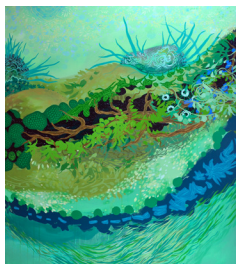


Field Guide to  
**SIMPLE PLEASURES  
 +SILVER LININGS**  
 AN UNSEEN UNIVERSE  
**RENEE ROBBINS**

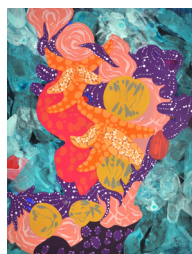
Like a lens zooming in and out, the **Crescent Zoom** series discovers spectacles from the subatomic to lunar range. Constellations of imagery connect our human experience and celebrate our relationship to the world like a parade.

## Crescent Zoom

2018-2022



**Rise** embodies the journey of reaching an aspirational goal. The best view comes after the hardest climb at the summit of a mountain. The artwork uses the idea of summit to structure the painting's composition and as a metaphor for rising to the top. The green palette evokes cycles of growth, spring, sunrise/sunset, biological strata, and other shapes, some familiar and some unfamiliar. The work layers forms like the strata of a soil sample and evokes the power of nature.



**Star Hug 1, 2 & 3**- The inspiration for these paintings comes from images of starfish with pink and purple colors. They looked like they were hugging each other as a community. I was dreaming about starfish hugging each other like humans do.

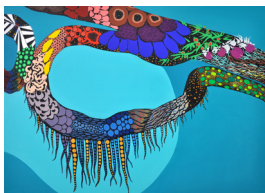


**Siren Song**- Like the winter and summer solstice, mother nature is female goddess mermaid. The colorfully patterned trees are a metaphor for siren songs. In nature, many species display bright colors and complex patterns to attract others. Like a lure, the painting explores desire and beauty. The painting depicts winter and summer in one composition. The imagery also brings the forest, ocean, and the cosmos together at the same time.

## Sea Change

2016-2018

Paintings in the **Sea Change** series focus on movement, scale-change, and transformation. Formally, this occurs in the composition and also in the atmosphere or feeling of the worlds created. Each composition's sense of movement draws from cycles in nature, such as growth and decay, changing seasons, and rising and receding tides. Design motifs were inspired by spirals, which repeat in different natural systems, including DNA helixes, flower structures, hurricanes, and galaxies.



**Weeping Willow** draws inspiration from the hanging tendrils of the amazing weeping willow tree and layers invented flora and fauna. Weeping willow trees offer sanctuary and protection and the branches hang in a visually delightful symphony. If you are not paying attention to trees what are you even doing?



**Wishing Well** considers the circular ripple pattern that occurs when you throw a coin into a fountain and make a wish. The linear structure of the composition comes from ripples and the yellow ochre coins in the center transform into unseen biological life.

# Micro Macro

2009-2012

The **Micro Macro** work sources structures from molecular, biological, marine, and celestial. While the work negotiates between abstraction and representation, the natural world inspires the starting point for the painting process. In the same way the scientific method is used to test and observe, the painting process is a means for discovery inside microscopic nanoparticles, flowering botanicals, and distant galaxies. The works converge on the gigantic range both in and outside of our human experience, seen and unseen.



**Holographic Frontier** imagines the future as a colorful frontier filled with wonder that can be transformative. Holographic colors shimmer with iridescent patterns from the depths of the deepest oceans to the farthest corners of the cosmos.



**Dreamcatcher** uses the idea of the dreamcatcher to re-imagine aquatic life as a protector.



**Maelstrom** takes place in the swirling depths of the ocean and imagines a housing complex for mermaid-like creatures inside the dazzling maze of coral reefs.

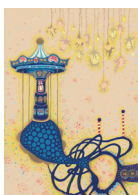


**Centerfold** re-imagines a seal-like creature as a form to be celebrated like the feature article in a magazine.

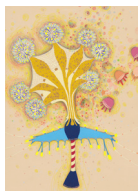
## Amusements

2012-2013

The **Amusements** series is inspired by the entertainment at carnivals and games like pinball.



