

TROPHIC CASCADE

APRIL FLANDERS

JANUARY 16 - JUNE 1, 2024

HODGES GALLERY



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Curatorial Statement

April Flanders colorfully explosive artwork is beautiful, haunting, and deeply moving. Out to change the way we experience the world we populate; the artist has an important message to share through her expansively flowing immersive installations. Comprised of creative interpretations of individual marine bio-invasiders most of the world never sees – unless they are peering under a scientist's microscope – the work brings the hidden realms on the deep seas to the surface for contemplation.



Curatorial Statement

April's mixed media monoprints are designed by the artist and cut on a laser cutter. It takes a long time to install each unique piece in the gallery in a carefully plotted wave mimicking the waves in the ocean. The meditation and determination that goes into creating her prints and then installing them on the wall is inspirational – for the artworld and for the scientists who are studying bio-invasiders. She has found a way to take scientific data, make it approachable, and create extended dialogues between science and art that just could change the trajectory of how we care for the waters that sustain life on this planet.

Ever since environmentalist, marine biologist, and writer Rachel Carson wrote so powerfully about the ecological and biological intricacies of the seas in the 1940s and 50s in *The Edge of the Sea*, *The Sea Around Us*, and *Under the Sea-Wind: A Naturalists Picture of Ocean Life* – books that were justifiably well known before *Silent Spring* catalyzed the environmental movement, artists and scientists have worked together to offer an ocean-centric planetary ethic. An ethic that April Flanders carries forth in her creative work. Like Carson, she has a passion and a mission for our times.





Artist's Statement

Trophic Cascade

The web of life under the surface of aquatic ecosystems is exceedingly complex and devastatingly beautiful. In a place where species interactions begin at a microscopic level, small changes have huge impacts and huge changes wreak havoc. Remove a key predator and prey takes over; add another predator and the first one declines. With the rise of globalization, human mediated transfer mechanisms give rise to invasive species, overwhelming the delicate balance of aquatic ecosystems. These unintended ecological interventions cause *Trophic Cascades*, revealing nature's fragility.

Invasion biology in marine environments is especially fraught. The eradication or management of invasive species on land, while economically and environmentally challenging, is possible. The successful management of these species underwater is nearly impossible. This exhibition addresses the causes and impacts of marine bio-invasers on a global scale, conferring visibility to species normally unseen. With this work, I create a conversation between art and science, raising awareness around a problem that lacks an easy solution.



Artist's Bio April Flanders

April Flanders is a studio artist living and making in the mountains of Western North Carolina. A keen naturalist, her work has been featured in solo and group shows at museums and galleries nationally and internationally, including the Katzen Museum in Washington, D.C, the Center for the Book Arts, in New York, and the Global Print International, in Douro, Portugal. Recent honors include an online exhibition as a semi-finalist in the 92nd Annual Competition at the Print Center in Philadelphia, PA and a residency at the Virginia Center for Creative Arts in Amherst, VA. Recent solo exhibitions include *Lost Blooms* at Donald H. Lindgren Gallery in Newberg, OR and *Unchecked* at Artspace in Richmond, VA. Her work is in many public collections, including the Asheville Museum of Science, the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Tucson Museum of Art. April holds a Master of Fine Arts from Arizona State University; she has taught printmaking for fourteen years at various universities nationally and internationally. Currently, she is a Professor of Studio Art at Appalachian State University.



Invitation to Create

In her work, April Flanders utilizes the directories below to create drawings that become prints for her installations. Using these resources, search for an invasive species you find visually interesting and draw an outline of it. Now, fill in the shape with a monochromatic pattern, using lights and darks of only one color. Then, add a background using a solid and contrasting color. Try using the below Adobe Color tool to explore exciting color palettes.

[USDA – Invasive Aquatic Plants](#)

[Smithsonian NEMESIS Species Profiles](#)

[Adobe Color](#)

Fizzy First Friday

February 2, 2024

5–8pm

Gallery Walkthrough with April Flanders:

