

Traces

An Exhibition Featuring Artwork by
Women's Eco Artists Dialog
The Village Theatre Art Gallery
January 14-March 12, 2021



The Salton Sea and Species Collapse: Why is the Salton Sea so toxic?

The Alamo River carries runoff from nearby farms in the Coachella Valley into the Salton Sea. That runoff has filled the lakebed with decades worth of pesticides including banned chemicals like DDT, as well as nitrates from fertilizer, raising the lake's salinity higher than that of the Pacific Ocean causing massive fish and migrating bird die offs. When I encountered this graveyard of sun bleached dead fish I wanted to create my own "trophy fish" as a way of honoring the creatures who were struggling to stay alive in a toxic brew of high salinity and manmade chemicals. I made my first dead animal assemblage around the age of 10. I was inspired to make it after witnessing a small fish take its last breath. Too small to eat, it was laid on the seawall. No one saw me tuck it into my pocket and take it back into the dark and dank laundry room, which served as my lab and first studio. I have continued to gather and preserve and come to think of this as a calling. This is my antidote for a culture of hit and run.

- Deb Gorman