

Artist's Statement

Paradoxes in Place-Based Curriculum Informed by Metaphor

How can we teach students about the changing landscape while instilling hope and a sense of responsibility to and for the natural world? Using the arts to explore outdoor education, students experience an intimate learning experience; metaphor in art offers a deeper way to understand nature. Metaphor can replace language by visually representing many different facets of an experience through knowing, feeling, imagination, and insight. Offering metaphorical comparisons using self-identity and tidal pool observations provides students with the opportunity to look deeper into a life form, to study it, to learn of its place in the eco-system, and its role in Haida culture. When students spend time in nature and respond through artistic expression, relationship building takes place. Relationship building creates a “caring for” and “responsibility to” the natural world.