

Emily Klaassen

Artist Statement

My background in silviculture shaped how I see the forest. As a surveyor, I recorded the plants growing beneath young trees—species that often go unnoticed, but play a vital role in forest health. Over time, I began to question how well data alone could capture their complexity, character, and ecological importance.

This series of linocut prints is my way of returning to those plants with fresh attention. Relief printmaking allows me to explore not just the form of each plant, but its relationship to the space around it—how it connects, supports, or quietly holds ground. The process invites slow, intentional choices, much like fieldwork.

Some prints are made on survey-style field paper, a reference to the work I used to do. Others are on archival paper, offering a cleaner presentation. I've used different printmaking approaches—like jigsaw and reduction—to reflect the unique nature of each species and how it interacts with its surroundings.

Ultimately, this show is about looking closer. These prints invite you to pause and consider the plants that often live in the margins—quiet, persistent, and essential to the life of the forest.

Biography

Emily Klaassen is a printmaker based in Smithers, BC. She holds a Fine Art + Design degree from Trinity Western University (2014), with a focus on relief printmaking.

Her work is rooted in her 14 years of experience in forestry, where close observation of understory plants and forest systems continues to inform her practice. Through print, Klaassen explores the ecological roles and quiet resilience of overlooked species, bridging scientific familiarity with visual interpretation.

Her prints have been exhibited both locally and internationally, including recent participation in the Art Print Residency in Arenys de Mar, Spain. She sees her practice as a way of paying attention—an act of connection between natural systems and visual storytelling.