

Suzanne Simard

Renowned forest ecologist Suzanne Simard has spent decades uncovering the complexities of the “wood wide web”—the intricate system of fungal networks that connect trees and facilitate communication and resource sharing in forests. She was the first to find evidence of such “talk” while researching her doctoral thesis over two decades ago.

Simard hasn't strayed from her course. A professor of forest ecology at the University of British Columbia, Simard continues to further her research on how trees speak to one another, challenging traditional views of competition and cooperation among trees. Her work has led to the understanding that forests have what are called hub trees, or “Mother Trees.” These trees are large and highly connected and play a crucial role in how the forest system receives and sends information and resources. Now, with the Mother Tree Project, Simard is investigating how these complex relationships play into the resiliency of a forest, as well as its adaptability and recovery. The answers she finds can help shape how we manage and support forests in the wake of human and climate change impacts.

Simard’s work has influenced many—inspiring Richard Powers’ *The Overstory* and Peter Wohlleben’s *The Hidden Life of Trees*—and has reached as far as Hollywood, sparking the creativity behind the Tree of Souls in James Cameron’s *Avatar*. Throughout her tenure, she has published more than 200 peerreviewed articles, has been featured in a variety of interviews and documentaries, and presented a TED talk that has surpassed 10 million views.



ABOUT THE ARTIST | Linda Snay

Linda Snay is a watercolor artist living in Leominster, MA. Her work primarily reflects on the connection of human experience and nature and inspires a reverent reflection on the land and the way in which it touches the spirit of the artist. Working mainly in watercolor, she is inspired by the mountains and vistas of New England, and the serenity and clarity nature provides. Learning fiber crafts alongside female family members at a young age, the technique of embroidery on watercolor paintings became a natural step toward uniting art and craft into her work. Snay was born in Connecticut and has always been drawn to the world of art. She is a graduate of Eastern Connecticut State University with a BA, double major in Studio Art and Art History. After moving to Massachusetts, her career led to positions in education in museums and art centers, including her current role as a Teaching Artist and Teacher Naturalist at New England Botanic Garden.

Spanish translation coming soon.