# In a Time of Change: Bridging Science, the Arts and Society



Mary Beth Leigh



The Forest Log: A Journal of Poems, Essays, Articles and Other Creative Reflections on the Forest



Our aims are to catalyze thought and creativity; connect scientific concepts with human ideas, actions, the subconscious, and emotions; and foster new social-ecological dialogue



#### **Ecological Reflections Network**



www.ecologicalreflections.com

Originated in LTER program

Growing number of sites

#### Expanding to include others

- Organization of Biological Field Station sites
- US Forest Service experimental forests
- Denali National Park

Foster collaborations between place-based ecosystem science, arts and and humanities

## Approach

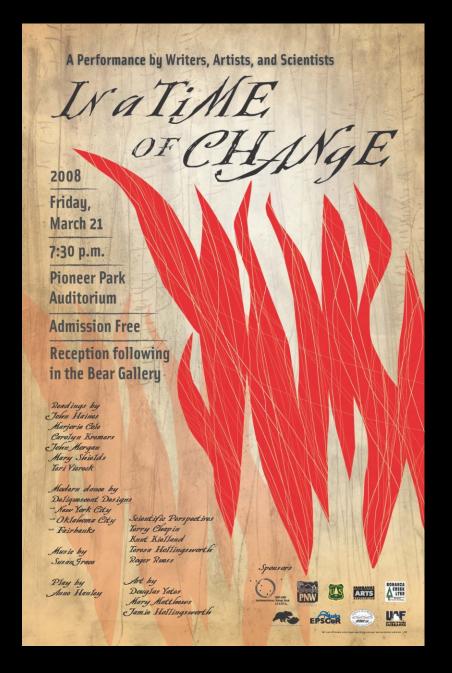
1. Take artists into the field

2. Promote dialogue between artists and scientists

3. Produce original art work

4. Present artistic work to the public





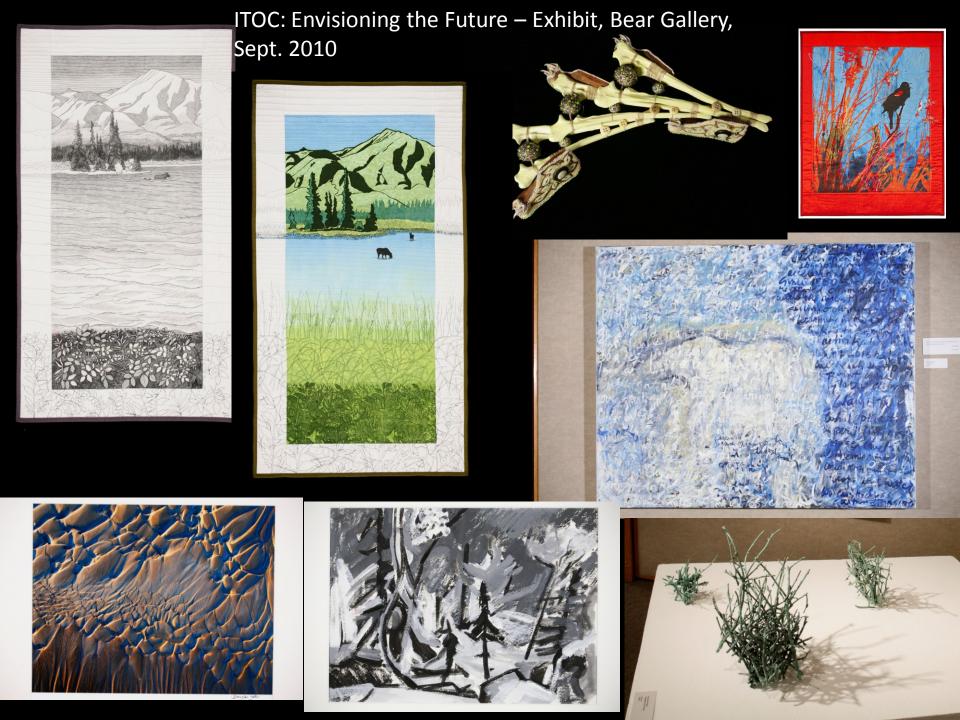




#### **Deliquescent Designs**



Mary Beth Leigh , Stephanie Dixon, Karen Voyles, Tamora Petitt



# Upcoming projects – Ecological Reflections

- LTER Ecological Reflections Art exhibit tour
  - NSF Building, Washington, D.C. (March 2012)
    - Coincides with LTER Symposium
    - BNZ, NTL, HFR
    - http://www.nsf.gov/news/news\_summ.jsp ?cntn\_id=123081
  - ESA, Portland (August 2012)
  - Portland International Airport (Jan-June 2013)



## **Ecological Reflections**

- Increased web presence and coordination
- www.ecologicalreflections.com
- "How-to" presentations and workshops
  - ESA Portland (Aug 2012)
  - LTER All Scientists Meeting (Sept 2012)

# Current ITOC project In a Time of Change: The Art of Fire

- Partnership with JFSP, Alaska Fire Science
   Consortium, BNZ, Fairbanks Arts Association
- Visual arts
- Exhibit Aug 2012, Bear Gallery
- Tour to Alaska Pacific University, Anchorage

# Project Background:

"...we increasingly see that fire is very much a social and cultural matter."

"...successful fire management lies not only in sound decision making and effective operations, but also in successfully engaging and communicating with Alaskan Residents."

