Michael Knutson

Born: Everett, Washington

Resides: Portland, Oregon

Contact: [knutsonm@reed.edu](mailto:knutsonm@reed.edu)

Education:

Yale University School of Art, MFA 1975

Yale Summer School of Music and Art, 1972

University of Washington, BFA, 1972, magna cum laude

Cascade High School, Everett, Washington, 1968

Teaching:

Reed College, Professor of Art, 1982 to present

Swarthmore College, Instructor and Assistant Professor, 1975 - 1982

Yale University School of Art, Teaching assistantships, 1974 - 1975

Artist visits and lectures:

Marylhurst University, 1983, 2001, 2005, 2006; Pacific Northwest College of Art, 1983, 1985; Whitman College, 1985; Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, 1985; Yale Summer

School of Music and Art, 1986; Willamette University, 1989; University of Oregon, 1989;

Brandeis University, 1992; Catlin Gabel School, 1993; Portland Art Museum, 1993, 2009;

Swarthmore College, 1995; Portland Community College, Sylvania, 2006; Lewis & Clark

College, 2006; Contemporary Arts Council (Portland Art Museum), 2006; Portland

Community College, Cascade, 2010; University of Washington, 2011

Fellowships and Major Awards:

American Academy of Arts & Letters Purchase Award, 2010

Betty Bowen Memorial Special Recognition Award, Seattle Art Museum, 1995

Oregon Biennial, Portland Art Museum, Juror's Awards in 1985, 1999

National Endowment for the Arts Individual Artist Grant, 1982

Alice Kimball English Traveling Fellowship, Yale University School of Art, 1975

Gallery representation:

Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

Greg Kucera Gallery, Seattle, Washington

Images on Websites:

Blackfish: [www.blackfish.com](http://www.blackfish.com)

Greg Kucera: www.gregkucera.com

Geoform: www.geoform.net

Reed College: <http://academic.reed.edu/art/faculty/knutson/>

Solo and Two-person Exhibitions:

2021

“Recollections,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon (back room show)

“Recent Watercolors,” Greg Kucera Gallery, Seattle,Washington

Michael Knutson and Carol Benson, Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

2019

“Floating Fields,” (with Carol Benson), Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

2018

“Split & Rotational Fields,” (with Carol Benson), Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

2017

“Symmetrical Fields,” Greg Kucera Gallery, Seattle, Washington

2016

“Three Recollections,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon (back room show),

“Recent Paintings & Monotypes,” (with Carol Benson), Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

2014

“Symmetrical Layered Lattices” (with Carol Benson), Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

2013

“Symmetrical Ovoid Fields,” Governor’s Office Gallery, Salem, Oregon

2012

“Layered Ovoid Lattices,” (with Carol Benson), Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

2011

“Layered Coils,” Greg Kucera Gallery, Seattle, Washington

2010

“Translucent Fields & Cubic Knots,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

2009

“Cascade Head Landscapes and Lawnchair Photos,” Blackfish Gallery (back room),

Portland, Oregon

2008

“Astral and Prismatic Fields,” Greg Kucera Gallery, Seattle, Washington

“Enfolding Fields,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

2006

“Recent Paintings and Watercolors,” Greg Kucera Gallery, Seattle, Washington

“Selected Representational Works,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

“Michael Knutson, Paintings and Drawings, 1981-2006,” presented in two parts, at

The Art Gym, Marylhurst University, Marylhurst, Oregon, and the Eric and Ronna B. Hoffman Gallery, Lewis & Clark College, Portland, Oregon

“Six Large Watercolors,” Kaul Auditorium, Reed College, Portland, Oregon

2004

“Recent Paintings,” Vollum Gallery, Reed College, Portland, Oregon

“Coiled Lattices,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

“Watercolors, 1996-2004,” Blackfish Gallery (back room), Portland, Oregon

2002

“Convoluted Coils,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

2001

“Michael Knutson and Carol Benson,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

1999

“Radiant Fields,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

1993

“Baby Block Variations,” Catlin Gabel School, Portland, Oregon

1989

“Reflective/Objective Fields,” Vollum Gallery, Reed College and Hallie Ford Gallery, Willamette University, Salem, Oregon

1985

“Recent Paintings,” Vollum Gallery, Reed College, Portland, Oregon

1982

“Recent Work,” Vollum Gallery, Reed College, Portland, Oregon

1976

“Paintings, Drawings & Collages,” Florence Wilcox Gallery, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

Group Exhibitions:

2021

IMPACTED, Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

“For the Love of Math!”, Suzanne Zahr Gallery, Mercer Island, Washington

2019

“Blackfish 40th Anniversary Show,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

