

Adapted line drawing of A Symphony of Nature | Robin Chlad

ROBIN CHLAD

A Symphony of Nature

handmade mosaic and three dimensional tile

From the TOHONO CHUL exhibition

Pollen Path

"**A Symphony of Nature** is inspired by the octopus agave cacti. This particular agave has wild untamed leaves that seem to reach out in all directions. The flower stalk is amazing to watch grow from the center of the plant. From a distance, it appears fuzzy, yellow and green. Up close, you can see the pollen in all its glory and the sweet smell that attracts many pollinators like ones seen here: bees, butterflies, birds, hummingbirds and moths. Under a microscope, the pollen are like teeny tiny flowers floating in the air surrounding all those flying creatures. It is a symphony of nature."

Robin Chlad has been an artist all her life with a focus on ceramics in all forms. Originally from upstate New York, she has lived in Tucson since 1986. She attended Pima Community College in 1987 and started her ceramic design business in 1989 calling it Art & Clay Designs. She started out in the wholesale sector with a product that catapulted her into not only an artist but a businesswoman as well. As she developed a flair for marketable clay products, she began to fill custom orders for fun functional pottery, tile mosaics, sculpture and unique ornaments.

Robin's work is referred to as contemporary folk art with a lean toward southwest. Her work is playful, bright, bold and well executed. Her collectors recognize the quality and craftsmanship she puts into each one of her art pieces. Her inspiration comes from God, nature, and the southwest culture in which she lives.

She combines her talents and experience to share with homeless women at the Gospel Rescue Mission. Volunteering monthly, Robin, in her own way, gives respite to the ladies and finds it very rewarding

To learn more about Robin and her work, visit <https://robinchladdesigns.com/>



Adapted line drawing of Cholla in the Clear Light from the Cholla Studies Series | Sharon Nemirov

