

## Lin-Lin Mao Mollitor

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### Artist Bio

Lin-Lin Mao Mollitor is a Chinese-American artist who immigrated to the US with her parents when she was a young child. Lin-Lin learned paper-folding in Taiwan when she was a preschooler after being intrigued at how someone could fold a square sheet of paper into a gorilla or piano. She learned knitting and crocheting after arriving in the US. A latch-key child who was not allowed to play outside, she occupied her time indoors with these crafts, as well as with drawing, spirograph, and playing jacks.

In graduate school, Lin-Lin merged her love of painting with her training in computer science by creating, for her master's thesis project in 1985, a digital color paint program on an early IBM PC which allowed the user to craft paint brush patterns to paint with. This is a program she would like to recreate and use again on a computer. Her digital painting *Alfalfa* which she created with this program was selected by jury to be exhibited at SIGGRAPH 1985 Art Show.



*Alfalfa* by Lin-Lin Mao, 1985. Digital painting.

In 2016 with her husband's support and encouragement, and after raising two children, Lin-Lin went to art school in England and earned an MA in Fine Art. She and her husband currently live in Seattle where Lin-Lin practices art full-time.

2023 was a busy exhibition year for Lin-Lin. She had created around thirty mixed-media paintings in the previous year that addressed humans' place in nature. She exhibited some of this work with her father Bertrand Mao's traditional Chinese landscapes in three exhibitions on the east coast. Since traditional Chinese landscape paintings speak about humans' place in nature, her work complemented well with her father's. In June 2023, Mark Jenkins reviewed their work for the Washington Post, "In the galleries: Striking Chinese art by a father-daughter collaboration." In 2023, Lin-Lin's work was also selected for Seattle Art Post's *Art in Shops* program and was exhibited in various shops in Seattle throughout the year.



In February 2024, Lin-Lin completed a temporary art installation, *Be Like Lotus*, commissioned by the Seattle Office of Arts and Culture to activate a construction site for FLOW: Art Along the Ship Canal. It is on display on Shilshole Avenue in downtown Ballard till August 2024. She created five lotus flowers, each 5-feet in diameter by crocheting rope and folding origami animals. She chose lotus as the subject because in addition to the virtues that Asian cultures see in the plant, science has shown in recent decades that lotus cleans the water it lives in and contributes oxygen to its surroundings which help life thrive in its water. She created each lotus blossom by arranging origami-folded animals together to look like a flower. This represents the connectedness all life has to each other and life's dependency on clean water. The construction sites for FLOW are part of the Ship Canal Water Quality Project to reduce sewage entering the ship canal.