

1. **Serena Richelle**
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2.



3. Material description of mural:

~ 16' x 35' per the dimensions given for the mural space "Thimann tall & long ramp wall"

Medium: Paint. Outside, weather proof paint painted onto the concrete wall.

4. Concept:

I would like to install a mural reflecting on the wildfires, by looking at eight native plants to the Santa Cruz area that exhibit unique adaptations for existing in wildfire prone areas. There are five unique ways that plants regrow after a wildfire, seed deposits, serotinous cones, stump sprouting, lignotubers, and thick bark. The first four are shown enlarged to further elaborate on what is happening in each case, and the fifth regrowth process makes up the ground.

What looks like layers of earth is actually layers in a cross section of a tree, showing the outer bark, inner bark, cambium (green) and subsequent wood. Despite how burnt a tree's bark may be, if there is still more than 10 % of the cambium unburned, the tree can continue living. To show this regenerative ability, all of the burnt appearing trees and shrubs are tapping into this cambium to show they can keep growing.

This regeneration is also mimicked in the “ghosts” or “future” outlines of each plant, which additionally helps with identifying each plant. Lastly, and iconically I have included a phoenix, pulling from the Egyptian Bennu that the mythical creature, that is born from ashes, was originally based upon. The Phoenix is a powerful icon that most people know the mythology of, and choosing to relate to it now, in the midst of fire season being a very real, and very terrifying normal occurrence, not only in California but all of the west coast can be empowering.

Species List:

Coast Redwood *Sequoia sempervirens*

Knobcone Pine *Pinus attenuata*

Ponderosa Pine *Pinus ponderosa*

Scrub Oak *Quercus berberidifolia*

Chamise *Adenostoma fasciculatum*

Ceanothus *Ceanothus cordulatus*

Manzanita *Arctostaphylos viscida*

Fireweed *Chamaenerion angustifolium*

5. Artist statement: on your work in general (300 words or less)

I am a trained science illustrator who enjoys making art that educates the public on natural phenomena that is easy to look over. The challenge of using art to explain complex systems in the natural world is a crucial and also rewarding one. In reference to this mural piece, and why I want to look at the inevitable positive of wildfires, is that I think it's very easy to get absorbed in how awful the fires can be, and they are awful, and terrifying; but there is also the inevitable regrowth that is going to happen.

I am from Chico, so the Paradise Fire or Campfire of 2018 was very close to home, and as awful as it was, the one thing I heard over and over was the community being amazed at how much kindness was shared that Holiday season.

My current work has been with Washington Fish and Wildlife where I have been illustrating how both waterfowl and salmonid species utilize estuaries throughout the seasons, so combining what seems like too many things into one image has become my specialty.

6. Qualifications:

In the next month I will be starting a 10' x 30' mural highlighting 20 endangered and threatened species of Butte County that will be finished in a week. Hopefully after that I will have some solid tricks up my sleeve. Additionally I have worked on multiple smaller murals of ~ 7'x 7' and am comfortable in painting.

7. Portfolio:



Illustration done with WDFW on how waterfowl and salmon use estuaries. Digitally painted and composed.



Sliver of a kelp forest ecosystem. Acrylic on Canvas.



Botanical poster of Wildflowers found in Upper Bidwell Park, Chico CA. Watercolor painting, digitally composed.



Proposal for 10'x30' mural to be painted

8. Budget:

\$250: Paint- Would prefer to use mostly found paint from the restore, but purchasing new paint will be inevitable.

\$30: Small 4" paint rollers

\$50: Angled paint brushes, in a variety of sizes.

\$20: Canvas Tarp to protect the ground.

\$15: Buckets, to rinse brushes.

\$20: Mapping tools: chalk, string, tape

\$15: Rags/ Towels

Thank you for your consideration!