



THE FORESTSONG PROJECT

ANDIE THRAMS

It is an ancient belief that winds carry blessings depicted on prayer flags across the landscape to all beings. The ForestSong project centers on painting prayer flags in western forests to deepen appreciation of nature, address solastalgia (the heartache of environmental degradation), celebrate biophilia (joyful immersion in nature), and empower others in the face of climate change. ForestSong shares creative processes, wildfire and forest ecology, and actionable steps to foster environmental awareness and wildfire preparedness through workshops and community events. This project is supported by the California Creative Corps and the University of California Natural Reserve System Field Stations, for which I am very grateful.

Here are upcoming events. Please see website for updates and details. I hope you will join me out there!

2024 FORESTSONG EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

April-September
Community Events
El Dorado & Alpine Counties, California

June 21-23
Presentation & Painting Workshop
Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua
Lee Vining, California

July 21-26
Painting Forest Prayer Flags
SF State University | Sierra Nevada Field Campus
North Fork Yuba River, California

October 10-13
Painting Forest Prayer Flags
Balanced Rock
Yosemite National Park, California

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THE FORESTSONG ART PROJECT CALLS ON SCIENTISTS TO SHARE SCIENCE & INFORMATION!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

It's easy! Please email any responses to the following ten questions to me. Your answers may be brief or expansive. Your expertise will be shared with others within creative projects, in printed project materials, and during community events for all ages. Send responses to me:

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QUESTIONS FOR SCIENTISTS

1. What is your field of study, and why?
 2. What is something you've learned about trees and forests that you'd like more people to know about?
 3. Is there a specific finding or certain data you find particularly delightful?
 4. Is there a specific finding or certain data you find particularly concerning?
 5. If so, how do you grapple with your concerns?
 6. Are there actions you wish other individuals or institutions would take in response to these concerns?
 7. What are you curious to study next about forests?
 8. What, if anything, makes you feel hopeful?
 9. If you would like to be credited for your participation, what name and/or institution should I use? Or, do you prefer anonymity?
 10. I would love to send you a thank you for your participation. What mailing address should I use
- That's it! Thanks!

WHY SHARE ART & SCIENCE TOGETHER?

- Artists and scientists are all careful observers, and it is intriguing to compare what we each notice about forests.
- Art can provide scientific information in an alternate way, with a potential to broaden the audience for contemporary science and deepen appreciation for natural systems.

- Current trends discrediting science and scientists are alarming—sharing science and art together may provide another pathway towards understanding climate change and habitat loss.
- Science and art can elicit wonder, inspire questions, and evoke the interconnectedness of ecosystems—all important experiences to share.
- My work in forests over the decades is a form of bearing witness to changes in western forests; understanding how science explains these changes is helpful to me and to those I work with and teach.
- NOTE: While long ago I worked as a scientific illustrator and I often include natural history imagery in my work, I am not illustrating forests. I am exploring what it is like to be in forests through an art process.

FORESTSONG MISSION STATEMENT

- Share creative processes with all ages & abilities to acknowledge and process individual and collective despair and anxiety due to wildfire and forest habitat degradation and loss (solastalgia*).
- Share creative processes with all ages & abilities to acknowledge and process individual and collective delight about our access to and enjoyment of forests (biophilia**).
- **Provide contemporary scientific information about forests, with a focus on wildfire, climate change, why we have these problems, and potential solutions.**
- Suggest actionable steps we can all take, both individually and collectively, to have a more positive impact on our local and global environments, with a focus on wildfire preparedness and environmental stewardship practices for western forests.
- Gather communities together to acknowledge loss, envision a better future, and celebrate forests!

* Solastalgia is a word coined by Australian environmental philosopher Glenn Albrecht, to describe the unique emotional pain produced by environmental degradation impacting people in their home habitats
** Biophilia has been defined by Edward O. Wilson in *Biophilia* (1984) to mean “the rich, natural pleasure that comes from being surrounded by living organisms.”

Thank you very much for your time, expertise, and forest work!