



2024 Poster Competition Winners





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Salmon and Orca

1st	Robin Coen, <i>Swimming the Gauntlet</i>
2nd	Mollie Brown, <i>Breaking the Surface</i>
Runner Up	Anastasia Seckers, <i>Into the Stars</i>
Runner Up	Nathan Shields, <i>Salmon</i>

Advocacy and Collective Action

1st	Kat Martin, <i>The Last Salmon</i>
2nd	Robyn Holmes, <i>The Salmon (Up) Rising</i>
Runner Up	Antonia Prinster, <i>Klamath Dam Removals</i>

Cover artwork by Kat Martin, *The Last Salmon*



Web of Life / Ecosystems

1st	Heidi Ambrose, <i>Ocean Spiral</i>
2nd	Sarah Koten, <i>Sacred Salmon Tree of Life</i>
Runner Up	Sue Coccia, <i>Coho Salmon Spirit</i>

Vote for Our Planet

1st	Cyaltsa Finkbonner, <i>Up Rivers</i>
2nd	Aoede Pando, <i>Eye of the Beholder</i>
Runner Up	Rachael Kutz, <i>Harmony in the Pacific</i>

Emerging Artist Activist (under 18)

1st	Taelyn Baiza, <i>Endangered Species of the West</i>
2nd	Maria Felicity Tejada, <i>The Story: Us and the World, A Celebration of Unity, Hope and Love for Mother Earth</i>



Robin Cowd IWS

Robin Coen

Salmon and Orca

Swimming the Gauntlet

I painted the image as if the viewer is also a salmon, swimming in the water, struggling to progress upstream. I feel, hope that this perspective brings people to a more engaged and compassionate understanding of other species—salmon, in this case. If we identify with them then we will want to save them. We will understand the importance of all lives, both human and non-human.

Swimming the Gauntlet is one of 32 paintings that are part of a traveling exhibit titled "Refugia of the Blue Mountains." This exhibit is intended to inform and inspire people about the value of the Blue Mountains of Eastern Oregon as a critical regional refuge from climate disturbance. The exhibit is intended to inspire people to support environmental preservation of this ecosystem. The Blue Mountains Region includes Hells Canyon, the Snake River and the associated watershed, which will benefit greatly from the removal of the four lower dams on the Snake River.



