

ARTS ENGAGEMENT – 2015 State of the Coast

Marissa Solini, recent OSU graduate, will share her experience of creating art inspired by participating in the 2014 State of the Coast. This year Solini, joined by OSU Art Professors Charles Robinson and Andrew Myers and OSU art students, will continue to explore how art inspires science, and science inspires art.



Sea Star Wasting Syndrome (*Pisaster ochraceus*) by Marissa Solini

(Left to right) Category 0, Category 1, Category 2, Category 3 and Category 4

As an artist, I find my work gravitates towards issues in today's world I'd like to fix. It's a lofty dream to try to change the world through art, and I think a very real and practical way to do that is through education. By offering a different perspective and new information, I hope to leave people a little more knowledgeable about the world they live in. Attending the State of the Coast conference allowed me to do just that. The conference allowed me to venture into that sphere, to explore what aspiring marine biologists and scientists were dedicating their time and efforts to researching. I entered as an artist, with regrettably little knowledge, and left the conference with a mind swimming in information about the health of Oregon's coastline, weather patterns and most alarmingly - the mysterious disease that was killing off thousands of sea stars along the West coast. It was strange to think that such a horrific situation was occurring on the coast, and that few outside of the marine science sphere knew about it. Through oil painting, I decided to educate the public about this disease. Funded by the College of Liberal Arts at Oregon State University through an "Arts Engagement Award", I created a 5-piece painting series called "Sea Star Wasting Syndrome (*Pisaster ochraceus*)" that depicted the debilitating stages of decay that sea stars experience when affected with this disease.

San-Francisco born artist, Marissa Solini, is a recent graduate from Oregon State University. Solini was raised by a family of artists and has carried that creativity with her throughout her life.

During her time at OSU, Solini was awarded five scholarships and three grants; which have funded an art historical research trip to London, a painting series on Sea Star Wasting Syndrome and an exhibit that challenged historical gender roles.

Experimentation is the driving nature behind her work, which encompasses many mediums such as performance art, painting, video art, photography, drawing and sculpture. Solini's more daring works focus on sexuality, women's issues and racial injustice in today's society.

Solini's most recent exhibit, "Patterns" was displayed at the Yaquina Art Gallery in Nye Beach, Oregon. "Patterns" featured a series of vintage aprons, recreated as oil painting still-lives on canvas.

Dividing her time between the valley and Portland area, Solini aims to find meaningful work in arts administration or with a non-profit organization.

Marissa Solini's work can be found at www.cargocollective.com/marissasolini. [OSU feature on Solini](#).