**La La Lure** is inspired by feminine desire and attraction and sets the stage inside a carnivalesque universe.



**In Flight** creates an impossible combination that could not occur in nature. It combines a starfish with a plane and layers carnival-like patterning.

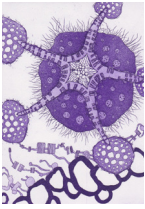


**Hang Past Milliways** is named after the restaurant Milliways at the end of the universe in *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and combines aquatic coral with carousel elements.

**The Love Letter Etchings** series stems from a deep obsession with the diversity of flora and fauna in the ocean. I see these like writing love letters to my heroes or unknown celebrities.

# Love Letter Etchings

2013-2015



## Icon Star

Icon Star, inspired by the Iconoclaster Longimanus, has a life span similar to humans and their skin looks like a human-made electronic device. Icon Stars grow very slowly and often live in dark deep waters. The balance between the human-made/natural can be ambiguous, and many creatures in the oceans can often seem fictional or synthetic. I see this as a powerful idea, image, and tool to source in the intaglio process.



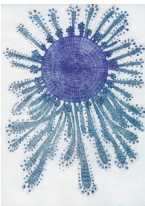
## Man O' War

*This piece is based on the Portuguese Man O' War. While it may have the appearance of a jellyfish, it's a Siphonophore. This organism is made up of multiple individual creatures called zooids that function and act as one creature. However, zooids cannot exist on their own and they depend on each other for survival.*



## Golden Arrow

I called this piece Golden Arrow after the Polychaete creatures that live in the abyssal plains. The forms of their bodies can vary greatly among species, and some may even swim amongst plankton. Arrows can function as signs, symbols, tools, and as weapons. I like the idea that an arrow could point somewhere fantastical and that an arrow can also be symbolic.



## Blue Buttons

The taxonomic class Hydrozoa contain the tiny Blue Buttons creatures. While related to a jellyfish, they function a bit differently. Each creature is a colony of individual polyps. They live together on the surface of the ocean and drift across the sea. A single mouth intakes all food for the colony. While I had planned on all the etchings being one color, I decided that I wanted to do this one in two colors.



## Stomatopods

or Mantis Shrimp, have one of the most advanced abilities to see color. Our eyes contain millions of light sensitive cells called rods and cones. Rods enable us to see light and motion and cones enable us to see color. Humans have 3 color-receptive cones, butterflies 5, and Stomatopods 16. Consider how many colors they must see. These beautiful creatures are only 6 – 12 inches long but are creatively violent predators. They have two raptorial appendages on the front of its body. These accelerate with the same velocity as a gunshot fired from a 22-caliber bullet. Their limbs move so quickly, the water around them boils in a process known as supercavitation. When these cavitation bubbles collapse it produces an undersea shockwave that can kill prey even if the Stomatopod misses its target. The force of these collapsing bubbles also produces temperatures in the range of several thousand Kelvins and emits tiny bursts of light. This effect is called sonoluminescence. Their limbs are so resilient; researchers have been studying their cell structure for use in the development of advanced body armor for combat troops. Aquariums don't often house Stomatopods because they tend to slaughter every other creature they share a tank with and also because they can break aquarium glass.



**Get in My Belly** is inspired by the method that starfish ingest food. I'm captivated by the gorgeous patterns on starfish.



**Some Camouflage** is inspired by the decorator crab that use materials from their environment to hide from or ward off predators. They decorate by attaching other creatures and plants to their bodies to create an elaborate camouflage.

# Pocket Pod Series

2008-2009



Artworks in **The Pocket Pod Series** are miniature pocket-sized portals to the unseen microcosmos. The project includes 250 small-scale paintings. Regarding materials, all works in the series utilize acrylic paint and collaged materials. Tiny details are often created with colored pencil, graphite, and marker. Both found and created textures frequent the work and include materials like string, painted paper, and cut acrylic paint.