Mollie Brown

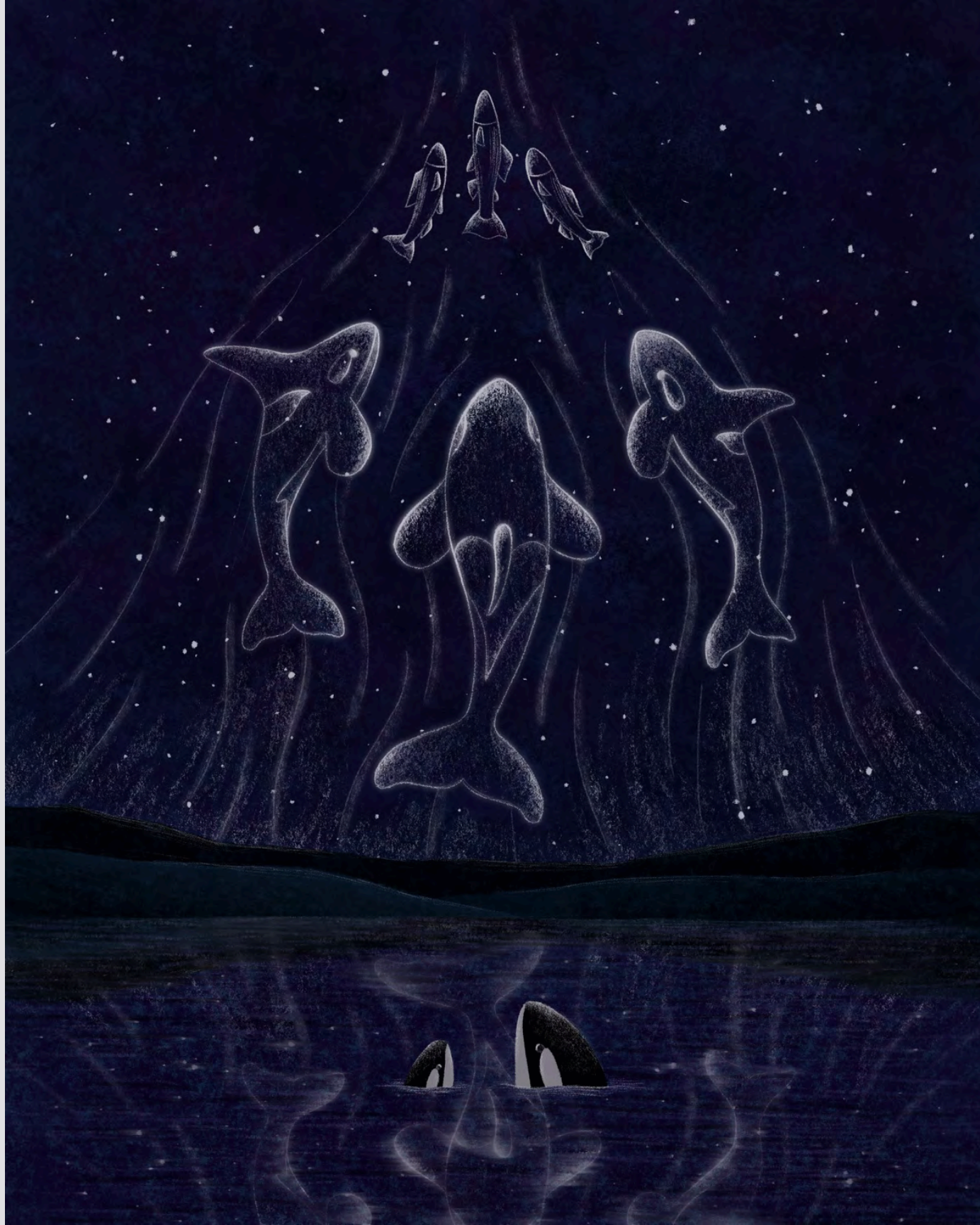
Salmon and Orca



Breaking the Surface

This digital painting portrays resident orca whales predating Chinook salmon. I hoped to capture the melding of the ocean and its occupants, their oneness and their synchrony. And, in the context of a hunt, their chaos.

An ecosystem is more than the sum of its parts, and all life adds something irreplaceable to the substance of the universe. It is this ineffable quality that I hope to protect as an ecologist and express as an artist.



