

November 6, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sea Change: The Art of Karen Hackenberg



Karen Hackenberg
Stranded Vessel, 2012
From the series *Watershed*
Oil on canvas
24 x 36 inches
Collection of Patricia and David Marino
Photo courtesy of the artist

TACOMA, WA (October 31, 2024) – Tacoma Art Museum announces, *Sea Change: The Art of Karen Hackenberg*, an exhibition showcasing Hackenberg’s ongoing series of paintings and drawings that address the critical issue of ocean degradation with a blend of humor and critique.

Karen Hackenberg's art features a playful yet thought-provoking taxonomy of imagined post-consumer sea creatures. Using traditional mediums such as oil and gouache, she meticulously transforms beach trash into captivating visual narratives. Her work creates a striking juxtaposition between form and idea, encouraging viewers to reflect on the environmental impact of human activity.

Hackenberg focuses on manufactured bits of detritus – plastic bottles, cans, toys – that she finds on the beaches near her home in Port Townsend, WA, in this one-person exhibition of approximately 40 works. Images of flotsam are included in her detailed compositions and the resulting artworks often portray beach trash as monumental within the seascape, serving as powerful metaphors for the vast scale of marine pollution.

In addition to her solo exhibition, Hackenberg's work has been featured in numerous shows, including Tacoma Art Museum's Northwest Art Now, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, the U.S. traveling Environmental Impact show, Neo-Naturalist at Museum of Northwest Art, Stilleven: Contemporary Still Life at Hallie Ford Museum of Art, and Beneath the Surface: Rediscovering a World Worth Conserving at A.A.A.S. headquarters in Washington, DC.

Her works can be found in several private and public collections, including the New York State Museum, the Portland Art Museum, the Tacoma Art Museum, the Washington State Art Collection, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, and the Hallie Ford Museum of Art.

Inspired by the artist's vibrant expressions of environmental concern, TAM is using the mounting of *Sea Change* as the impetus to reconsider sustainability in its own practices. Programming for *Sea Change* is motivated by Hackenberg's work and community partners using art as a conduit for climate action.

Details:

- **Press Preview:** Join us for a first look for Press on **Thursday, December 5, at 11am.** Email rervin@tacomaartmuseum.org to secure your spot.
- **Opening Event:** Join Tacoma Art Museum for an unforgettable evening as we celebrate the opening of *Sea Change* at **7pm on Friday, December 6.**
- **Exhibition Opening:** The exhibition opens to the public on **Saturday, December 7.**

- **Programming:** Programming for *Sea Change: The Art of Karen Hackenberg* will include artist talks, workshops, and additional programming exploring the intersection of art and environmental impact.

For press inquiries, high-resolution images, or interview requests, please contact: Rachel Ervin – rervin@tacomaartmuseum.org

The *Sea Change* exhibition is generously supported by Tacoma Creates, ArtsFund, and Tacoma Art Museum Members.

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About Tacoma Art Museum: Celebrating over 85 years, Tacoma Art Museum is the leading resource for art of the Pacific Northwest and greater western region. TAM's mission is to transform our communities by sharing art that inspires broader perspectives and cultivates a compassionate future. TAM's collection contains more than 5,400 works, with an emphasis on the art and artists of the Northwest and broader western region, 25% of which consists of studio glass. The collection includes the largest retrospective museum collection of glass art by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly on permanent view; the most significant collection of studio art jewelry by Northwest artists; key holdings in 19th century European and 20th century American art; and one of the finest collections of Japanese woodblock prints on the West Coast. TAM is in the heart of Tacoma's vibrant Museum District, which consists of six museums.

Visit Tacoma Art Museum

Wednesday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m.–8 p.m., free admission 5 p.m.–8 p.m.
Friday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Closed Monday and Tuesday

Contact: 253-272-4258 / www.tacomaartmuseum.org

Admission:

\$18 Adult, \$15 Senior (65+), \$15 Military (active duty or retired with ID), \$10 (youth 6-18), free for TAM members