SHARON NEMIROV

Cholla in the Clear Light from the Cholla Studies Series

fabric, markers, paint and thread

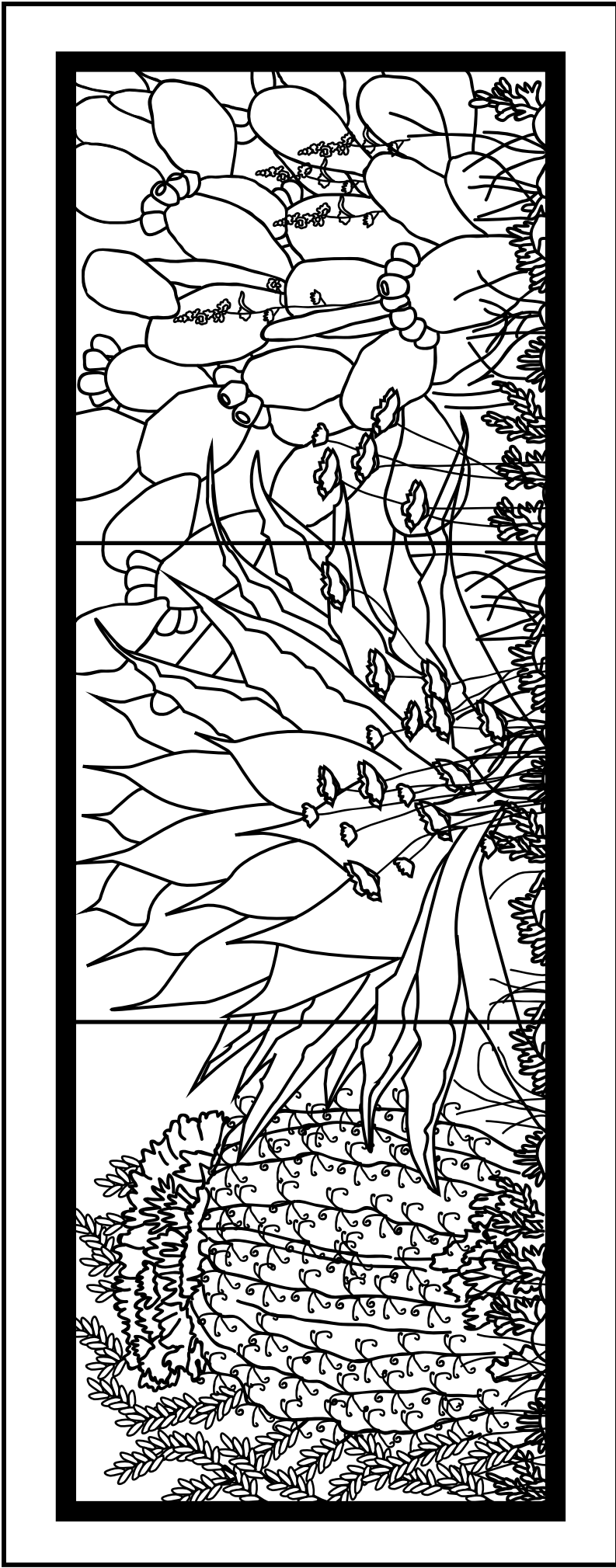
From the TOHONO CHUL exhibition

On the Desert - An Exploration of Fibers

"The ubiquitous, yet mysterious *Opuntia* species, commonly known as the cholla, is fascinating with its highly sculptural and complex form and its varied colorations. Knowing I wanted to use the plant as the subject in my fiber art, I began exploring the various ways to depict it in an intriguing way. Starting with a piece of plain white woven cotton, in this work my aim was to combine drawing, painting and stitching, along with some supporting role fabrics (small scraps under netting), to create this mostly realistic image. I created an interesting contrast between the depiction of the smooth, light-reflecting outer skin of the cactus and the soft texture of the felt fabric on the outside frame. I like to imagine that basking in the clear light of an early spring day, this cholla enjoys what is likely one of the last of winter's cool days for many months to come. This Cholla Study Series has been an exploration of fiber art techniques of this curious plant and of our Sonoran Desert environs."

"My inspiration springs from observing the natural world and my intent is to create works of art that will captivate and enrich. After many years making studio pottery, I left the tactile realm of ceramics to explore that of textiles. Fiber art, like pottery, also includes a reference to function (i.e. clothing, bed quilts), yet my aim is to create works in a purely visual fine art role. Using cloth and thread, color and texture, I share my fascination with the landscape and the milieu of plant forms. I especially have an affinity for leaves of all kinds.

Like all representational art, I believe there is a dual advantage, one is the highlighting of the subject matter; the other is to delight, intrigue and inspire with the techniques, craftsmanship and materials themselves. My materials include new and used (recycled) textiles of all types and fiber content (including a large collection of men's silk neckties), my own hand dye-painted fabric, including plain and over-dyed commercial fabric, my photography printed on cotton or silk, all types of threads, trims, yarns, laces, vintage linens, textile paints, markers, and more. As I am also actively painting en plein aire with watercolors, I work to merge the two mediums by drawing and painting directly on the fabric from life. Creating art to embellish our surroundings satisfies my compelling need to design and construct, to make a tactile commemoration of the visually beguiling world around us."



