

SHANNON AMIDON is a visual artist, educator, and environmental activist working at the intersection of art, science, and nature. Her practice and workshops focus on biodiversity and creating in a sustainable and eco-friendly way, by incorporating recycled or reclaimed materials and natural resources into pieces that draw attention to the effect of the global climate crisis on vulnerable ecosystems.

Amidon's artwork has been featured in many solo and group exhibitions worldwide, and she has been the recipient of several grants and awards, including the Leigh Weimers Emerging Artist Award, was Artist in Residence in several U.S. and international programs and her corporate collectors include Genentech, Wells Fargo Bank and Kaiser Permanente.



Shannon writes: *"My childhood roots in the natural world stimulated my personal, political, and aesthetic concern with our current ecological challenges. Concerned about all aspects of the environment, I find myself responding with increasing alarm to intensive farming and urbanization, pesticide use, introduced species, and other triggers of climate change. Consequently, my artwork places a particular focus on the decline of pollinators and other insects due to the loss and destruction of their habitats."*

Her work features images of bees, honeycombs, dragonflies, moths, and other flora and fauna and she uses ecological interconnections to create paintings and installations that draw attention to our environmental crises. She writes: *By portraying the cycles of life, death, and impermanence in my work, I hope to raise awareness about environmental issues, inviting my audience to see nature not as a backdrop but as a vital element of our existence."*

Shannon plans on using the Project Grant to fund the creation and installation of a new body of work for a solo exhibition at the Vashon Center for the Arts on Vashon Island in Washington in April 2022. *"One of the major pieces I will be creating is a large multi-piece installation that consists of 75 hexagon panels which will feature encaustic paintings portraying imagery that focuses on pollinators and their habitats."*



"My desired outcome is to share my passion and concerns for the planet with an ambitious body of new artwork designed to provoke environmental awareness and activism. I hope to raise awareness about environmental issues, inviting my audience to see nature not as a backdrop but as a vital element of our existence."

Shannon Amidon: Project Grant Recipient: December 2021

*Images: Top: "Where the Wild Things Grow"
Bottom: "Dragonfly, Dobsonfly, Mosquito"
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