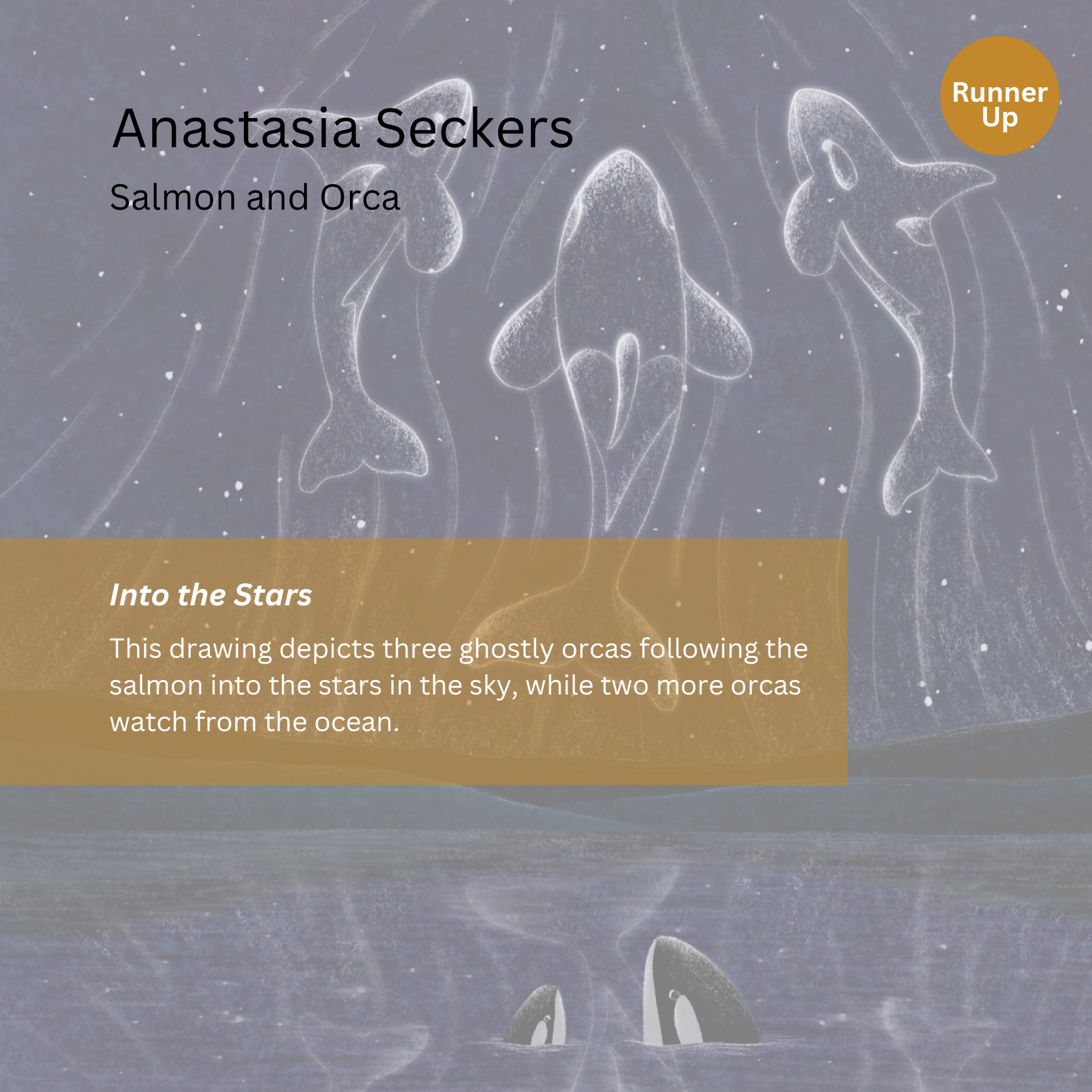
Anastasia Seckers

Salmon and Orca

Runner
Up

Into the Stars

This drawing depicts three ghostly orcas following the salmon into the stars in the sky, while two more orcas watch from the ocean.





Nathan Shields

Salmon and Orca

Salmon

A version (uncropped landscape with different coloring) will be used in a forthcoming children's book.

Linocut on monoprint background, digital arrangement.



