

Interaction Art News

The quarterly news that melds art and science with pollinator conservation

Interaction Art, Inc. Debra Jane Carey, Artist-Illustrator

New Additions: Sea-Life Series

Debra Carey's sea-life series has grown to eleven pieces in 2008. It is an effort that was conceived in 2006 because of a show entry. Debra entered three color pencil drawings of sea life she longed to produce (Coelacanth, Nemo and giant squid). Then, an inspiration from the show name she produced a factitious character of a merman. The merman (spring news) received an award.

At the request of a client to expound on this series Debra launched research into the shells and starfish of the world. Typical of her research she zeroed in on Florida shells dating to the Cenozoic era 5 million years ago that still live today.

The result and continuing are three very common shells you might find when walking on the beach.

Florida Spiny Jewel Box, *Arcinella cornuta* Conrad, 1866 Chamidae Cenozoic Pliocene Western Atlantic Region

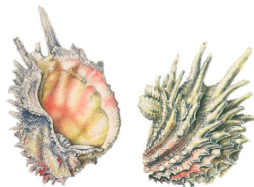
Nutmeg Shell, *Cancellaria (Massyla) venusta* Toumey & Holmes, 1857 Cancellariidae Cenozoic Pliocene Eastern North America

Florida Fossil Shell, *Chicoreus floridanus* Vokes, 1965 Muricidae Cenozoic Pliocene Western Atlantic Region

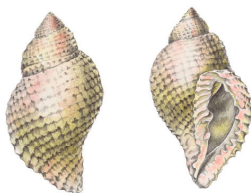


AS144W Giant-spined seastar

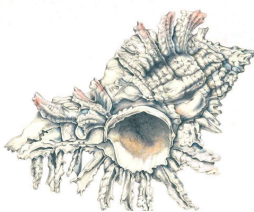
Inspiration during selection began with the pantone color of the year Iris-blue. Two Pacific starfish bring that color to light as shown with the giant-spined sea star above and Crown-of-thorns starfish (not shown). The final editions are the famed turbo shell from south Africa whereby Debra depicts three views of the polished shell (see back panel).



AS146W Jewel Box



AS143W Nutmeg



AS133W Florida Fossil

Capabilities

Commissioned Services

- Original
- Wall Mural
- Residential Portrait

Reproduction Services

- Paper
- Canvas
- Tile

Trend: Big Art

"In the era of large spaces the trend to select one big piece to fill the space has changed. Art Business News confirms what I have experienced. In the end my quotes turn into supplying cohesive multiples."

Size is not a limitation for artist Debra Carey. She prefers to communicate with the client and collaborate to supply the right medium, size and substrate for the location.

Original works are limited only by the maximum paper size of 55" wide. Reproduction works are limited only by the quality of camera used when recording the original and by the printers ability (60" wide). Many clients choose to use two to six

pieces to fill these areas.

An original wall mural is obviously not limited by size and can be painted on canvas in the studio for shipment and later installation.

Reproduction on tile are increasingly popular. Advancement in coatings has brought square and rectangle tile choices on seven substrates. This enables an almost limitless wall mural size.

Big is certainly available from a inexpensive mass producer and an artist can create or reproduce big on a budget. In the end filling a large space is not a problem.

On the Pallet: Picturing to Learn



Typical study board that Debra teaches students to compile before beginning the composition.

©2002 Debra Carey *Disa uniflora*
OS106W

The project "Picturing to Learn" is funded by the National Science Foundation. The recipients are five top colleges.

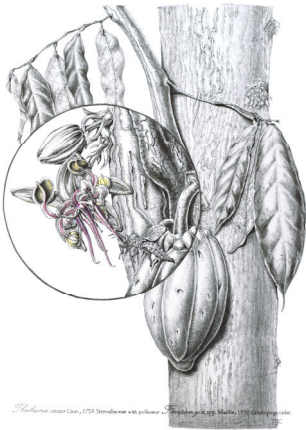
Undergraduate students studying physics, chemistry and biology create pencil drawings. Then, they explain the scientific concepts to a typical high school student.

