

T6DH~ Maria Schechter, Artist, Designer and Educator

Media Contact

For interviews, photos, more information:

Maria Schechter

maria@T6DH.com

(463) 253-8282

PRESS RELEASE – for immediate use

Attached Photos: Social Media Post

April 15, 2025

Shares on page 2

Maria Schechter Selected for the 2024 DeHaan Artist of Distinction Award Drolleries, Illuminated Manuscripts, Natural Dyes, Mycelium as a Medium & Geotagging the Hoosier State

Indianapolis Arts Council and Christel DeHaan have selected 5 Indiana artists for the 2024 Artist of Distinction Award presented by the Indy Arts Council with generous support from Christel DeHaan. The award provides contemporary visual artists with grants of up to \$10,000 to pursue aspirational projects. A panel of visual art professionals selected Maria Schechter as an award winner. Their final projects will be shown during a special exhibition at Gallery 924 in Indianapolis in October 2025.

“The Indy Arts Council and Christel DeHaan launched the program in 2017 to allow Indiana-based artists to explore, take risks, and push their creative practice in dynamic new ways,” said Kavita Mahoney, VP at Indy Arts Council. “These artists are pushing the field of visual arts forward with new materials, new artistic processes, and underrepresented stories.”

Maria Schechter uses historical color recipes used by illuminators and scribes of the High Middle Ages. These colors are ethically foraged, updated to non-toxic recipes, and used as her painting palettes. Her paintings often use mycelium as a medium in addition to clay and other foraged natural materials. Her paintings are created as windows into temporal sacred spaces. Her mission as an artist is to use healthier materials for a healthier world. Her award went towards building her own atelier (art studio) and her 2025 body of work; **Resonant Signs: Secret Spaces, Sacred Places**. She hopes that with diligent documentation she can assist other Hoosier artists in securing an art studio.

The new body of work illuminates a re-enchantment of the natural world and highlights the beauty of the Hoosier state. The body of work includes 12 paintings, one for each month of the year, documenting in glasswork, at the top of each frame, the phases of the sun and the moon. The paintings are framed in handmade, cherry wood, gothic style frames. The work documents the changes in the seasons through the color palettes and what is available to forage and process and paint during each season. After works are completed, they are taken to various green spaces throughout the Hoosier state and geotagged in hopes it will encourage folks to get outside and explore the beauty of our state. The work is inspired by Hildegard of Bingen, the German Christian mystic who is a polymath of the High Middle Ages.

It is through St. Hildegard's vision of a term she called Viriditas (Latin, literally "greenness") that Schechter creates these works in hope of inspiring continued stewardship of the natural world. Through the use of social media, you will find social posts with latitude and longitude coordinates to invite Hoosiers to explore the vast beauty of the Hoosier state. The social media posts offer insight into what we are trying to preserve and protect. When we live busy lives in big cities it's easy to forget. She hopes to inspire folks with images of her paintings sitting on green pathways from the Monon Trail to the Seven Pillars of Peru. There are many natural wonders throughout Indiana that defy explanation but can only be explained as she sees it as divinity in nature.

More information can be accessed at <https://www.t6dh.com/resonant-signs> or <https://indyarts.org/2025/01/14/indy-arts-2024-dehaan-artist-of-distinction-award-winners/> by emailing Maria Schechter, at maria@T6DH.com, (463) 253 - 8282

Social Media Handles:

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/culturedsocial/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/collagefabric/>

Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/t6dh.bsky.social>

Website: <https://www.t6dh.com/>



Social Media Campaign: Windows of Wonder



Image location:

39.13653° N, 86.56126° W

Windows of Wonder was created as a reminder, a visual articulation of what we work so hard to protect and preserve. As a part of having a sustainable practice, Schechter feels a responsibility to her community as well as to the materials she uses in her works. She hosts workshops on ethical foraging, processing natural materials into natural dyes that are not toxic for our environment, and posts educational material on exactly why and how we have lived within a symbiotic relationship for thousands of years relying on the natural world. Coming together as humankind and the biosphere we are able to co-create a mutually beneficial world. One does not exist without the other. The truth is nature does not need us but we certainly need nature. Alexander Fleming was a Scottish physician-scientist who was recognized for discovering penicillin. Penicillin did not just arrive in our medicine cabinets. The fungi penicillium is what saved thousands of lives in World War II. Some members of the genus produce penicillin, a molecule that is used as an antibiotic, which kills or stops the growth of certain kinds of bacteria. It took a scientist to process the fungi molecule into a medicine. It's many ecologists, scientists, mycologist and others who are still finding new ways to use what can only be found in nature to help aid in the healing of the earth and the human body.

EXAMPLE

Glass Crown, Frame
and Moon Phase



OWLET, MOON & MOTHER

Owlet, Moon & Mother, 2/2025, 32 x 20 x .5in., gold leaf, edible gold ink, clay, chalk, parchment, eucalyptus leaf, oak gall, goldenrod, mulberry, mica mineral, onion skins, and yellow cosmos on watercolor paper mounted to wood panel.

Note:

The glass crown above each painting adds 4 inches and 1/8' to each piece.

The completed size of each piece will then be 36 1/8 x 22 x 2in.

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Indy Arts Council on July 12, 2025 in Bloomington, Indiana. If you would like to R.S.V.P or receive more information on the celebration of Green House Studio please contact: maria@T6DH.com.



###