

Positive Connections in Conservation Expressed Through Art

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Kalandra Muse

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There are many aspects in which humans have made an impact on the earth, but there tends to be an emphasis on the negative.

Through this project I want to provide a more positive lens and create inspiration rather than a sense of doom. I find that having a positive outlook on the world can influence people's desire to take initiative and in turn impact their actions. It is my hope that my art, the accompanying scientific information provided in my painting summaries, and this reflection will serve to inspire different populations of people, especially those who are not necessarily engaged in conservation and the science of wildlife biology.

Exploration and Discovery



With this painting I portrayed the wonderful landscapes on Earth and beyond that inspire people to discover and explore. People's curiosity and desire to overcome challenges take them places all around the world from beach sides, rugged mountain landscapes, and beyond the planet by looking into the stars.

Nature in Media



This image portrays how nature has affected multiple mediums of media in a variety of ways from films that characterize the environment in Denis Villeneuve's *Dune*, to children's tales as *The Little Red Riding Hood*, or exploratory games as *The Witcher 3: The Wild Hunt*. The consumption of creatively portrayed nature within media can shape many perceptions of natural landscapes.

Inventions Inspired by Nature



This painting demonstrates how people take inspiration from nature and work to create inventions that mimic particular aspects of an organism's biology. For example, people have taken inspiration from spider silk to create textiles, shark skin to make swimsuits faster, and bird wings to create aircrafts. Nature is a huge influence on innovation and has created inventions that have changed everyday life.

Animals and Humans Working Together



With this image, I show the array of different relationships that people have forged with animals in which both parties benefit. From important relationships between pollinators, humanity's long held relationship with canines, and emerging connections with owls in vineyards, people are capable of working together with animals in a variety of species.

Nature for Human Well-being



In this painting the presence of nature, whether it be something as simple as potted plants in a house, trees and flowers in cityscapes, or finding something beautiful to look at can be extremely beneficial for mental-health. Nature, even in small doses, can have important positive effects on people's lives.

Conservation Success Stories



This image demonstrates how certain animals that have almost been extirpated by humans have also made significant comebacks in population sizes from human actions as well. It is important not only to recognize the faults of people, but also their successes as with green sea turtles, whooping cranes, and grizzly bears.

My project demonstrates the importance of combining both research and artistic methods for conservation action. One is not exclusive in solving conservation issues as both are needed in order to inform and reach out to people who are not engaged with conservation. As such, each painting has a positive theme and is paired with research explaining the inspiration behind them. In a world where focus tends to be negative, I created my project to portray positive human interactions in nature to inspire others to do the same.

Research Paper

To read the research behind my project, please scan the QR code.

