

Shae Nadine || SubtleFlux
aka Shana Nadine Ehrlich

shae@subtleflux.nyc || +1 212.366.1586
subtleflux.nyc || @SubtleFlux

ARTISTS STATEMENT

I grapple with all that brings us together and pulls us apart in our dichotic, fractured world – informed by all that is natural, even while primarily surrounded by unnatural greyscapes, hazards of city life. Hyper-attention to details, animacy, textures, and tones lays bare the pervasiveness of decay and renewal seen from the veins in leaves to those beneath our skin. All ‘inter-is’, we ‘inter-are’. Universal truths inform us, though we layer our stories atop them, muddying waters of collective understanding.

I am a multidisciplinary social practice bio/sci artist who focuses on the interconnectedness and symbiotic relationship of humanity and nature. My work is composed of environmentally conscious material explorations, photography, and installations.

Inspired by principles of material-driven design, I grow, fabricate, and use organic materials which include mycelium, SCOBY (symbiotic culture of bacteria and yeast), and bio-plastics. Similarly, I have utilized the structure and dynamics of growing algae and slime mold as a vehicle for understanding life systems at multiple scales and across species. I find the similarity between the forms of microscopic slime mold and macroscopic fan coral, branching structures of human vascularization, root systems, and mycelial networks, to be breathtaking vehicles that pique curiosities.

My practice draws inspiration from historical naturalists, humanists, lived experience, and Eastern philosophies. Through immersive experiential installations, printmaking, textile, drawing, and microscopy, I explore our role in the world and the relationship between oneness and antithetical feelings of intimacy/universality, healing/loss, epiphany/dread, accountability/apathy, and humanity/nature. I am guided by the interdependence of all things, as articulated in commentaries on the *Prajñāpāramitā* (*Heart Sutra*) by Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh. Whose work I have explored through decades of insight meditation practice which includes many cumulative months spent in silence. Neurons to nebulae, interference patterns on water, in sand, the clouds – all are connected by a single thread, a balanced equation. One pull at this thread unravels all. It is this tension between connectedness and interdependence that fuels my creative mantle.

A key aspect of my work utilizes microscopy which draws one into the unseen ‘*microVerse*’ of delicate microorganisms, cautioning voyeurs that our future follows the fate of these early sentinels of environmental decline. (e.g., hibernation tolerances of North Star Corals and rising sea temperatures). Currently on view is a public arts exhibition that I curated in Chicago titled, *Veritas Magnus vis Microscopia*. This invitational exhibition includes work from 15 artists and scientists representing 5 continents and draws inspiration from the *Magna Morali*, an ancient treatise on ethics attributed to Aristotle. This text serves as a cornerstone for our understanding of truths and morality throughout history. This projected installation lights up the windows of an empty commercial building nightly. I believe public arts are an optimal vehicle to combat climate change through allure and awareness. To this end I avoid a clinical, matter-of-fact application of bio/sci arts, and rely on a strategy of immersion, playfulness and beauty to disguise my activism, to disarm, to increase the susceptibility to messages that penetrate ingrained beliefs and defense mechanisms.