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**EXHIBITION ISSUE:** 3D EXPRESSION • STITCHED • SHIFTING TIDES • LINDA GASS • PLUS: KATE CROSSLEY • INSPIRED • JAM SHOWCASE • MEMBER GALLERY • VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT • TIPS FOR JAM SUCCESS

# Linda Gass: and then this happened...

Solo exhibition explores  
climate change

## **Urban Power vs. San Lorenzo Creek, What's next?**

59 x 48 inches, installed | 2019

Photo by Don Tuttle

All images © Linda Gass



Linda Gass's work tackles the reality of climate change with a dramatic twist: beauty. Her solo exhibition, *Linda Gass: and then this happened...* runs through May 3 at the Museum of Craft and Design (MCD) in San Francisco.

Gass's work examines the human-made and natural water infrastructure affecting the greater San Francisco Bay Area. Her stitched paintings and glass pieces question how California's water infrastructure works in the context of climate change.

Gass's exhibition is divided into four themed topics: sea-level rise, decreasing snowpack, impact of wildfires on watersheds, and changes to urban creek infrastructure. Some of the work is hyperlocal in context, including three new sea-level rise pieces that focus on the Dogpatch neighborhood where MCD is located. This series shows three aerial street views of Dogpatch: as it looks today, how it would change after the impact of three feet of sea-level rise, and the devastation after six feet of sea-level rise.

Another localized piece, *Severely Burned*, represents the impact of the 2013 Rim Fire on the Tuolumne

River Watershed, which provides drinking water for the City of San Francisco and 2.7 million people in the Bay Area. "Our current water infrastructure was designed during an era when our climate was more stable and the average annual snowpack was higher than it is now. Human development has permanently altered and destroyed much of our natural water infrastructures, such as wetlands and watersheds. My textile and mixed-media artworks address these issues—where our infrastructure and development policies are failing under climate change—and invite the viewer to ponder the question, 'How can we improve?'"

During the exhibition, viewers will have the chance to contribute to that conversation. Gass will give a brief talk entitled *Creativity and Climate Chaos* on March 13 from 6-9 p.m. She will also demonstrate silk painting and invite attendees to try the technique on a collaborative artwork about sea level rise in the Dogpatch area.

Gass, a Bay Area artist and environmental activist, is known for her labor-intensive stitched



***Dogpatch, the sea is rising: 0, 3 and 6 feet***

35.5 x 60 x 1.5 inches, installed | 2019

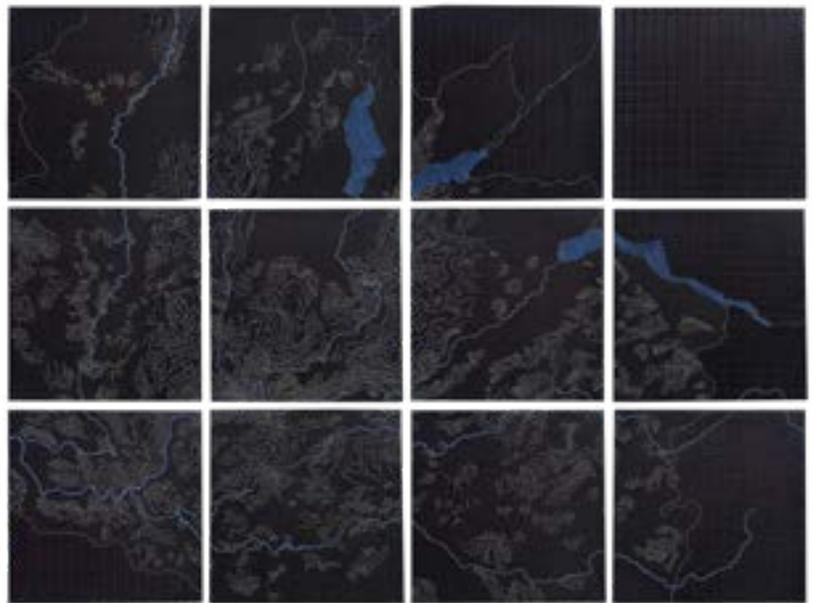
Photo by Don Tuttle

paintings about land use and water issues in California and the American West. She graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor of science degree in mathematics and a master of science degree in computer science. After a decade in the software industry, she has made art for more than 20 years. Her work has been exhibited throughout the United States and in Europe and Russia. Several public and private collections include her work, including the San José Museum of Quilts and Textiles, Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, UCSF Hospital, and the Kapur Center.

Running concurrently with Gass's exhibition at MCD is *Survival Architecture and the Art of Resilience*, a showcase of solutions and prototypes created by artists and architects for emergency shelters in a climate-constrained world.

To learn more about Gass's work, visit [lindagass.com](http://lindagass.com). ■

*This article was provided in large part by the Museum of Craft and Design.*



***Severely Burned: Impact of the Rim Fire on the Tuolumne River Watershed***

54 x 70 x 1.5 inches, installed | 2014

Photo by Don Tuttle