



Evolution of a soil scientist into an artist: Impacts on my teaching and life

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Fourteen years ago I began an incredible journey of incorporating art into my soil science field courses. It started out simply with oil pastels and has evolved to students using acrylic paints to interpret the landscapes in addition to the soil classification work that they do on catena sequences around the province. From this foundation, a graduate course was developed where students used soils (and other natural materials) and ground them into pigments to paint different ecosystems; however, the novelty was that students were from both the Soil Science and Master of Fine Arts programs, which created interesting synergies. Throughout this journey, my own art practice began to grow from painting landscapes to developing creative ecological art using burnt trees after a forest fire or capturing imprints of soil profiles with canvas and paint. This presentation will present an overview of my experiences into merging art into my soil science courses and my own life.