

Geo-ARTists

Rice Earth Science is known for its outstanding research scientists... but other talents are also hidden within the department offices.

Lexi Malouta and Nur Schuba show us their gift for creative expression



Lexi, Spain



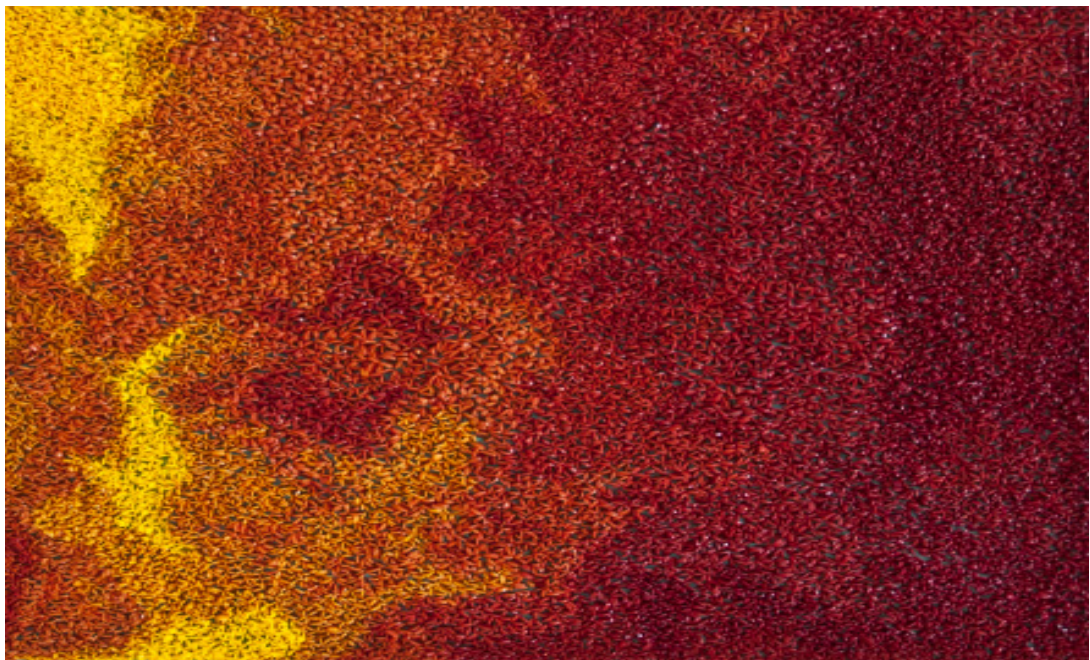
Geode and Cracks, from PAINTINGS

Lexi is a 2nd year Masters student studying serpentinites and peridotites in collisional and subduction zones. Here she gives us a glimpse into the synergies between art and geology.

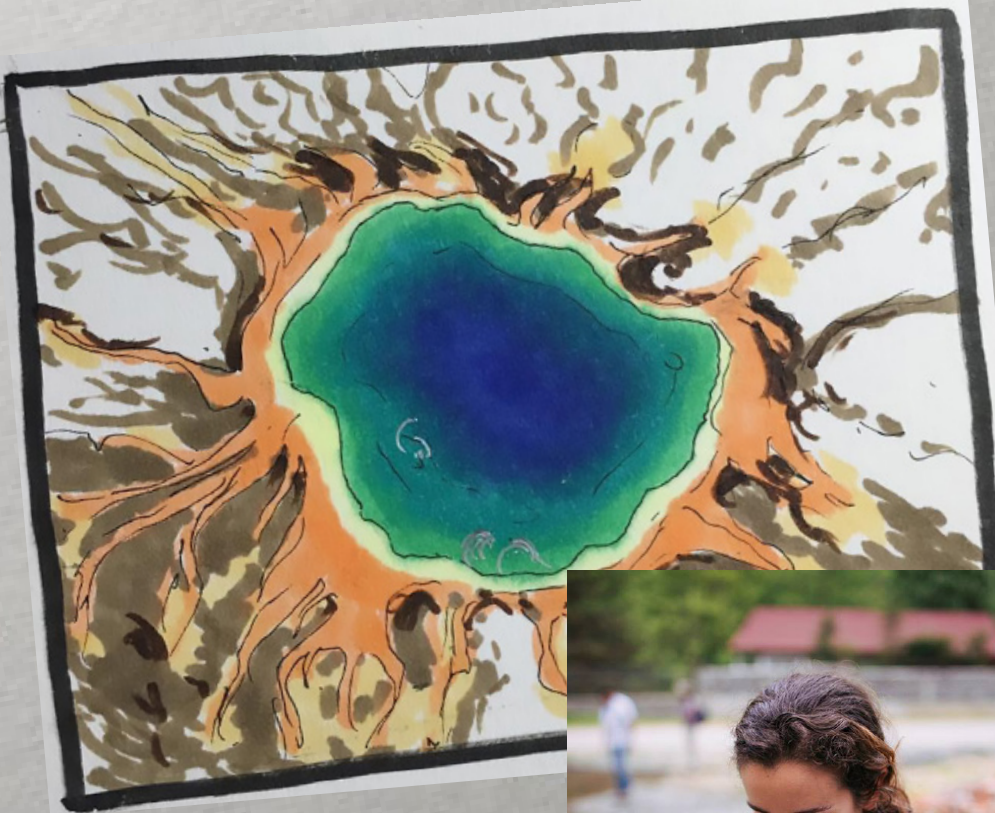
I've always been fascinated by the physicality of the natural world; gravity kneading apart spiraling galaxies, violently pressurized volcanic explosions, flowing rivers and glaciers carving new landscapes, sudden cracking of continents or supple bending of hot rocks. These phenomena inspired me to emulate these processes using acrylic paint for my senior thesis exhibition, PAINTINGS, which was on display in April 2012 in the Zilkha Gallery at Wesleyan University, CT. Each piece's final form was determined largely by process, rather than aesthetic, which gave my art an objective, scientific quality while maintaining visual mystery. Geologic inspiration took my creativity to places I would have never otherwise explored, and in turn, I began to deeply research geologic topics that informed my art. Being in Rice's dynamic environment has inspired my future work; in seminars, classes, and field trips, as I learn about new processes and methods, I make notes of new painting ideas. Even common natural occurrences, when seen in a new light, can be inspiring.



Veins, from PAINTINGS



Barite, from PAINTINGS



Nur Schuba is a second year PhD candidate who recently submitted a paper titled “New-characterization of the S-reflector from Galicia Margin, offshore Spain.”

In her free time she uses marker and pen to capture the beauty of geology and nature on paper.