Kat Martin

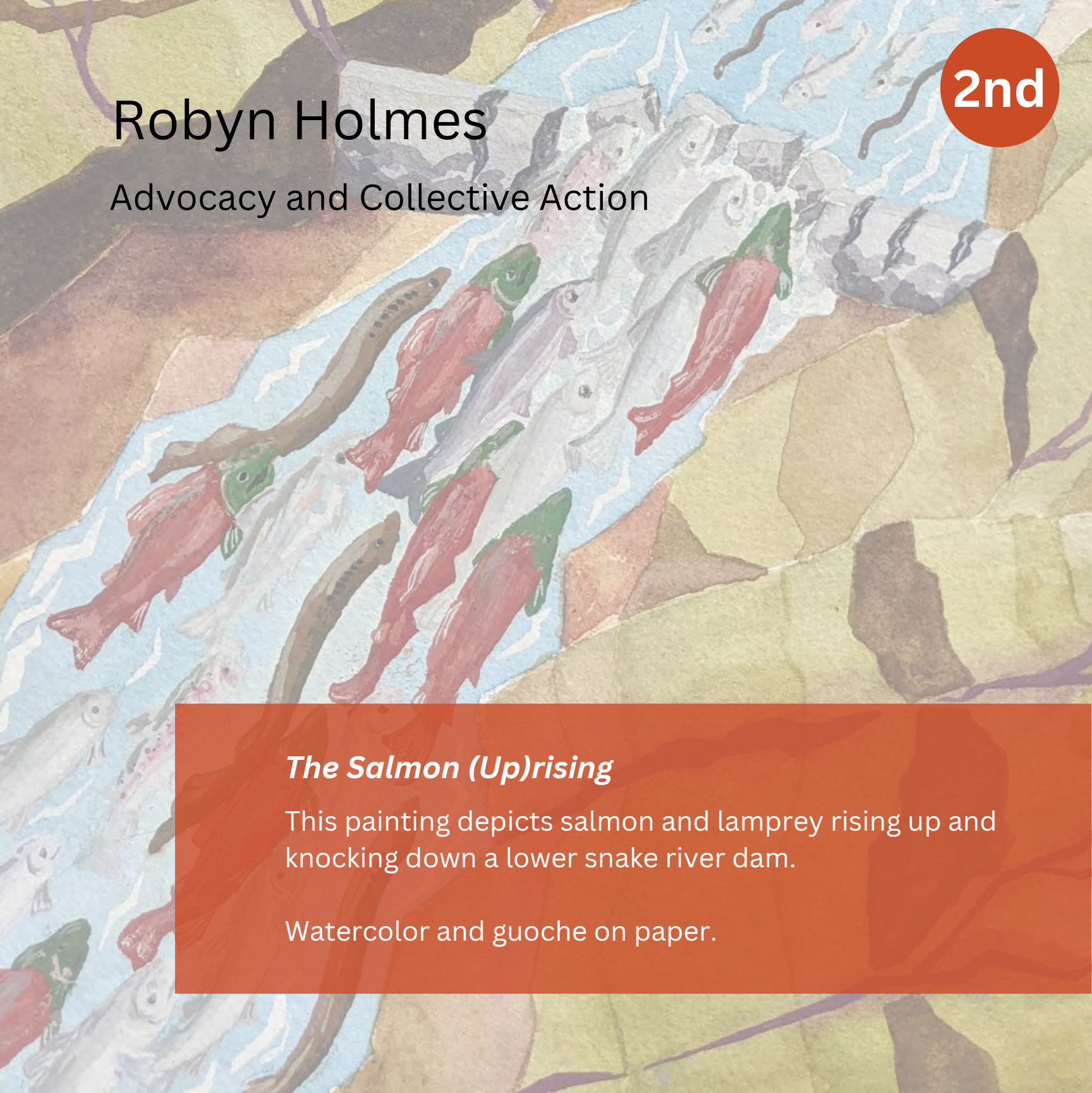
Advocacy and Collective Action

The Last Salmon

Southern resident killer whales are a special group of killer whales that specialize in hunting chinook salmon. However, due to the depletion of this food source, the orcas are dying out at an alarming rate. How many more orcas and salmon have to perish before we do something? This piece represents the ongoing tragic story of the remaining southern residents.

When deciding what to make for this category, I had many ideas in mind. It then finally struck me one day. Many years ago, nearly ten to be exact, I drew a piece that depicted orcas circling one singular salmon. The key difference here is that I only painted a few whales at the time. I needed something to really get the message out there. I decided that this time **every living southern resident was going to go into one piece**. And that's just it... that's my message, the big picture. Every living southern resident orca can fit into one art piece. How scary is that?



The painting depicts a river scene where several salmon and lampreys are shown in various stages of ascent up a steep, rocky bank. The fish are rendered in vibrant colors, including red, green, and white, contrasting with the muted, earthy tones of the rocks and water. The composition suggests a powerful, collective effort to overcome a barrier, symbolizing environmental activism and the fight against dams.

