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Check out Carrie Crane's Artwork - Boston Voyager Magazine

Local Stories

5-6 minutes



Today we'd like to introduce you to Carrie Crane.

Carrie, we'd love to hear your story and how you got to where you are today both personally and as an artist.

Watching a crayon fill an area of a coloring book with color. Watching a pencil line depict a 3-dimensional object. It was magical. Color and shape, it is as simple as that, I was hooked from a young age. I was always encouraged to draw or paint

by my art-loving parents who thought the elementary school art teacher was only serving to crush any creativity I had. Ironically, I did not take art classes in high school or college, I can't imagine why now. But I did find a visual outlet in my Geography studies as a cartographer. It was well into adulthood that I sought out any artistic training but once I did, I knew I needed to make it a much bigger part of my life. Not long after that I rented a studio and started putting in the regular hours it takes to develop a practice. Soon enough I was getting accepted into exhibitions and occasionally winning awards. Eventually I went back to graduate school to get my MFA and become a 'real' artist. And here I am. Working away. Fully immersed in the privilege of an artist's life.

We'd love to hear more about your art. What do you do you do and why and what do you hope others will take away from your work?

I trace the origins of my visual interests back to sailing with my parents as a child and learning how to read a nautical chart. I would lie on the deck propped up on my elbows over the chart and try to make sense of all the numbers and symbols and find their meaning in the real world around me. I'd find the buoy or the island or the pile of rocks we needed to avoid. I learned how the chart could provide information on tides and water depth and navigation. I didn't know it then but I understand now the power of that kind of symbolic language, the language that turns data into knowledge. In my art practice, I play with the power of that language and our collective agreement that it can be trusted to mean something.

I play with it by detaching my graphs, maps, diagrams and now objects (instruments of measure) from any stated data set or purpose and let them all be very ambiguous, inviting the viewer to indulge in their own interpretation (or not). Finding meaning in art is and has always been highly subjective. As it turns out, finding meaning in data is equally subjective. I think I am trying to say something about that.

Artists face many challenges, but what do you feel is the most pressing among them?

With the number of serious artists continually increasing, it becomes harder and harder to be distinguished from the masses. The competition for exhibitions, grants, residencies and awards is fierce. The positive side of that is the tremendous amount of great art out there, the difficulty is in figuring out how to sustain an artistic practice while competing for attention and dollars. We live in a country that, on the whole, does not value art as the critical piece of civilized culture that it is. So, we have to stay vigilant, keep creating under whatever circumstances we are confronted with and find a way to hold on to the value we know it has, even if only for ourselves.

The private challenge for me can follow this cycle: inspiration; work; start to question what it is all for; entertain the idea that it is a huge waste of time and resources; ask what I would do if I gave up; recognize that is not an option; get back to work. This several-day doubting process happens every couple of months. And is quite unpleasant but not uncommon among my peers.

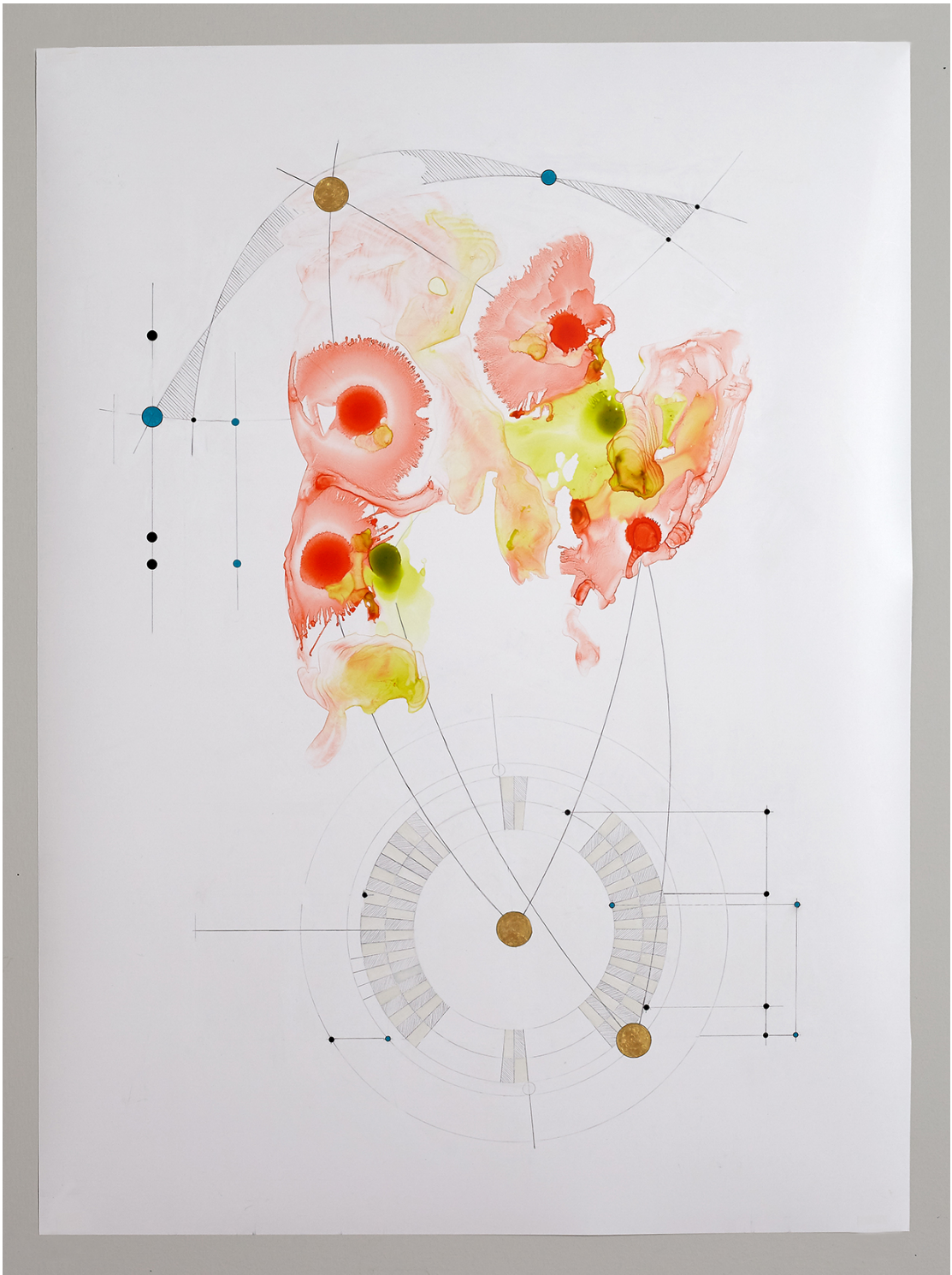
Do you have any events or exhibitions coming up? Where would one go to see more of your work? How can people support you and your artwork?

