

Anita Heckman
Artist Statement

It makes me happy to imagine dragonflies, fish, magnolias and waterlilies floating around with the stars in outer space.

I printed by hand until I got a fabulous Takach press in 2021. That opened up so many possibilities. I challenged myself to learn and incorporate new printmaking techniques.

A badly broken wrist and subsequent long struggle to regain hand and finger movement led me to having some lasercut woodcuts made. I was inspired by printmakers on Instagram to try recycled tetrapak containers as plates. They produce fine lines and soft tones and are easier on my hands than carving linoleum. I collage pieces together to get around the small plate size. I have collected patterned art papers for years and often include them in my prints. I've been told that my work is "like a visual tapestry."

"Aquarius" and "Pisces II" are recent prints in my Constellations series. These monotypes combine multiple tetrapak drypoints, lasercut woodcuts, collage and chine collé. Akua ink on BFK Rives paper.

"Rio Frio - American Pygmy Kingfisher" is part of a series of monotypes inspired by a 2020 Costa Rica birding trip. Akua ink and collage on Arnhem 1618 paper.