Robyn Holmes

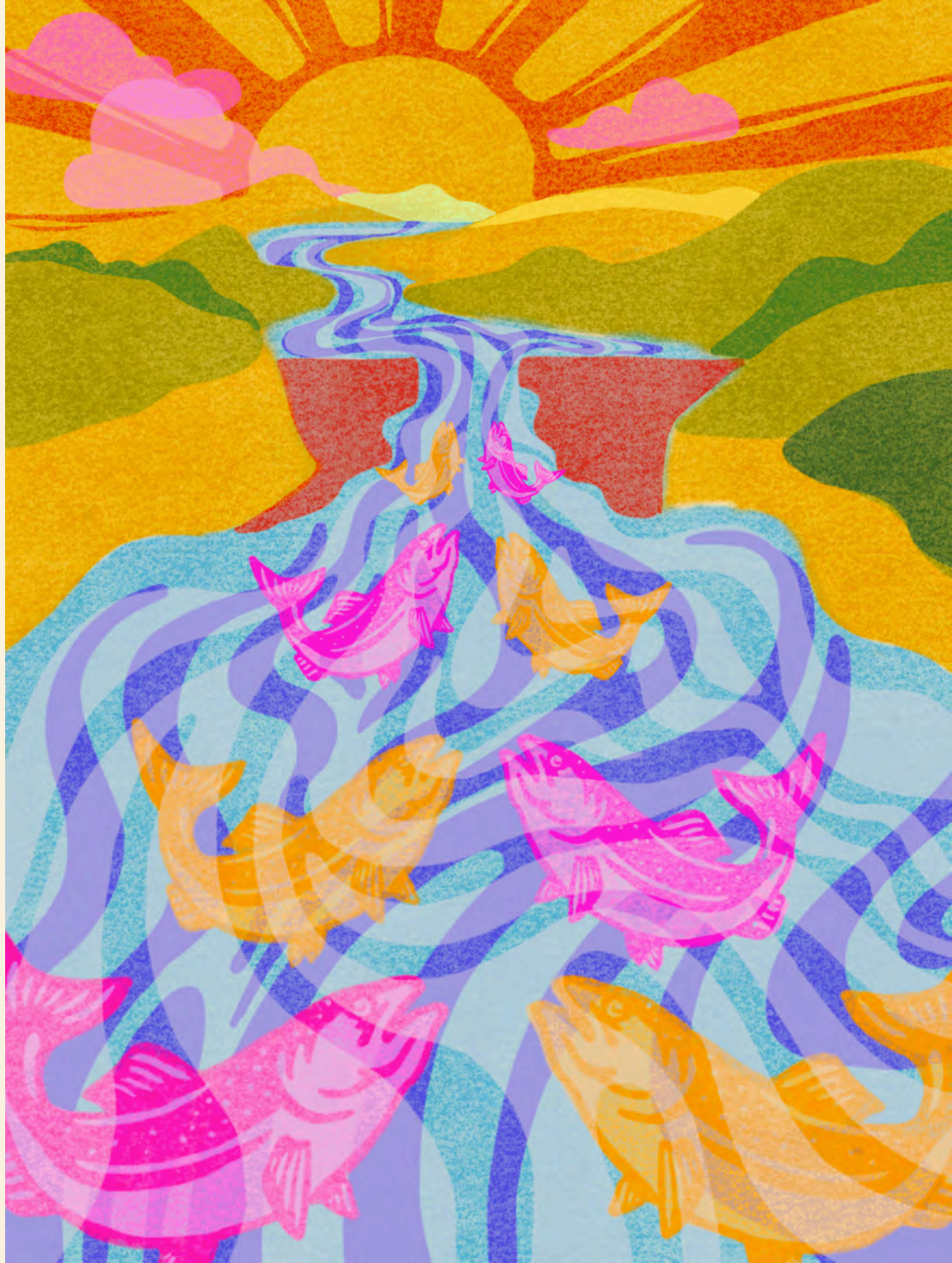
Advocacy and Collective Action

2nd

The Salmon (Up)rising

This painting depicts salmon and lamprey rising up and knocking down a lower snake river dam.

Watercolor and gouache on paper.





