THE ART OF FIRE

Fire can be mysterious, sometimes dangerous and destructive, but also beautiful and restorative. It often plays an important role in the maturation of ecosystems. Given its power and complexity, fire is an understandable artistic muse.

Artwork in both the professional exhibit and the community art show is meant to include ecological, cultural and environmental issues related to fire, as well as fire management aspects.

“Most of us go through our lives and only see things superficially. This experience can open our eyes to surrounding habitats and help us become more observant. Creating art is intimately linked to observation.” - curator Karin Franzen

“Fire is not all about destruction. It is a natural part of our ecosystem, with diverse and valuable effects. Fire management is about maximizing those benefits and minimizing the risks.” - Mary Beth Leigh, BNZ LTER.

Members of the fire management community and the public contributed art pieces based on their own experience and expertise for the community art show hosted by the Alaska Public Lands Information Center (APLIC) in the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center.

Professional Art Show
Bear Gallery
noon-8 p.m. daily

Community Art Show
APLIC
8 a.m.-9 p.m. daily

Lecture Series: 7 p.m. Aug. 8, 15, 22
Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center

Studio Tour: Phil Marshall’s Polhavn Woodfabrik studio
Noon-4 p.m., Aug. 4, 1300 Skyline Drive

Field Trips

- Fire Simulation, Chena Lakes
- BLM-Alaska Fire Service facility tour
- Denali National Park & Preserve
- BNZ LTER Rosie Creek Fire Study Area

Aerial image of Bear Creek Fire, Alaska 2012.
(© Ryan Skorecki)

UNTITLED, Erin Kathryn
(Rosie Creek Fire, 1983)

AUGUST 3-SEPTEMBER 3, 2012

Professional Art Exhibit
Bear Gallery, Centennial Center for the Arts, Pioneer Park

Community Art Exhibit
Alaska Public Lands Information Center, Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitor Center

www.frames.gov/asfc/artoffire
In a Time of Change: The Art of Fire is a visual art project that uses art to engage the public in conversations about the science behind fire management practices.

Nine local artists were invited to embrace the inspiration of wildfire, fire science and management to create a unique and educational art exhibit. “In a Time of Change: The Art of Fire” is funded by the Joint Fire Science Program and was developed by the Alaska Fire Science Consortium (AFSC) and the Bonanza Creek Long Term Ecological Research Station (BNZ LTER).

The work facilitates a sense of place, and helps to understand the functionality of fire in the ecosystems of Interior Alaska. Understanding that role is an important part of effective land management.

“It’s also important for society to make informed decisions about the landscape and manage it responsibly.” - Mary Beth Leigh, BNZ LTER

Fairbanks artist Karin Franzen curated the show. Franzen’s work appeared in previous “In a Time of Change” events, and her background in engineering and biology provided exceptional perspective and vision for the exhibit.

“Scientists truly love their subjects and you can’t help but be affected by that. When I accompany a scientist out into the forest, my imagination becomes engaged.” –curator Karin Franzen

BNZ LTER and AFSC coordinated with fire science and management groups in the area to offer four field trips, giving artists a behind-the-scenes look at what happens when a fire occurs, how scientific information is used in management decisions, and the many facets behind long-term ecological disturbance studies.

The field trip element was structured for two-way exchange, allowing people to become immersed in the environment. “We wanted to offer information on the proactive fire management side and pair that with fire science, how fire affects vegetation, and allow that to be fodder for creative output.” –In a Time of Change program director Mary Beth Leigh.