

BROKEN FORESTS

“The Embrace”

Infusion/Transfusion by Frances Patella and Dominique Prévost



Frances Patella

Frances Patella was born in Italy and resides in Toronto. She is a photo-based artist whose work explores transformation in the landscapes of controlled burns. During her childhood in Italy prescribed fires and ruins sparked her interest and she continues to use the ephemeral images of burning fields and forests.

Frances' work has been exhibited extensively in solo, juried exhibitions and art fairs, including Art Toronto. She has received Mid-Career grants from the Ontario and the Toronto Arts Councils, Best In Show and Purchase Awards. Frances holds a BFA from York University, a B.ED from the University of Toronto, studied Visual Arts at the University of Western Ontario and in Florence Italy. As a member of Propeller Gallery and former Chair, and a member of the Ontario Society of Artists, Frances coordinates numerous events and exhibitions. Frances taught visual arts and photography in the TDSB, conducted Cyanotype workshops for the Photo Educators Forum in Toronto and the National Gallery of Photography in Ottawa. For many years she was also a Board Member and Chair of Jury and Judges for the Toronto Outdoor Art Fair.

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Dominique Prévost

Dominique Prévost was born in Québec City and now resides in Oakville. She has shown extensively in the GTA since the early 80's and her work can be found in many collections here and abroad. Three times recipient for Best Watercolour Award at the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, she is Past-President of the Burlington Fine Arts Association, Member of the Ontario Society of Artists and Propeller Gallery and an Art Educator at Oakville Galleries.

Dominique's artworks are atmospheric abstracted landscapes. They are assemblages showcasing changing light, organic patterns, and stylized structures. Each artwork is composed of multiple painted and manipulated surfaces that evoke the perception of depth and space. Dominique uses watercolour, acrylic, ink, crayons and found material on a wide range of papers; ranging from exquisite handmade Japanese *Washi* papers and classical European watercolour papers, to utilitarian papers. In the works, many patterns are at play. They are the ones found in our veins, rivers, trees and skies. Lino printing and Japanese *Suminagashi* marbling techniques are used to make visible the connections of what's above, below and within.

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What does interest me/us the most about the project?

What we believe to be eternal and unchanging about our planet is actually vital and dynamic. Michael Faraday imagined the space between electric charges as being filled with invisible tubes to indicate that forces act across empty space that separates interacting objects, now referred to as force fields.

We intend to use actual medical tubes, injected with coloured liquid pigment, embracing, wrapping around, and between trees, to illustrate their connections. It is a strong visual to highlight the need for an infusion of nurturing and mending to our broken forests and a transfusion of positive forces in our forests. **Infusion / Transfusion** could be installed in a local park.

How is my / our art going to make a positive impact in nature?

An image is worth a thousand words. Electromagnetic forces are responsible for all of chemistry and biology. Forests are the lungs of the planet where trees release biochemicals. Using feeding tubes as the connectors between forest and human is a powerful symbol of health and dependency. Being able to show, share and acknowledge our deep connections to the forest, showcasing its role in our wellbeing/mental and physical health. We visually speak for the trees.

Tree aerosols act as anti-cancer shields, improve circulation and decrease high blood pressure, have anti-rheumatic effects, suppresses hydrocortisone for immune protection and brain function.

Diana Beresford-Kroeger, scientist and author "To Speak for the Trees"

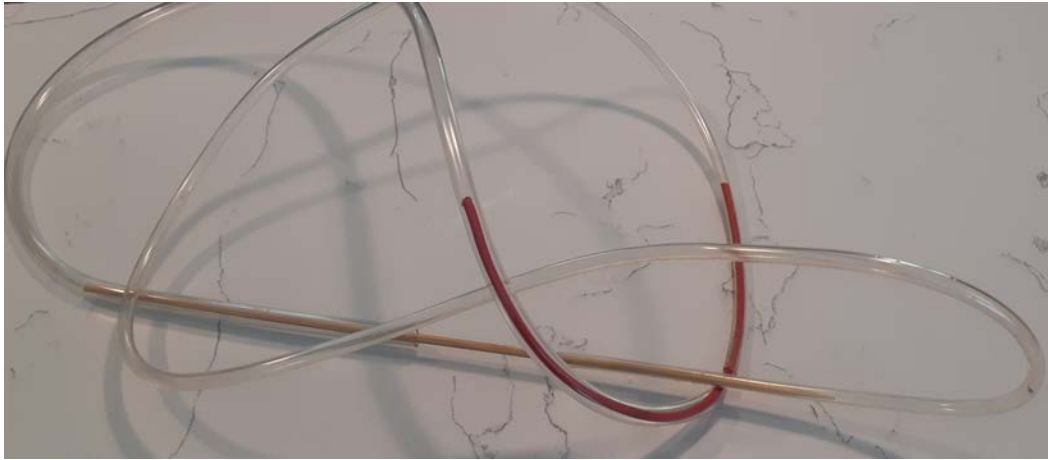
How do I feel about being part of this project?

The climate crisis calls on all of us to heal the planet. We now know that it's urgent. It's a chance to give back and show our appreciation for what nature always gives us: A safe haven where we can breathe and be at peace with the world.

There is one technology that could save us. A highly advanced, solar-powered automaton, one that captures carbon, protects watersheds, streams and rivers, increases its own mass incrementally each year, prevents soil erosion and desertification, manufactures a wonderfully biodegradable building material and even self-replicates.

Michael Christie, author "If a Tree Grows in a Forest"

Visual Examples



Medical tubing injected with pigment



Medical tubing among the trees