

Happy Holidays Art Update 2021



Madison Falls
Fen Hsu

From the artist: I paint from a combination art studio, home office and laundry room on Mercer Island, near Seattle in the Pacific Northwest, US. I remember taking art classes taught by the abstract painter John DiPaolo at the de Young Museum art school. Art is endlessly fascinating for continuously reframing ideas, provoking thought and opening the heart.

These paintings were made during a difficult period in my life. I visualized sunlight, water, trees and root structures in a flux of stress and resilience, mirroring my own life. As I was painting, I thought of trees in Seward Park in Seattle, where I enjoyed many hours outdoors as a volunteer Tree Ambassador. I thought about how trees survive through hidden strategies including the compartmentalization of wounds, below-ground signaling and adaptive growth. I am hoping these energized organic forms express the inventiveness and exuberance of nature and the wild.

Higher-quality versions of artwork from this issue: <https://www.ecologicalcitizen.net/artworks.php?v=5&n=1>

2 smaller landscape paintings were shown as part of the Plein Air Views of Washington show at the Magnuson Park Gallery. So amazed to be included with many accomplished artists and to attend an actual art reception.

I am gratified to have such positive reception for my work. It is deeply fulfilling to have publications and other arts organizations engage with my work and the themes I express.

I hope you will take a minute to browse my work in the [Ecological Citizen](http://www.ecologicalcitizen.net), see pages 18-22.

Wishing you health and happiness in the New Year.

Fen Hsu
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The year in art culminates with publication in *The Ecological Citizen*, a publication that defies siloed mindsets by integrating philosophy, science, and art in a peer-reviewed journal with beautiful presentation and excellent writing and editing.

Also this December, 2 larger paintings are on display at the Shelton Civic Center in a public art show of abstract paintings. These paintings are on view until February 2022.

Earlier this year, my paintings were included in the Earth Action Initiative online gallery organized by U.C. Berkeley graduate students to support research advancing environmental causes including the intense and hidden fungal activity rejuvenating forests after fire. I was also thrilled to have my work included in the "From Green to Grey" online show organized by art professionals in the Seattle area featuring an interactive 3-D gallery experience.


Rugged and exuberant, these 2 paintings have been selected for exhibition at several places, both online and in juried venues. Thanks to the City of Shelton Art Commission City of Shelton, WA - Government for including these works in the abstracts show open now to the public until February at the Shelton Civic Center.

