

HABITAT artists' books

Heat Shock Protein: artemisia tridentata

This piece is about the proteins in some cells that exist to help other proteins rebound from stress, so the piece is also about love.



Double-sided folio; inkjet print of poetry and digital collage on Arches text wove paper

ARTIST:

Sue Sommers

Pinedale, WY

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WRITER:

Matt Daly

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Statement

In this collaboration, we explore adaptation to changes in our exterior and interior landscapes, to the places where we live and to our perceptions and emotions that emerge within these places. We live in a period of dramatic changes, and, as we see the impacts of these changes become more prevalent in the world, we struggle to respond. Yet we also find a kind of common ground among living species in the genetic combinations that bring about diverse life forms. The language within living cells expresses itself richly across species and habitats. We learned that, in sagebrush and in other species, heat shock proteins support and stabilize other cellular proteins undergoing stress. In our investigation of how organisms evolve to care for themselves in the face of environmental stress, we wonder at our own linguistic, creative, and emotional capacity to evolve in a direction of self-care and care of others. Perhaps growing our fluency in languages of love will help us respond to a time of crisis in a way that fosters life on a living planet.

Artist's Biography

Sue Sommers is a painter, printmaker, publication designer and book artist who has lived in Wyoming since 1989. She lives on a cattle ranch beside the Green River near Pinedale. Sommers received a Wyoming Arts Council Visual Art Fellowship in 1999, and her long record of exhibitions and collaborations stretches across the state and much of the nation. Her work has found its way into many public and private collections. She currently serves on the National Advisory Board of the University of Wyoming Art Museum, and writes for Studio Wyoming Review.

Writer's Biography

Matt Daly is the author of *BETWEEN HERE AND HOME* (Unsolicited Press) and the chapbook *RED STATE* (Seven Kitchens Press). He has received a Neltje Blanchan Award for writing inspired by the natural world and a Creative Writing Fellowship in Poetry from the Wyoming Arts Council. Matt is the co-founder of *WRITE TO THRIVE*, a business that brings reflective and creative writing practices to individuals and professional groups to cultivate creativity and wellbeing.