2017

 “Liberal,” Kittredge Gallery, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington

“We the People,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon,” and Newport Art Center, Newport, Oregon

2016

“Green,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

“The Pull of Repetition”,” Northview Gallery, PCC(Sylvania), Portland, Oregon

“Transference,” Autzen Gallery, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon

2014

“Being Blackfish,” 35th Anniversary Exhibition, Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

“I-RON-IK,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

2013

“Rain,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

2012

“Oregon Artists- Bill Rhodes Collection”, Pence Gallery, Central Oregon Community College, Bend, Oregon

“Super Saturated: Pigment and Pattern,” Schweinfurth Memorial Art Center, Auburn, New York

“Under the Influence,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

2011

“Super Saturated: Pigment and Pattern,” Kenise Barnes Fine Art, Larchmont, New York

“The Horse,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

“Abstract Selections,” works from the RACC Portable Works Collection, Hatfield Hall (PCPA), Portland, Oregon

2010

“Drawings,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

“Invitational Exhibition of Visual Arts,” American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, New York

“Awards Exhibition,” American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, New York

“Geometric Themes and Variations,” Gallery 118, New York, New York

“Made in U.S.A.,” Greg Kucera Gallery, Seattle, Washington

2009

“Oregon Seen,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

“Blackfish Thirtieth Anniversary Show,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

“Geometrics II,” Gallery 118, New York, New York

2008

“The Pacifist Potential,” Carnegie Art Center, Walla Walla, Washington

“Digital Dimensions,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

“Twenty-fifth Anniversary Show,” Greg Kucera Gallery, Seattle, Washington

2007

“Unexpected Watercolors,” Lee Center Gallery, Seattle University, Seattle, Washington

“Blackfish Group Show,” Gallery 110, Seattle, Washington

“The Pacifist Potential,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

“Geometrics,” Gallery 118, New York, New York

“Blackfish exhibit,” Portland Center for the Performing Arts, Portland, Oregon

2006

“Blackfish at 55 Mercer,” 55 Mercer Gallery, New York, New York

“Self-portraits,” Clackamas Community College Gallery, Oregon City, Oregon

“Patchwork: Affinities & Influences,” Greg Kucera Gallery, Seattle, Washington

“Mythfest,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

2005

“Unexpected Watercolors,” The Art Gym, Marylhurst University, Marylhurst, Oregon

“Chroma,” Gallery 500, Portland, Oregon

“New Inventory,” Greg Kucera Gallery, Seattle, Washington

“Floats and Flowers,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

2003

“Draw” exhibit, Core Sample: Portland Art Now, Portland, Oregon

“Over the Couch,” and “Old and New,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

2001

“Exponential: 4 Huge Paintings,” The Art Gym, Marylhurst University, Marylhurst, Or.

“December Show,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

2000

“Paper Products,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

1999

“Breaking Down the Barriers,” Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, Santa

Ana, California, (Blackfish exchange exhibition)

“2 x 2 x 2000,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

1998

“Oregon Biennial,” Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon

“New Members Exhibition,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

1997

“Drawing Conclusions,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

"Abstraction", Flanders Lofts, Portland, Oregon

"Earth, Air, Water, Fire", Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

“Oregon Biennial,” Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon (juried)

1994

“Abstract Art in the Seattle Arts Commission Collection,” Seattle Center Pavilion, Seattle, Wa.

1993

“Crosscut,” Oregon Biennial, Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon (juried)

1991

“Abstract Painting,” Elizabeth Leach Gallery, Portland, Oregon

1990

“Creative Arts Community Silver Exhibition, ”Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

1989

“Bumbershoot,” Seattle Center, Seattle, Washington

“Creative Arts Community Faculty Exhibit,” Graystone Gallery, Portland, Oregon

1988

“Midsummer Night's Dream,” Blackfish Gallery, Portland, Oregon

“University of Washington Alumni Exhibition Part Three, 1975-85”, Safeco

Plaza Gallery, Seattle, Washington

1987

“Art is the Center,” Portland Center for the Visual Arts, Portland, Oregon

1986

“Faculty and Visiting Artist Show,” Ellen Battelle Stoeckel Gallery, Yale Summer School,

Norfolk, Connecticut

1985

“Painted Structures,” Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

“Portland Painting Now,” The Art Gym, Marylhurst University, Marylhurst, Oregon

“Oregon Biennial,” Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon (juried)

“Washington-Oregon Exhibition,” Maryhill Museum of Art, Goldendale, Washington (juried)

“SIZE,” Bumbershoot, Seattle Center, Seattle, Washington

1983

“Hascall, Knutson, Rey,” The Art Gym, Marylhurst University, Marylhurst, Oregon

and at 213 First Avenue South, Seattle, Washington

“Salon des Refusés,” Symbol/Form/Gesture exhibition, Belltown Cafe, Seattle, Wa.

