

Kelda Martensen

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Kelda Martensen uses strong concepts, shapes, and colors to build iconic images. She has a BA in Studio Art from Willamette University and a MFA from Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis. Kelda has established herself in the local arts community and is currently full-time tenure-track faculty at North Seattle Community College. In addition to her Tacoma Murals, Martensen has completed murals in Japan and Berlin and has developed curriculum on the creation and logistics of mural art. Martensen maintains a studio practice focused in the paper and print arts and has exhibited her work in numerous solo and group shows both regionally and nationally.

Murals completed in Tacoma Murals Project



310 E. 43rd Street

Lead artists: Chris Sharp, Kelda Martensen. Participating artists: Kate Cendejas, Brian Hutcheson, David Long, Mary McFarland, Laura Ospital, Chelsea O'Sullivan, Natalie Oswald, Yvette Simone, Janice Lee Warren



S. 84th Street & S. Park Avenue
Lead artist: Kelda Martensen. Participating artists: Dionne Bonner, Brad Pugh

This bright mural has put the Fern Hill district on the map. Reading from left to right, it has the look of a vintage postcard, then slowly pixelates into an abstract design. From start to finish, the 89' 5" x 25' mural took one month of hard work by a team of 3 artists to complete. When the artist team started painting the mural, many local residents were skeptical of the bright blue foundation coat, but after it began to take shape, drivers would honk their horns, give a thumbs-up, and say, "Good job!" to the muralists.

This building used to have peeling gray and forest green paint with fading lettering on the side. Char, part owner of the Foam & Fabric building on which the mural is sited said, "New customers have been able to find our store and the mural has been great for business. It is not only a beautiful mural, but a landmark for Fern Hill."

A Sampling of Additional Artwork Created by Kelda Martensen



Togiak, 2009
Woodblock, graphite, collage, 36" x 42"



We Sleep in a New Boat, 2008
Woodblock, digital print, monotype, collage, 33 X 37"



Entering Maputo, 2008
Woodblock, collagraph, digital print, collage, 58 X 72"



Escape from Cape Town, 2008
Woodblock, collagraph, digital print, collage, 58