"Critical components found during research causes a different thought process." Debra teaches this methodology to students as well. "It is an amazing addition to teaching when a student can visually conceive from site, sound and scent. Once a specimen or series of paintings begins the knowledge of life history and

morphology will benefit the outcome." Debra teaches students to research and visit specimens before formulating the composition.

The reaction from professor to student involved in Picturing to Learn is enthusiastic. In April Four Harvard physics majors traveled to New York City for a workshop with design students at the School of Visual Arts (SVA) to learn from each other. Professors are seeing what a student is learning more clearly than conventional methods.

To learn more about this project go to <http://www.picturingtolearn.org/>



©2007 Debra Carey
Chocolate Tree FVS106G

Economic Plant and Pollinator Series: *Theobroma cacao* Linnaeus, 1753 Sterculiaceae

If I were to use the word *Theobroma cacao* would it invoke the same passion that the common name 'cocoa' or the confection chocolate does?

Cocoa is the finely ground seed of the chocolate tree while true chocolate is a product formed by mixing cocoa and cocoa butter (roasted seed, husk removed, ground under pressure and heat) with sugar.

Theobroma in its natural state is bitter. Grinding cacao with corn, vanilla, and chilies in the original recipe was to alter that bitterness. Spanish Monks in 1528 mixed cinnamon, nutmeg and sugar with ground beans. Sir Hans Sloan traveled

from England to South America bringing the original Cadbury Milk Chocolate recipe home.

There is an interaction between *T. cacao*, it's pollinating midge fly and gorilla seed disperser. This mutual interaction is endemic to tropical rainforests. Understanding the importance of specialized pollination in an under story rainforest could change the massive deforestation of tropical forests by having farmers utilize that under story to grow crops while conserving the habitat for the pollinator and seed disperser.

Continued on page 3

Book Cover Illustration: Month by Month

Bishop Kay Ward will publish her third book titled "Month by Month" using Debra Carey's illustration. Scheduled to be released summer 2009.

The plant selected is the White Trillium *Trillium grandiflorum* which has an interesting life story.

Trillium seeds have an oily substance called eliason that smells like decaying flesh. When the pod falls to the ground ants collect the seed to feed their young. They discard the seed in the nest in turn a new patch of trillium can start. It takes 5-7 years for that seed to produce a bloom.

Studies of seed dispersal by deer reveal that it is the possible reason trillium escaped extinction during the last glacial period.

The seed cannot produce without a pollinator. The pollinator in this case is a Bumble bee foraging early spring transferring the pollen. There is a color change from white to pink. This may be an indicator to the pollinator.

If you are in the north east US all the way to the Midwest in May or June you can find a patch in the woods.



Photograph of Trillium growing in Ward's Woods Wisconsin 2008

Women in Art History Series: Augusta Innes Baker Withers (1792-1869)

Mrs. Withers was an artist and art teacher that worked on numerous books and magazines. Born in Lisson Grove, London. She gained experience early with her first position as botanical painter to Queen Adelaide (Wife of King William IV, England 1830-1837.)

Augusta like many talented English female painters of the day was exploited. She contributed to Curtis's Botanical Magazine, Pomological Magazine, The Floral Cabinet and Transactions of the Horticultural Society. In Maund's Botanic Garden, Augusta contributed to 100 plates in five volumes which priced at auction in 2007 for \$5,750. In 1985 Sotheby's auctioned a single volume of drawings by Augusta for \$30,000.

One of the greatest publications, James Bateman's *Orchidaceae of Mexico and Guatemala (1837-1841)* Mrs. Withers contributed numerous works with no recognition.

She exhibited works at the gallery of the Horticultural Society but was turned down as flower painter for Royal Botanical Garden's in Kew because no woman had held that high a post.