“Re-Critical Modernism,” Bumbershoot, Seattle Center, Seattle, Washington

1981

“Tradition and Innovation,” Alfred O.DeShong Museum, Widener University, Chester, Pa.

Butcher More Gallery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

“Rutgers National Drawing Exhibition,” Rutgers The State University of New Jersey, Stedman

Art Gallery, Camden, New Jersey and University Art Gallery, New Brunswick, New Jersey

1979

# “Kit-Yin Tieng Snyder and Michael Knutson,” Florence Wilcox Gallery and Lang Music Building, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

“Rutgers National Drawing Exhibition,” Rutgers The State University of New Jersey, Stedman Art Gallery, Camden, New Jersey and University Art Gallery, New Brunswick,

New Jersey

1977

# “Faculty Show,” Florence Wilcox Gallery, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa.

1975

“Michael Knutson and Louisa Chase,” Graduate Thesis Exhibit, Yale Art Building Gallery

1974

“New Generation Drawing,” Cheney Cowles Museum, Spokane, Washington (traveling to museums in Western states, 1974 – 1976)

“Bumbershoot,” Seattle Center, Seattle, Washington

“Northwest Watercolor Society Annual”, Seattle Art Museum Pavilion (juried)

1973

“Northwest Annual,” Seattle Art Museum Pavilion, Seattle, Washington (juried)

“Tacoma Art Museum Biennial,” Tacoma, Washington (juried)

“Bumbershoot,” Seattle Center, Seattle, Washington

“Renton Arts Festival,” Renton, Washington (juried, Painting first prize)

“Edmonds Art Festival,” Edmonds, Washington (juried, Drawing first prize)

“Group Show,” Art Louie Gallery, Seattle, Washington

“Everett Arts Festival,” Everett, Washington (juried, Purchase prize)

1972

“Northwest Watercolor Society Annual,” Seattle Art Museum Pavilion , Seattle, Washington

“Drawing Invitational, ”Western Washington State Fair, Puyallup, Washington

1971

“Anacortes Arts Festival,” Anacortes, Washington (juried, Drawing first prize)

“Group Show,” Main Street Gallery, Seattle, Washington

1968

“National Scholastic Art Award Exhibition,” Frye Art Museum, Seattle, Washington

Art-related Professional Activities:

Spring 2014, Cover illustration of *Insights*, the Faculty Journal of Austin Seminary.

2014, Organizer and moderator of the panel discussion on the occasion of Blackfish’s 35th anniversary and the 75th anniversary of “Avant-garde and Kitsch.” Past and present local art

critics discuss works that have challenged their aesthetics.

## 2013, “Thirty Blackfish Limericks,” A small chapbook of doggerel produced for the 35th

## anniversary of Blackfish Gallery.

## 2009, “Two paintings by Bob.” an essay in the Robert Dozono catalog.

## 2008, Introduction to the catalog for the David Reed exhibit at the Cooley Gallery, Reed

## College

## 2008, “A phenomenon like Nick.” an essay in the catalog, “The Art of Nick Benson.”

## 2007, Thirty-two skeleton drawings reproduced in the *Northwest Review*, the literary journal

## of the University of Oregon (Winter 2007 issue).

1997 Co-curated and wrote the catalog essay for “Robert Morris, 1963-1992”, Douglas F.

Cooley Memorial Art Gallery, Reed College1994, Hillsboro Light Rail Extension Art

Advisory Committee.

1992-1998, West Side Light Rail Advisory Committee.

1986-90, Board member, Creative Arts Community,

1983, “On Elizabeth Murray.” the brochure essay for the exhibit “Elizabeth Murray, Recent

Paintings & Drawings,” Portland Center for the Visual Arts

1982-1986, Exhibition Committee, Portland Center for the Visual Arts.

1978 contributed to a collaborative artists' book,"80 PAGES/LINE", New York City.

## 1976-1982, Exhibition Coordinator, Florence Wilcox Gallery, Swarthmore College.

Curated and installed over 35 solo and group exhibits of works by such artists as Ilya Bolotowsky, Joan Brown, Louisa Chase, Leon Golub, Alex Katz, Joyce Kozloff, Jacob Lawrence, Duane

Michals, Robert Morris, Robert Motherwell, Esther Parada, Jody Pinto, Leo Rubenfein, Charles Simmonds, Michael Spafford, Michael Spano, Nancy Spero, Roger Tibbetts, and George Trakas.