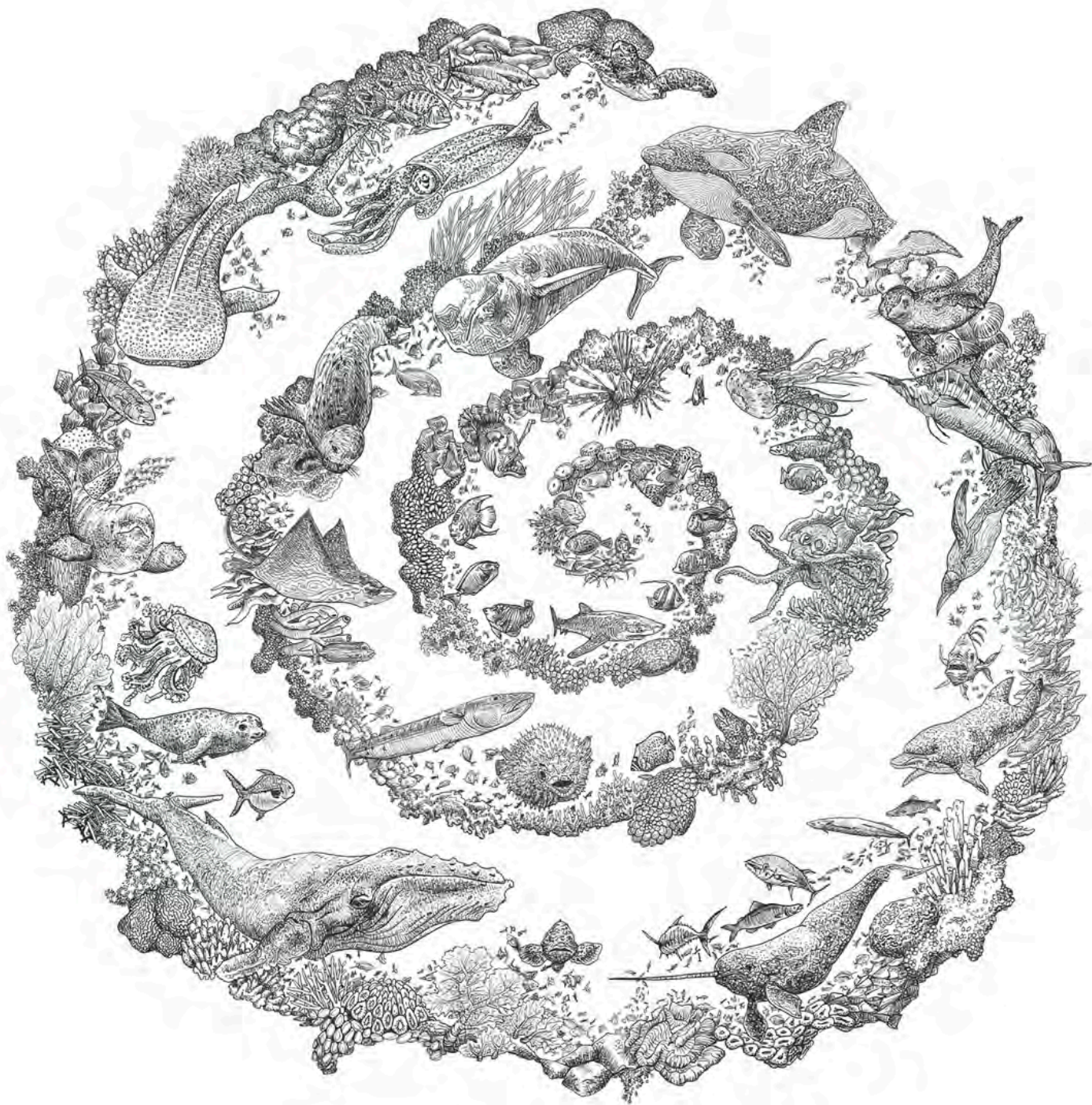
Runner
Up

Antonia Prinster

Advocacy and Collective Action

Klamath Dam Removals

Made for the Whitman College Outdoor Journal to accompany a story about the future removal of the Klamath River dams and what it means for salmon.





1st

Heidie Ambrose

Web of Life / Ecosystems

Ocean Spiral

I'm just fascinated with the ways our ecosystems depend on every creature- but most importantly, the smallest ones that are often overlooked and forgotten. We need them all.





Sarah Koten

2nd

Web of Life / Ecosystems

Sacred Salmon Tree of Life

Just as mycelium provide vital nutrients for life on this Earth, so do salmon! The turkey tail mushrooms depicted in lieu of leaves on this tree represents this fact. The salmon drawn on the branches and trunk refer to this as well, for they provide life sustaining nutrients for trees as well as plants, birds, fish, marine mammals (namely orcas), animals, and humans.

The overall composition references the "Tree of Life" theme and the co-dependence and interconnectedness of all living things on this planet. The stylistic rendering of the salmon is inspired by Native American woodcarving.





Sue Coccia

Web of Life / Ecosystems

Runner
Up

Coho Salmon Spirit

The coho salmon also known as “Silver Salmon” is a remarkable species that inhabits the freshwater and coastal regions of North America, particularly the Pacific Northwest. Their reliance on streams and rivers for spawning habitat makes them vulnerable to threats not shared by other marine fishes. As a keystone species, coho salmon intricately influences the abundance and distribution of various organisms in their ecosystem. The conservation of coho salmon is crucial not only for the survival of the species itself but for the overall health and biodiversity of the ecosystems they inhabit. Sadly, populations have drastically declined in the southern part of their range, with several groups listed as threatened or endangered.

Bears rely on them as a significant food source, especially during spawning season, aiding in energy for hibernation. Bald eagles are another notable beneficiary, contributing to nutrient cycling. Additionally, smaller fish benefit from the nutrient enrichment brought about by the decomposing salmon carcasses, promoting the growth of algae and vegetation. Invertebrates thrive on increased organic matter, creating a cascade effect that supports the entire food web.

See within the hungry bear eagerly awaiting the bounty of this underwater ballet reminding us that we are all connected in this intricate dance of nature. Look for the ladybug, she gracefully flies in bringing happiness and good luck!





Cyaltsa Finkbonner

VOTE

1st

Up Rivers

She's A King, and a Jumper! They're heading up the rivers to continue the cycle of life. In the canoe of the ancestors there are 7 eggs that represent the 7 generations—before and after. The salmon people provide protection to the Jumpers, which provide extra strength and resilience for breaching of the dams.



The background is a stylized, painterly illustration. A large Orca (killer whale) is depicted in the upper half, its head and eye visible. Below it, several Salmon are shown in various poses, some swimming and others appearing to be part of a larger composition. The colors are muted and earthy, with a focus on browns, greys, and soft reds. The overall style is reminiscent of traditional indigenous art or a modern folk-art style.

2nd

Aoede Pando

VOTE

Eye of the Beholder

It was important to me that both Salmon and Orca seem fully imbued with spirit and energy. I wanted the urgency of the dams in the frenetic Salmon, and in the Orca, the quiet place of inner knowing we all have within us to know the right actions to take as stewards of the planet and each other. I wanted to represent that we are being seen by our brothers and sisters in the other-than-human world.





