

## Artist Statement: Suze Woolf

Suze Woolf watched glaciers shrink and burned forests increase; she painted landscapes but was compelled to portray their ecological disturbances. Portraits of individual burned trees are her metaphor for human impact.

Despite anxiety, she also sees unusual beauty: fire-carved snags are the same - carbonized, eaten away; yet different - the fire's physics and plant structure create sculptures. Painting them is a meditation on the climate crisis.

Hiking to burned forests, she sees hieroglyphics on trees. Beetle-kill, like fire, is compounded by climate: stressed trees are more vulnerable; and beetle larvae no longer freeze in winter. Their runic chewings, called "galleries," seem like a message we just don't get. A book is a collection of messages, and incorporating raw materials from nature becomes another meditation on our impact.

Many scientists and artists have been advisors, collaborators and beneficiaries: her work helps them begin and continue important conversations. Dr. Amy Snover, former chair of the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group, said, "I used to feel that nothing I could do would matter; now I think the only thing that matters is what I can do." Conversations through art can play that role.