Bibliography:

Allan, Lois. “Grids that Attract and Tease.” *Artweek*, March 3, 1989.

—. “Michael Knutson at Blackfish Gallery.” *Artweek*, February-March 2003.

Beechem, Stephanie, “Knutson’s kaleidoscope coils impact eye and psyche,” *the Pioneer Log*

(Lewis &Clark College), November 10, 2006

Bruce, Chris. “Painted Structures.” Exhibition catalogue. Seattle, Washington: Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, 1985.

Coleman, Patrick. “Chroma.” *The Daily Vanguard*, Portland State University, February 9, 2005.

Cotter, Holland. “GeoMetrics.” *The New York Times,* December 7, 2007.

Edmunds, Kristy, Roberts, Prudence, Toedtemeier, Terry, Weber, John. *Crosscut. Contemporary*

*Art from Oregon*, Exhibition catalog. Portland, Oregon: Portland Art Museum, 1993.

Glowen, Ron. “Sculpture is artist’s canvas.” *Everett Herald*, July 18, 1985.

—. “Color as structure.” *Artweek*, 1985

—. “A region examined.” *Artweek*, November 16, 1985.

Goetze, Janet.“Different strokes.” *The Oregonian*, January 6, 2005.

—. “A show of extraordinary proportions.” *The Oregonian*, January 4, 2001

Gragg, Randy. “Cornering variations on an abstract theme.” *The Oregonian*, February 5, 1993.

—. “State of the Art.” *The Oregonian*, July 18, 1993.

Gragg, Randy and Taylor, Sue. “Oregon Biennial, two views.” *The Oregonian*, July 4, 1999.

*2x2x2000*. Blackfish Gallery 1979 – 1999 exhibition catalog. Portland, Oregon: Blackfish Gallery, 1999.

Graves, Jenn. “Michael Knutson at Greg Kucera.” *The Stranger*, May 5, 2006.

Hackett, Regina. “Two artists expand the experience of abstraction at Greg Kucera.” *Seattle Post- Intelligencer*, April 18, 2008.

—. “Michael Knutson’s logical, geometric patterns have a living, free-flowing quality.” *Seattle Post-Intelligencer,* May-26, 2006.

—. “Six artists combine for new show at Henry Art Gallery.” *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, July 10, 1985.

—. “Three unnoticed painters put on own show to get deserved attention.” *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, December 8, 1983.

—. “Hascall, Knutson, Rey.” *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, December 28, 1983

Hayakawa, Alan. “Show’s second part improves on first.” *The Oregonian*, November 14, 1985.

Hopkins, Terri. “Exponential: 4 Huge Paintings.” Curator’s statement. Marylhurst, Oregon: The Art Gym, Marylhurst University, 2001.

Hopkins, Terri, Rinder, Lawrence, Snyder, Stephanie, Tesner, Linda. “Michael Knutson Paintings and Drawings 1981-2005,” essays in exhibition catalog, 2006.

Jahn, Jeff. “The Score October 2010.” Portlandart.net, October 29, 2010

\_\_, “Michael Knutson at Blackfish.” *nwdrizzle.com*, December 2002.

Johnson, Barry. “New visual center show harmonious and diverse.” *The Oregonian*, July 8, 1987.

—. “Midsummer Night's Dream.” *The Oregonian*, July 8, 1988.

Kangas, Matthew. “Michael Knutson: “Layered Coils” at Greg Kucera Gallery, art ltd.,

Nov-Dec 2011

—. “On SIZE.” Bumbershoot curator’s statement. Seattle, Washington, 1984.

—. “Knutson: Form and Myth.” *West Art*, June 28, 1985.

—. “Seattle Painting 1925-1985.” Bumbershoot curator’s statement. Seattle, Washington, 1985

—. “Re-critical Modernism.” Bumbershoot curator’s statement. Seattle, Washington, 1983.

—. “Michael Knutson, Reed College.” *Vanguard*, February 1983.

—. *Hascall, Knutson, Rey*. Exhibition catalog. Marylhurst, Oregon: The Art Gym, Marylhurst University, 1983.

Kanjo, Katherine. *1999 Oregon Biennial*. Exhibition catalog. Portland, Oregon: Portland Art Museum, 1999.

Karabenick, Julie, *Interview with Michael Knutson,* Geoform website, 2008.