Rachael Kutz

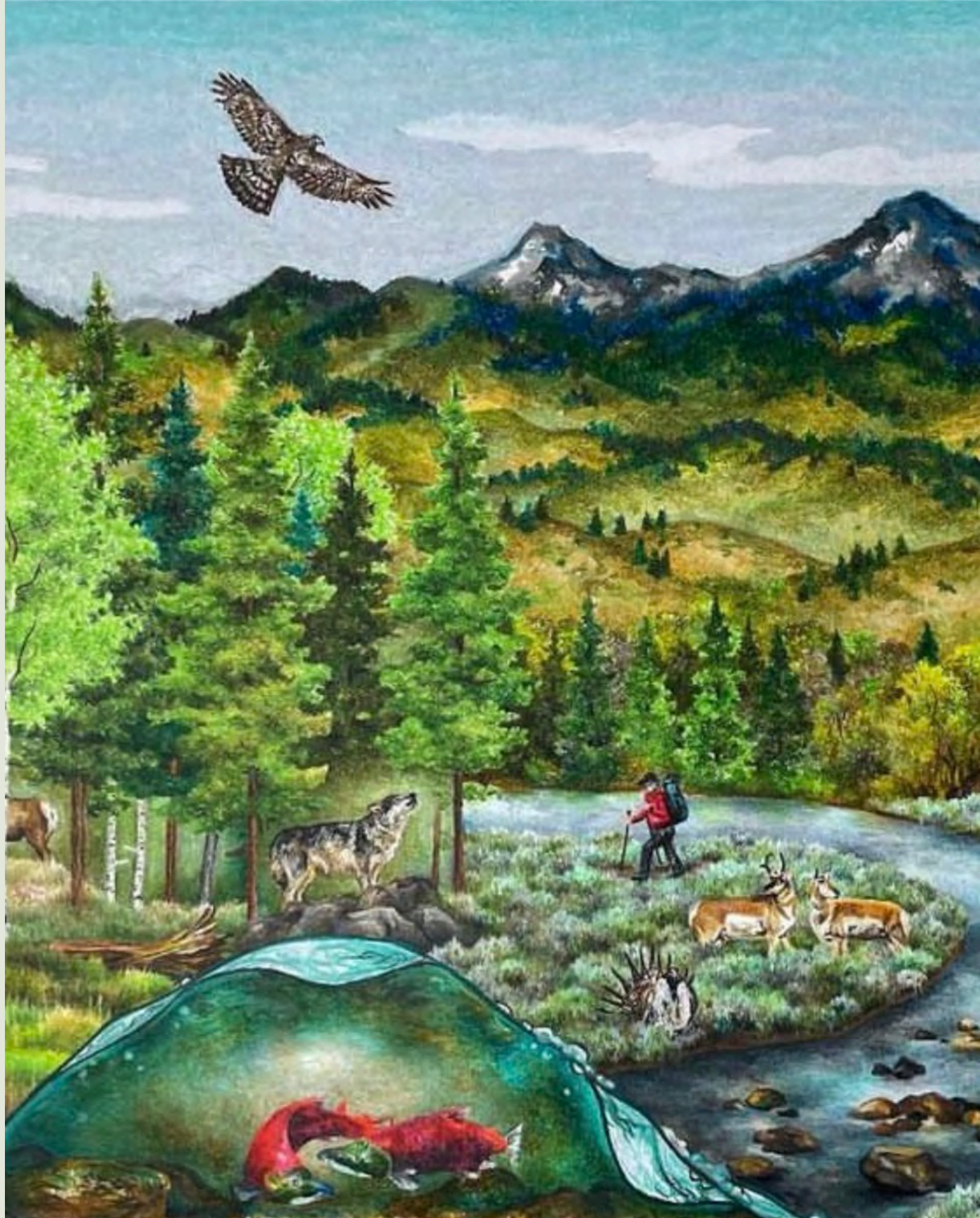
VOTE

Runner
Up

Harmony in the Pacific

I created this for an event flier for the organization I work for called *Whale Scout*.