Adapted line drawing of Desert Nectar | Susan Libby

SUSAN LIBBY

Desert Nectar

acrylic on canvas

From the TOHONO CHUL exhibition

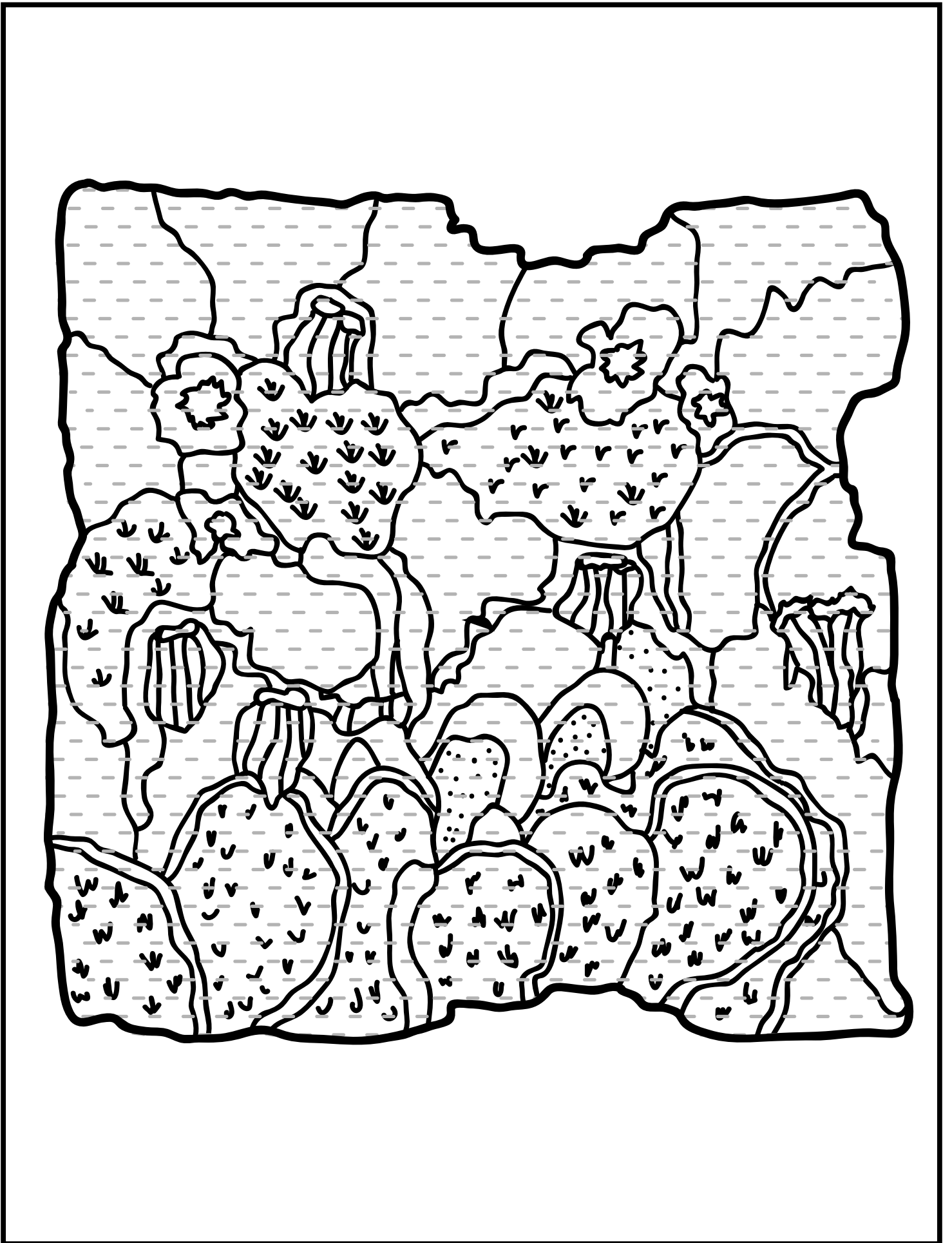
Pollen Path

"Amidst the desert hills in springtime flow the floral fragrance of cacti, flowers and grasses. This spicy and poignant aroma is the exquisite pollen, a delicacy, which is savored by the industrious pollen gatherers. They flit and fly from one delightful scent to another, creating a diverse and integral pollen path, each plant and gatherer necessary and dependent on one another for the deserts survival."

Susan's artwork encompasses vivid and clear colors, reflecting the various tones and spontaneity of nature. Inspired by wildlife and the outdoors, her paintings portray gentle and often humorous images. Her work includes traditional watercolors, as well as bright, vivid images with acrylic on wrap canvas, which have a style of their own! As an illustrator for many years, her love of depicting the natural world shows in her paintings. A large variety of prints are also available.

Having participated in numerous gallery, juried, and private shows around the country, Susan's vibrant artwork has a strong and steady following. After living in Wyoming and Colorado, and fifteen years in New England, she is a native of southern Arizona and lives in Tucson.

To learn more about Susan and her work, visit <http://www.susanlibbyart.com/>



Adapted line drawing of Prickly Pear Patch | Tamara Scott-Anderson

TAMARA SCOTT-ANDERSON

Prickly Pear Patch

fabric, beads and thread

From the TOHONO CHUL exhibition

Pollen Path

"In **Prickly Pear Patch**, the use of beads and embroidery stitches give the visual and three-dimensional spiny texture to the desert plant.

An individual flower of a prickly pear is only in bloom for about 12 hours; however, flowering does not occur all at once. The plants flower for several weeks. A variety of bees feed on pollen and nectar; they climb out from the stamens and up to the stigma where they take off, leaving the flower and depositing pollen as they go. Because the bees are visiting numerous flowers in a single flight and the flowers they visit are protandrous, pollen can be transferred from one flower to another and self-pollination can be avoided."

Based in Tucson, AZ, Tamara Scott Anderson has been working as an artist for over 30 years. With contemplative intention, she brings together a blend of weaving, stitching and beading to create her unique 3-dimensional textile wall sculptures that include expressionistic desert landscapes, desert flowers and, most recently, the 'Street Pieces' series.

To learn more about Tamara and her work, visit <https://www.tamaraartist.com/>