

BRIDGETTE MAYER GALLERY

# Woods Hole Oceanographic INSTITUTION

NDSF NATIONAL  
DEEP SUBMERGENCE  
FACILITY



Humans in the Ocean 2:  
when HOV Alvin  
portholes meet the lens  
of art-2

November 30, 2018



Humans in the Ocean 1:  
when HOV Alvin  
portholes meet the lens  
of art-1

November 28, 2018

# Humans in the Ocean 1: when HOV Alvin portholes meet the lens of art-1

November 28, 2018

NDSF submersible and vehicle programs exist to be used in their traditional role to serve science, but they are also increasingly called to act in “non-traditional” capacities to satisfy human curiosity and cultivate broader human knowledge about the ocean.

[Rebecca Rutstein](#), currently sailing as an artist-at-sea on the *Atlantis* cruise AT42-05, is a visual artist who is inspired by geology, microbiology, and marine science. Rutstein is interested in connecting people to the deep ocean in order to forge a greater understanding of what’s at stake in the face of climate change, while also shedding light on places and processes hidden from view.

Rutstein met Prof. Mandy Joye in September 2017 at a [National Academies of Science Keck Future’s initiative workshop](#). They immediately connected by sharing passion for chemical and microbial process in the extremes of the deep ocean. Prior to joining the cruise on *Atlantis* this fall, Rebecca was awarded the Delta Visiting Chair for Global Understanding at the University of Georgia as well as a solo exhibition at the Georgia Museum of Art (“[Out of the Darkness](#),” which opened November 1). She has created a 22 foot-tall painting and a 64 foot-long interactive sculptural installation that incorporated Prof. Joye’s previous data and research from Guaymas Basin.

Rutstein had her first HOV *Alvin* dive during *Atlantis* cruise 42-03 in October and her second dive during the current cruise. “I hope to create a window into this world through visual experiences and more immersive, multi-sensory installations,” said Rutstein. “By engaging with the broader public through the lens of art, I hope to instill a sense of wonder of the deep ocean that can foster a dialogue about conservation and environmental stewardship.”

[HOV is operated by #NDSF\_WHOI. This cruise is supported by @NSF\_GEO]

Picture Copyright: Rebecca Rutstein

# Humans in the Ocean 2: when HOV Alvin portholes meet the lens of art-2

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[Rebecca Rutstein](#), a visual artist who has been inspired by deep sea processes, has set up her art studio in the main lab of R/V *Atlantis*, and painted several art works based on her experiences in #HOVAlvin.

As many before her have experienced, the view through *Alvin*'s porthole affected her deeply. "There is nothing quite like going down the bottom of the ocean and seeing with your own eyes the otherworldly view out the porthole," said Rutstein. "The view will be ingrained in my mind for years to come."

Rutstein set up her art studio in the main lab on R/V *Atlantis*, so that she could set aside events of the outside world and focus on details of the expedition. On canvases, she incorporated multibeam data from #AUV *Sentry* as well as temperature, oxydation reduction potential, and optical back-scatter anomalies.

For Rutstein, her time on the ship and in the sub have helped enhance the depth of experience that translates to more immersive and powerful art. "For any professional, the experience of going to the ocean floor in *Alvin* and seeing this hidden world can take you outside of yourself and bring a new perspective," she said.

Her exhibition "[Out of the Darkness](#)" at the Georgia Museum of Art is open until October 27th, 2019

This cruise is funded by @NSF\_GEO