

Artist Statement

As both an environmentalist from Oregon and an artist who uses digital technology, Deb Hall's work interrogates the division created by the use of technology and our natural environment. Screens that engross us also distance us from nature with profound implications in experience and policy. Our all-consuming distraction with digital technology impacts our interactions with the environment—and each other. We are lured by the bright colors and sounds we find on screen and become less able to appreciate the subtlety and sensorium of nature and the joys of direct observation—or the unexpected places conversation may take us. We are transfixed and transported by the immediacy of this small window on a virtual world of our own making. We revel in the perceived level of control we have but, as we spend less time in face-to-face communications, and more time—alone—communicating through mediated text, memes, emoticons, symbols and images, we may have less. At once, communicating more while sharing and experiencing less. The odd relationship of these distinct worlds inhabits the work.