Taelyn Baiza

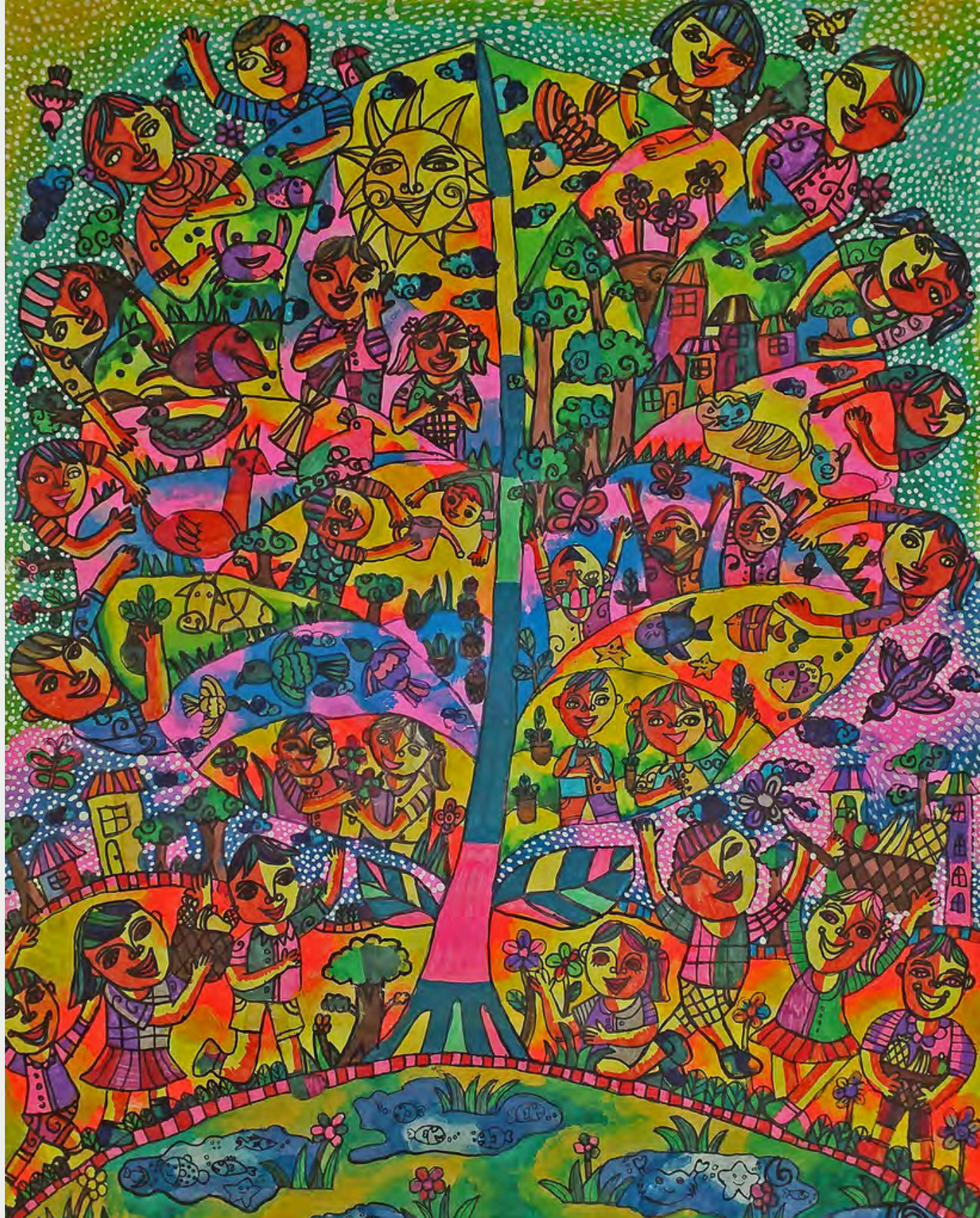
Emerging Artist Activist (under 18)

1st

Endangered Species of the West

I used colored pencil to create this piece depicting over a dozen endangered species across the ecosystems of the western US. Half of it is cropped to fit the space on the poster, but it still contains some of my personal favorite species such as salmon and gray wolves. The main message of this piece is to inspire appreciation of these endangered species and serve to advocate for their protection. The hiker in the background is peacefully admiring the landscape and represents the public: everyone from hikers to adventurers to conservation biologists interacting with the outdoors.







2nd

Maria Felicity Tejada

Emerging Artist Activist (under 18)

***The Story Us and The World We We Called Home,
A Celebration of Unity, Hope and Love
For Mother Earth"***

My artwork is all about the beauty of life and nature. These are vital parts of our survival. The leaf signifies life which is an essential part of everyone's living. We breathe because of the plants, we eat because of the wonders that the Earth gives us, and we still survive because of the place we call home—the Earth. My artwork is a visual celebration of our joy, love, and hope for the world to come.