From May 4-26, 2018, I have a solo exhibition at Arts Worcester in Worcester, MA. Bits and pieces of my work are exhibited in galleries around the country but primarily in New England. I keep a pretty current website, carriecrane.com with images of new work and exhibition schedules. I can be followed on Instagram at [carrie_crane_art](https://www.instagram.com/carrie_crane_art), where you may see who knows what. I would love people to look at my work wherever they can and share it with those they think might be interested.

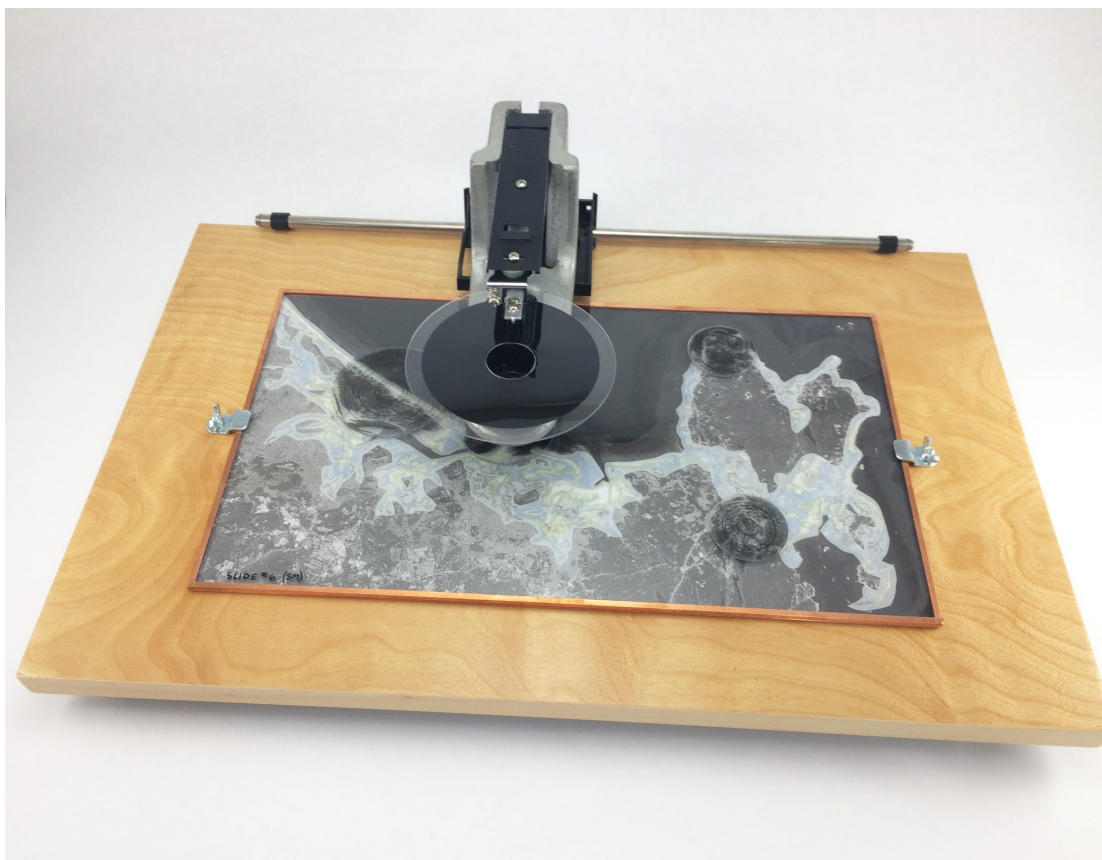
Contact Info:

- **Website:** www.carriecrane.com
- **Instagram:** [carrie_crane_art](https://www.instagram.com/carrie_crane_art)









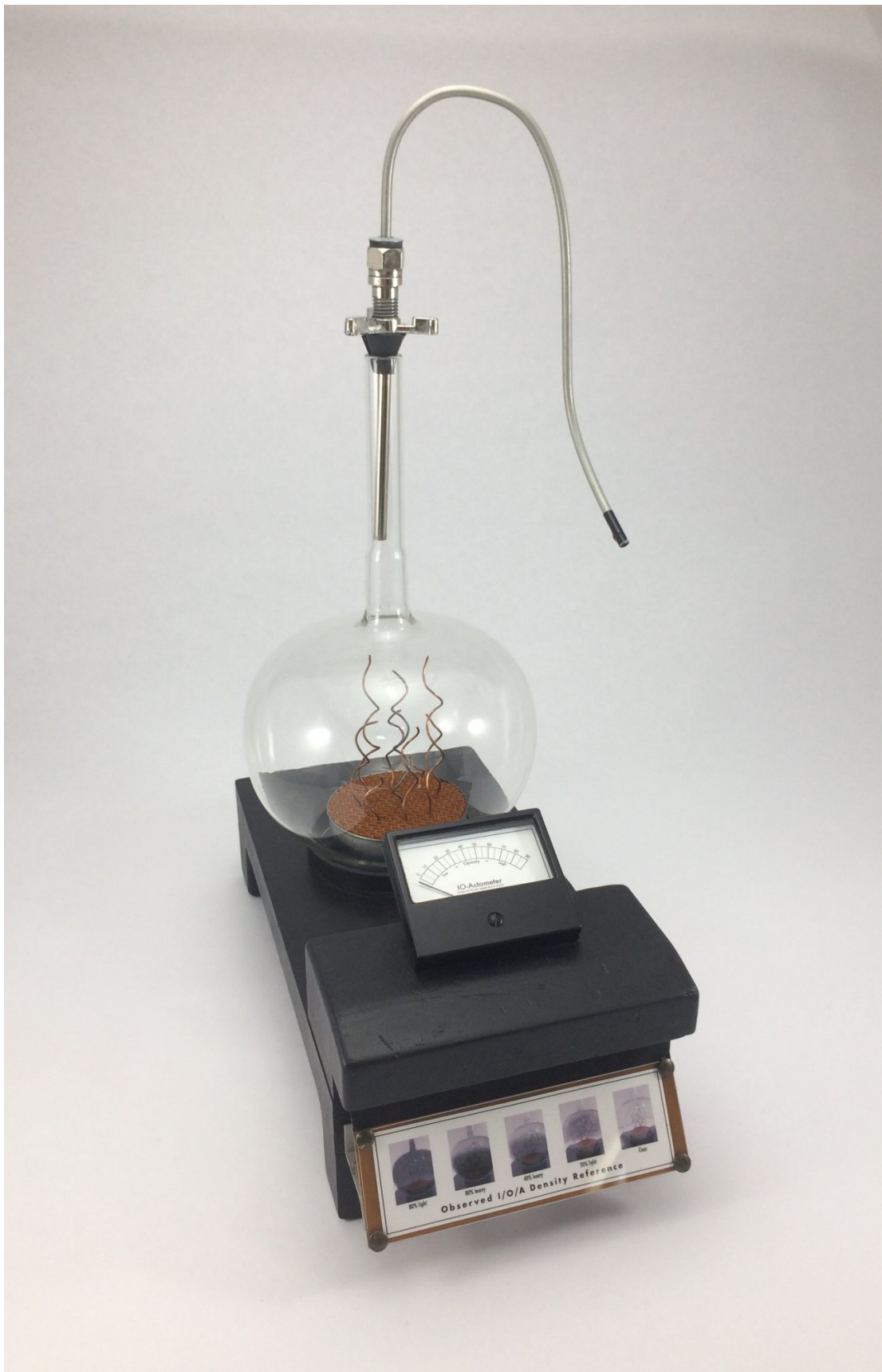




Image Credit:

Cody Burgess and Carrie Crane

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