The quality of Mrs. Withers work surpasses many realism artists of the seventeenth century and certainly rivals the famous William Hooker of her era. Seeing the translucency of fruit teeming with veins under skin is the work of a master. Depicting the tenderness of a cut specimen whose leaves begin to wither screams with style.



Lancashire gooseberry titled *Sheba Queen* by Augusta Innes Baker Withers

Chocolate continued...

Food production is a major cause of rainforest deforestation. Forest land is cut, burned and cultivated with orchard or annual crops. This method removes the habitat in which the pollinator and seed disperser live. When the farmers tend those crops, (Palm, Banana and Cocoa) and the pollinators come to collect nectar for food, the farmers will be able to harvest for sustenance and the dispersers will make regeneration possible.

Rice (2003) describes 'rustic' cocoa farms (abandoned unnatural orchards) as places to grow avocado, banana, breadfruit, mango, orange, and rubber in addition to medicinal

plants. These rustic farms are now rejuvenating the forest and creating field observation sites for conservation biologists.

New discoveries and sightings of endangered flora and fauna are documenting diversity of species in these habitats.

The Chocolate tree is part of a continuing project for Debra. Contact for information about this series.

"Inside the wrapper of this food we have come to take for granted is a complex web of interrelating factors that ecologists are only beginning to understand."

Robert A. Rice, 2003.

Partners: Disneynature to Produce Pollinator Film

"Walt Disney Company and Disneynature are producing what will likely be a thoroughly engaging film depicting pollinating activities of animals around the world. Planning and early filming have begun."

"Naked Beauty" features ground-breaking macro POV and time lapse cinematography of insect and vertebrate pollinators interacting with their flowering plants. A cast of 5 main characters (honey bees, bumble bees, monarch butterflies, bats and hum-

mingbirds) will be joined with other cameo appearances of pollinators. The 90 minute film will also present viewers with hands on examples for protecting and conserving pollinators and plants.

Contributing to the film are Oscar & Emmy winning producers, National Geographic Films and The North American Pollinator Protection Campaign.

2nd
Annual
National
Pollinator
Week June
22-28



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Debra specializes in depicting plant-animal interactions utilizing pre-20th century techniques. She is Botanical Art & Illustration Certified and Faux Finishing Certified. www.interactionart.com

Display: 2008 Schedule of Events

- Poggen Pohl Florida West displays Debra's tile mural art Located at the International Design Center 10800 Corkscrew Road, Ste. 186, Estero Tony Mammoliti 239-948-9005.
- Vicki Glynn Gallery & Frame carries prints 6210 Scott Street, Suite 215 Punta Gorda FL Vicki Glynn 941-639-6882.
- The Collectors Wall Fine Art & Frame Sarasota and Bradenton location's carries original and limited edition work. 4976 South Tamiami Trail 811 Lakewood Main Street Ste. 107 Gregg Gionfriddo 941-927-2643.
- Glass Design International, Inc. displays Debra's glass tile art. Located at the International Design Center 10800 Corkscrew Road, Ste. 214 Estero Marie Brzobohaty 239-495-2125.
- The Frame Factory & Gallery carries greeting cards. 515 36th Street W., Ste. C Bradenton Didi Boyd Hager 941-745-1300.
- ASID FSC West Coast Conference & Product Expo May 15, 2008 Estero FL
- ASID FSC 11th Annual Conference & Product Expo September 26-27, 2008 Stewart FL
- ASID Design Resources Show XXIV November 6, 2008 Sarasota FL
- USF Botanical Gardens Spring Plant Festival April 12-13, 2008 Tampa FL
- USF Botanical Gardens Herb, Butterfly & Native Plant Fair June 14-15, 2008 Tampa FL
- Connecting Nature: Art Sale to Benefit Women's Resource Center Manatee June 10-20, 2008 1926 Manatee Ave W. Bradenton FL Reception June 12. 941-747-6797.



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Turbo sarmaticus AS145W I, II & III