Lake, Eva. “*Interview with Michael Knutson at the Enfolding Fields exhibit.”* Youtube, 2008.

\_\_. “The convoluted coils of Michael Knutson.” *The Daily Vanguard*, Portland State University, October 20, 2004.

\_\_. Radio interview (10-5-10), Art Focus on KBOO, evalake.blogspot.com.

Lambert, Lisa. “Big Thinking.” *Willamette Week*, February 6, 2001.

Lasarow, Bill and Lake, Eva, “Whatever It Looks Like Is Never Quite What You Think.”

*ArtScene,* October 26, 2010, and *Huffington Post,* October 29, 2010

McMorran, Megan. “Oregon Biennial suffers from excessive ‘prettiness’.” *The Business Journal Magazine*, April 15, 1985.

Motley, John. “Michael Knutson.”*The Portland Mercury*, November 16, 2006

\_\_. “Mark Grotjahn at the PAM and Michael Knutson at Blackfish,” *The Oregonian,* Oct. 15, 2010.

Parkinson, Trude. “Unexpected Watercolors.” Curator’s statement, The Art Gym, Marylhurst University, Marylhurst, Oregon.

*New Generation Drawing*. Exhibition catalog. Spokane, Washington: Eastern Washington State Historical Society, 1974.

Pence, Elizabeth, “Michael Knutson at Greg Kucera Gallery”, *Artweek,* September 2006

Raymond, Camela. “Michael Knutson Convoluted Coils.” *The Organ*, November-December 2004.

—. “Draw.” *Core Sample: Portland Art Now*. Exhibition catalog essay. Astoria, Oregon: clear cut press.

Row, D. K. “A new geometry.” *The Oregonian,* September 4, 2008

—. “A Portland artist gets long-overdue attention.” *The Oregonian,* November 5, 2006

—. “Painting by numbers.” *The Oregonian*, November 22, 2002.

—. “Shows of note.” *The Oregonian*, October 10, 2004.

—, “Livin’ Large.” *The Oregonian*, January 21, 2001.

Rushworth, Katherine. The Power of Patterns.” *The Post Standard,* August 5, 2012

*Rutgers National Drawing Exhibition*. Exhibition catalog. New Jersey: Rutgers The State University of New Jersey, Stedman Art Gallery, Camden; and University Art Gallery, New Brunswick; 1979.

Snyder, Stephanie. “Michael Knutson and Carol Benson,” ARTFORUM online, October, 2014

Speer, Richard. “Michael Knutson.” *Willamette Week,* October 1, 2008

—, “Michael Knutson *Layered Ovoid Lattices”*, *Willamette Week*, November 7, 2012

—, “Michael Knutson *Symmetrical Layered Lattices”*, *Willamette Week*, October 15, 2014

Sutinen, Paul. *Portland Painting Now*. Exhibition catalog. Marylhurst, Oregon: The Art Gym, Marylhurst University, 1985.

Sykes, Claire. “The art of Teaching/The Teaching of art.” *Reed Alumni Magazine,* Winter 2007

Tarzan, Delores. “Exhibit features painted sculpture.” *Seattle Times*, July 12, 1985.

Taylor, Sue. “Michael Knutson at Blackfish Gallery.” *Art in America*, April 2005.

Tesner, Linda. “Geometry Askew: The Drawings of Michael Knutson.” Lewis & Clark

exhibition brochure, 2006.

Unnamed, “Michael Knutson at Blackfish,” *Portland Monthly,* October, 2010

Wilner, Lucy. “Abstract Art in the Seattle Arts Commission Collection.” *Reflex*, October/November 1994.

**Work in Museum, Public and Corporate Collections**

Everett Public Library, Everett, Washington

Hallie Ford Museum, Willamette University, Salem, Oregon

Horizon House, Seattle, Washington

King County Public Art Collection, Seattle, Washington

Landye, Bennett, Blumstein LLP, Portland, Oregon

Microsoft, Redmond, Washington

Multnomah County Portable Works Collection, Portland, Oregon

Oregon Health Sciences University, Portland, Oregon

Pan Pacific Hotel, Seattle, Washington

Polyclinic, Seattle, Washington

Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon

Reed College, Kaul Auditorium, and the Performing Arts Building, Portland, Oregon

Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Scottsdale, Arizona

Southwest Washington Medical Center, Vancouver, Washington

State of Oregon, Public Records Building, Salem, Oregon

State of Washington, Olympic College, Bremerton, Washington

Swedish Hospital, Seattle, Washington

Vulcan Inc, AIBS Building, Seattle, Washington