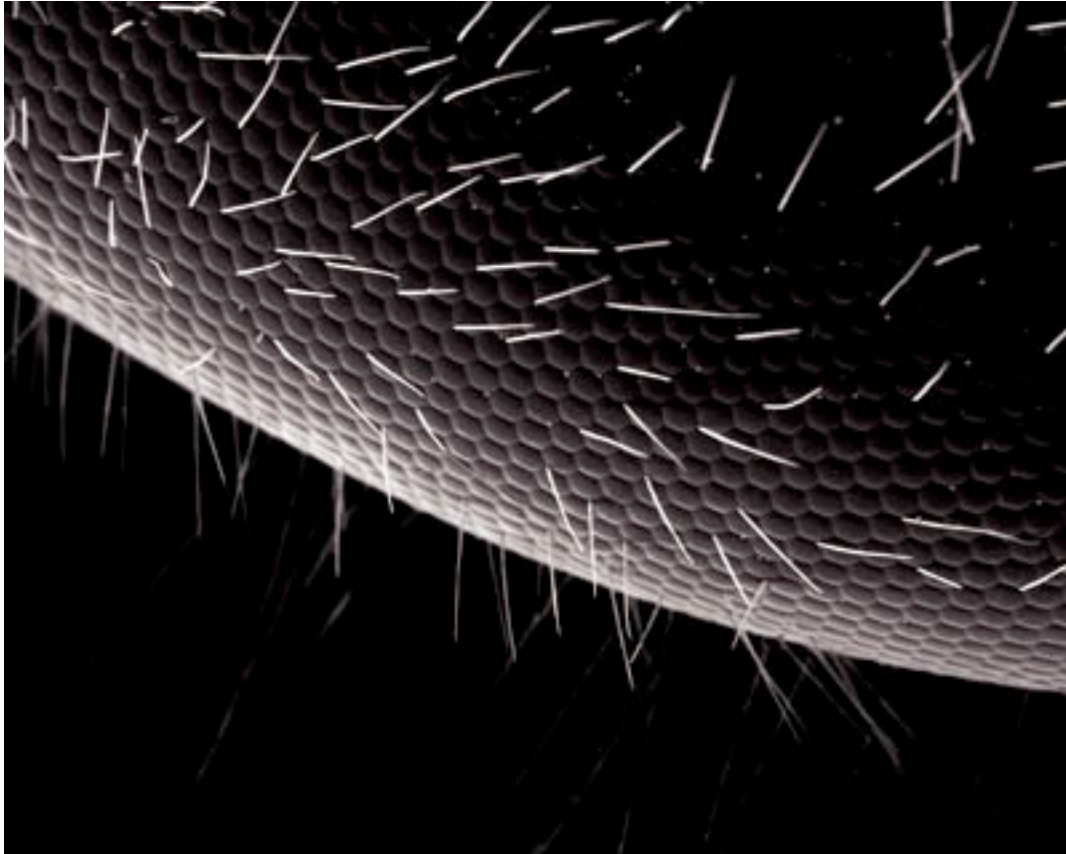


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Hometown News

Artist works skill to find hidden connections

By Greg Harman
Staff writer



MELBOURNE - Some in the modern artistic world blame some of today's troubles with a disconnection with our own nature.

A new exhibition named "Doggedly BEEyond," is scheduled to open in Melbourne this week. The show is woven with one artist's intent to show hidden clues that may hold the mystery of what binds together all living things.

Rose-Lynn Fisher, whose exhibit will open next week at the Brevard Museum of Art and Science, has been on a quiet quest for about 20 years looking for clues connecting mankind and the environment.

Ms. Fisher, a long-time resident of Los Angeles, California, began her art

education at the age of nine.

"I've known for most of my life that I wanted to be an artist," she said. "My parents encouraged me to go to college and explore other interests. They wanted to make sure that if art didn't work out for me, that I would have a fallback job. They had heard the term 'starving artist.'"

While in college, Ms. Fisher learned computer programming while she finished her bachelor's degree in fine art.

After graduation, she found work with computers unfulfilling. "When I hit my 30th birthday, I took a step back and reflected on what I should do with my life," she said. "I felt that if you get stuck working at your fallback job and not chasing your dreams, that that is exactly what you are doing: Falling back. I thought to myself, 'If I don't follow my dreams now, when will I?'"

She decided to make the leap into being a full-time artist.

"With art, you put your whole heart and soul into your work," Ms. Fisher said. "When your work goes out and is well received, it's like completing a circuit."

In her early years, her art was based on collage and mixed media painting.

About 10 years ago, she shifted gears and began concentrating more on photography.

She soon began examining bees using an electron microscope.

"I remember when I first took an image of a bee's eye, I was amazed," Ms. Fisher said. "I saw that the ridges on the eye were shaped like hexagons. The shape was just like the honeycombs they create."

That revelation caused her to look for other connections that exist in nature not visible to the naked eye.

"It fascinated me," she said. "Looking at life in that way kind of completed the circuit for me. I saw the bee's eye as a kind of metaphor about what underlies form and function. Maybe what we do and how we exist are linked at a fundamental, invisible level."

Her passion for digital photography of microscopic images of bees will be a focus of her new exhibition.

"About half the show will be these pictures taken with high-tech photography equipment and the other half will be whimsical pictures of my dog, Douglas.

He sort of has the alias of a bee," Ms. Fisher said.

Douglas, a terrier that she adopted from a rescue organization five years ago, has become a part of her art working.

She said her exhibit will be very family-friendly.

"I hope my photo illustrations of my dog attract younger people to the exhibit who love animals," she said. "I want the dog to be a kind of mascot for kids to become curious about the bee. Hopefully, it will make children curious about the world around them. I hope kids will search for hidden connections in their lives."

She hopes that understanding the bee helps children pay more attention to nature. "Many bee environments are in trouble. We need to appreciate how important bees are to our own sustenance, and take care of them," Ms. Fisher said. "I hope they begin to see we are all in this world together."

Ms. Fisher's exhibit, entitled "Doggedly BEEyond", will be on display May 27 through July 23 at the Brevard Museum of Art and Science at 1463 Highland Ave., Melbourne.

On June 3, Ms. Fisher will be in Melbourne for the official opening of the exhibit with ceremonies that begin at 10 a.m. Celebrations at the event will feature a dog parade, a costume contest and fun day.

The festival also includes concessions, games, and an awards program for winning competitors in the dog parade.

For questions or additional information, contact the museum at (321) 242-0737.