## The Art of Fire

#### Goals:

- Engage artists with fire managers & scientists
- ---Promote public-understanding & awareness

#### **Primary Components:**

- 1. Professional Art Exhibit
- 2. Community Fire Art Show
- 3. Graphic Arts Competition

## ITOC:Art of Fire Exhibit August 2012 – Bear Gallery

- 9 Artists Selected
- Painting, Drawing, Sculpture, Photography,

Fiber & Mixed Media



**By Phil Marshall** 



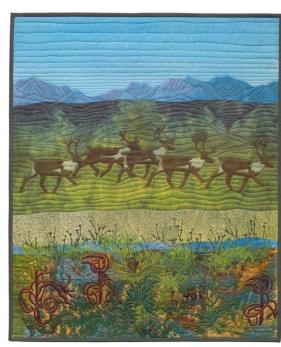
**By Jessie Hedden** 



**By Amanda Ellis** 



**By Erin Hatter** 



**By Ree Nancarrow** 



**By Jennifer Moss** 



Fire Simulation at Chena Lakes



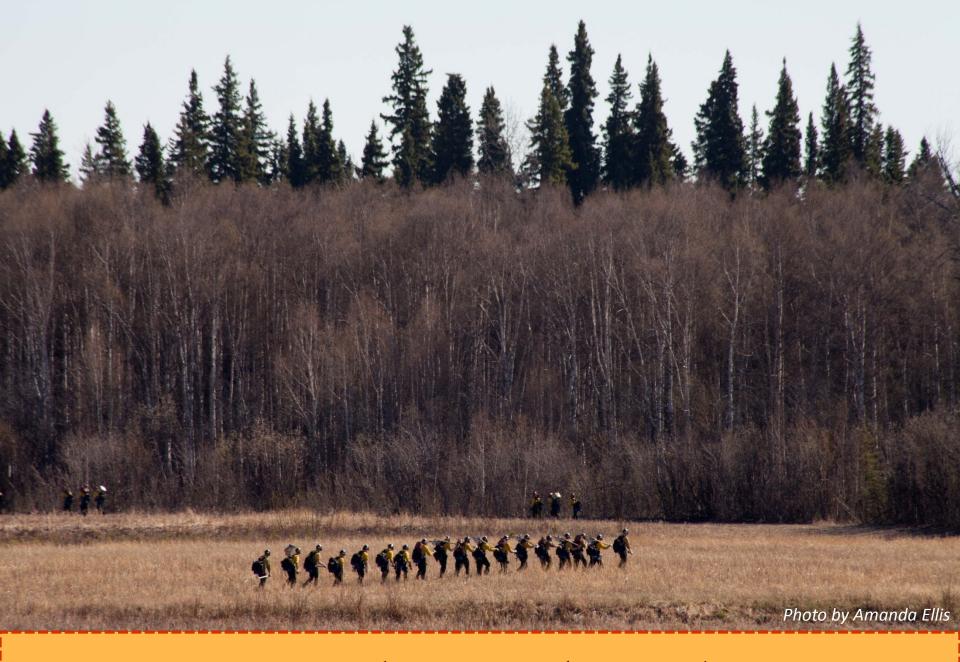
Fire Simulation at Chena Lakes



Fire Simulation at Chena Lakes



Fire Simulation at Chena Lakes



Fire Simulation at Chena Lakes



Denali National Park



Denali National Park



Denali National Park



Denali National Park



Denali National Park



Denali National Park



Denali National Park



Denali National Park



BNZ LTER



### **BNZ LTER**

# Community Fire Art Show

- August 2012
- Woodway & Morris Thompson Cultural Center
- Show off your talent! Visual Arts
- Interested?? Contact Jennifer Northway
- Submission details coming this winter

"...I spent a happy sunny day learning about the myriad of ecological factorswildland fire being just one of them-that have an impact on the precious boreal forest..."

-Erin Hatter



## ITOC: The Art of Fire

Science/Fire Management participants:

- Doug Stockdale, BLM
- Maggie Rogers, DOF
- Morgan Warthin, NPS
- Jennifer Barnes, NPS
- Charlie Reynar, NPS

- Tim Rains, NSP
- Sean Proctor, NPS
- Jamie Hollingsworth, UAF
- Roger Ruess, UAF
- Glenn Juday, UAF

## In a Time of Change: Trophic Cascades

- Partnership with Denali National Park & Preserve,
   Murie Science and Learning Center, BNZ LTER,
   Fairbanks Arts Association
- Multimedia exhibit
- Call for artist applications on BNZ website!
  - Deadline March 15

Artists will be expected to **generate original, creative works** on the theme of predator / prey interactions and **discover new ways of expressing, demonstrating or representing** some of the basic concepts that underlie complex webs of ecological interdependence among plants, animals (including humans), and habitats.

### Other ITOC activities 2011

- Last Frontier Theatre Conference Valdez, AK (June 2011)
  - Workshop for playwrights and actors by Golux and Leigh
- 2011 Alaska Fire Science Workshop (Oct 2011)
  - Presentation, Leigh, Northway
- AGU San Francisco, CA (Dec, 2011)
  - Platform presentation, Leigh
- ITOC Steering Committee working on
  - Web presence
  - Institutional identity
  - Funding
    - Need help with your broader impacts??

## Acknowledgements

- National Science Foundation
  - LTER Program
  - International Polar Year
  - Alaska EPSCoR
- Bonanza Creek LTER
- US Forest Service
- BLM Joint Fire Sciences Program
- US National Park Service
- University of Alaska Fairbanks
  - UAF Institute of Arctic Biology
- Fairbanks Arts Association
- New York City International Fringe Festival

Ecological Reflections
Fred Swanson (Andrews
Experimental Forest)

#### Photography

- James Barker
- Marie Gilbert
- Dennis McKinley

#### **Art Curation**

Karin Franzen

#### **Artistic Direction**

Stephan Golux