **Abrams Claghorn Gallery**, Albany, CA | April 2020
SFOS (curated by Asima Arif), **Earthfire Arts Studio**, San Francisco, CA | 2019
- Mural Building 64, **Facebook**, Menlo Park, California | 2018
- Residencies **Root Division**, San Francisco, CA | 2020 - 2021
Pond Farm, Austin Creek State Park, CA | July 2020
- Publications *Issues 4 & 5*, **The Decolonization Project** (editor: Mariana Ixchel Moscoso) | June - July 2020
QuarantineMag, (editor: Bianca Mancin) | May 2020
- Teaching
Experience Arts Instructor, **Facebook**, San Francisco, CA | 2019
Arts Instructor, **Sony**, San Francisco, CA | 2017
Associate Instructor (Writing and Literature), **UC Davis**, Davis, CA | 2012-2015