

**Rhoads 01 seeking green, plastic bottles for upcoming mega installation in Seattle**

7/21/15



Alumnus Wil Wakely, AU Class of 1952, who has maintained contact with glass artist Kait Rhoads, AU Class of 2001, since taking the glass art up in his retirement, sent along news of Kait's need for plastic green bottles for her upcoming public art piece slated to be installed in the center of Seattle, WA September 2015-January 2016.

Kait notes: "I am working on a temporary public art piece called 'Wandering Diatoms' that will be placed in two trees in the Seattle Center .... I am hoping to promote ocean ecology by creating an incongruous sight. Microalgae transformed into megaflora and lodged in tree branches. Five corkscrew forms made of modified recycled green bottles over metal rod hanging in two oak trees during fall the leaves will turn and fall off in winter, revealing the sculptures fully. To make this work I NEED YOUR HELP! I am looking for donations of green plastic bottles (until Friday, Aug. 7) from the Seattle area to complete the piece... If you have bottles (all kinds and sizes) please contact me and I will come by to get them from you. Much Thanks! Kait - [kait@kaitrhoads.com](mailto:kait@kaitrhoads.com)"

The Seattle Office of Art & Culture has awarded Kait a temporary art activation grant to create the mega-size chain diatoms. She has described the "Wandering Diatoms" in this way: "These scale morphed phytoplankton (planktos, the Greek word meaning wanderer or drifter) have appeared in the trees to remind us of their life sustaining powers of oxygen production, similar to the trees, but more ephemeral in their life span and sensitivity to environmental imbalance. As people walk past the work, they will look up and discover this incongruous sight of this microalgae out of the water.

"Five-foot long spiral forms made of modified plastic bottles mounted on a light metal framework bob in the breeze nestled within the branches of deciduous trees. As the leaves turn in the fall, the bright green of the bottles contrast with the background of yellow and orange leaves. As autumn progresses to winter, the enlarged chain diatoms are fully revealed as the leaves fall from the trees. Solar lights within the pieces will glow as it becomes dark.

Most recently, Kait's work appeared in "Parallel Frequencies" at AU's Cohen Gallery; in "Molten Magic" at the Saugatuck Center For The Arts, Saugatuck, MI; and in the Habatat Galleries 43<sup>rd</sup> International Glass Invitational Exhibition, Royal Oak, MI.

