

Michelle Schwengel-Regala
Artist statement

During my youth, I straddled the parallel routes of art and science, and in college decided to major in the latter track. As a sophomore I was offered a science illustration job -- an opportunity which brought art back into my trajectory, and the two subjects have held equal focus ever since. For 15 years I worked as a science illustrator, creating hand-drawn and computer-rendered images in a range of disciplines for museums and publications, all in the service of science.

Upon moving to Hawai'i in 2005, I shifted to a full-time studio practice working on self-directed projects, still with natural history as my preferred subject matter and for the purpose of science communication. To my repertoire I have added metalpoint drawing, sculpture, installation, and public art, often incorporating data sets as parameters. Through dynamic artist residencies, I have returned to my roots in scientific field work and conduct collaborative projects with researchers. This feeds my interests in global and local ecosystems, prompts new ways of bringing science closer to the public through art, all to encourage dialog about environmental issues we must face. I interact with a wide variety of audiences through museum and gallery exhibits, outreach events including school visits and public presentations, and unique SciArt project initiatives engaging participants from all over the world.