6 PM / Hodges Gallery

ARTtalk

February 7, 2024

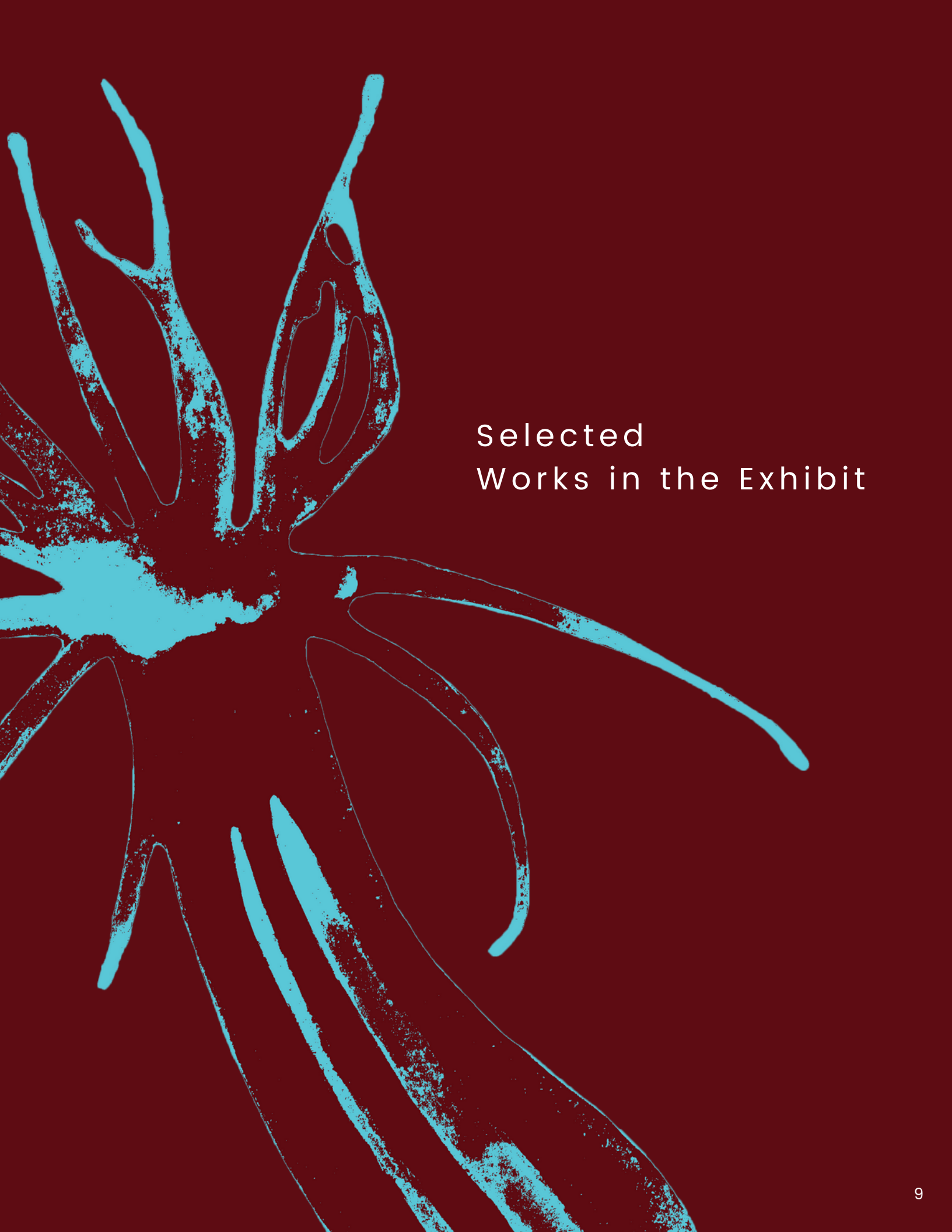
6:30pm

Behind the Scenes



Behind the Scenes





Selected
Works in the Exhibit



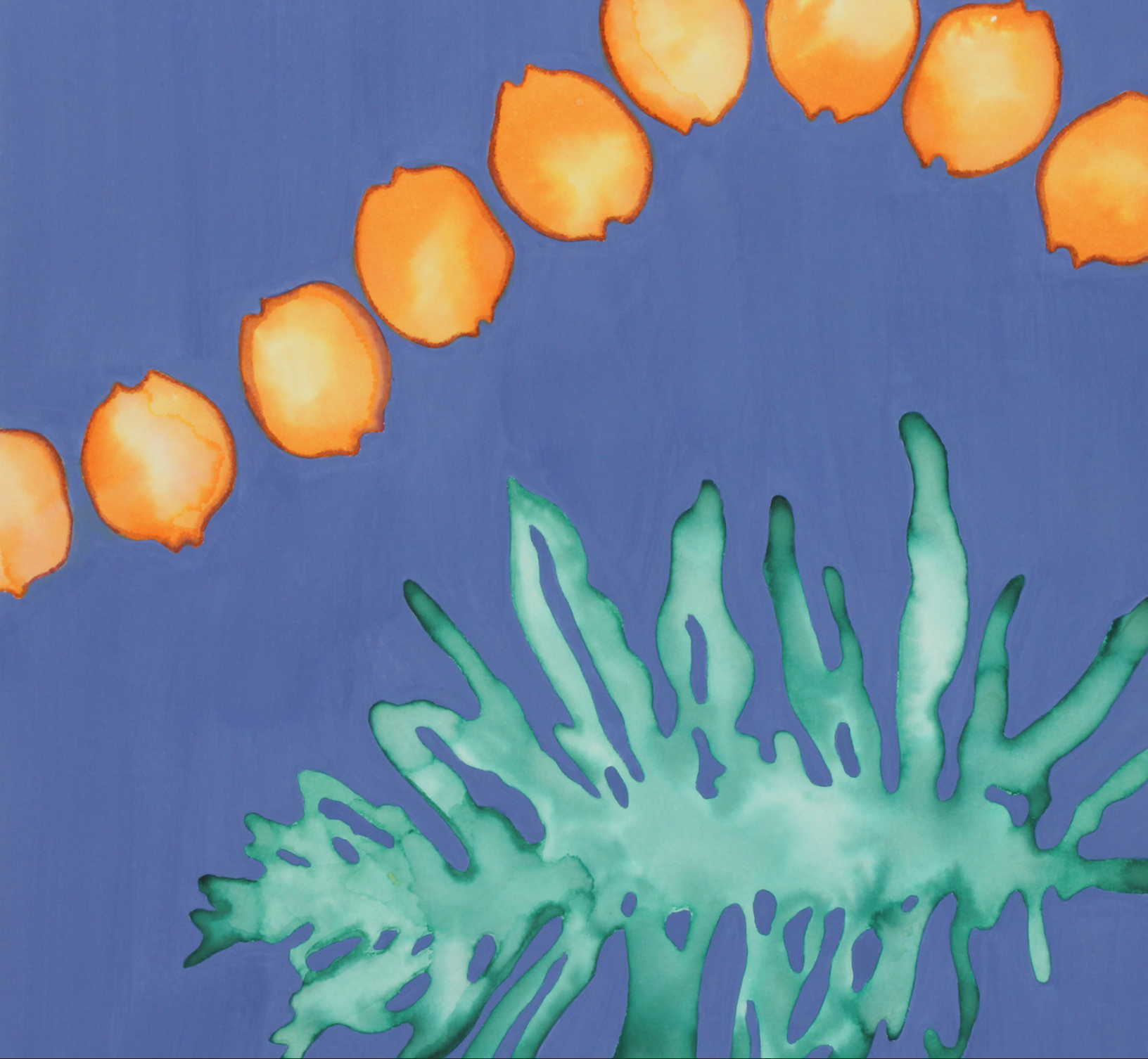
April Flanders

Agarophyton vermiculophylla, 2023

Drawing ink and screenprint



April Flanders
Haplosporidium nelsoni, 2023
Drawing ink and screenprint



April Flanders
Burden, 2023
Ink and gouache



April Flanders

Anguicolloides crassus, 2023

Drawing ink, screenprint and acrylic



April Flanders
Sargassum muticum, 2023
Drawing ink and screenprint

Additional Resources

April Flanders' Website

April Flanders Instagram

National Geographic:
Marine Invasive Species

NOAA Fisheries:
Invasive and Exotic Marine Species

Marine Bio:
Invasive Species

Smithsonian:
5 Invasive Species You Should Know

Additional Resources

National Park Service:
Invasive Species

UC Davis Coastal and Marine Sciences Institute:
Invasive Species

One Ocean:
Invasive Species

World Register of Introduced Marine Species:
Online Sources

USDA: National Invasive Species Information Center:
Aquatic Plants



THANK
YOU

FROM THE TURCHIN CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts at Appalachian State University engages visitors from the university, community, nation and beyond in creating unique experiences through dynamic and accessible exhibition, education, outreach and collection programs. These programs inspire and support a lifelong engagement with the visual arts and create opportunities for participants to learn more about themselves and the world around them.

SHARE YOUR WORK WITH US AT #TCVAATHOME !

Appalachian
STATE UNIVERSITY