INTRODUCTION
Exploring Shifting Landscapes addresses and documents current impacts of climate change on the landscapes of interior Alaska. It uses an interdisciplinary approach to investigate the relationship between people and place and to inform a broad audience about current environmental changes. Art broadens individual perspectives, communicates, and forms connections in ways that words and charts cannot.

OVERVIEW
Landscapes are fascinating in the way that they constantly change and shift around us. I am deeply interested in the relationship people have with landscape, and wanted to dive deeper into that relationship by looking specifically at scientific work focused on the environment in Alaska and creating a group of pieces to inform and creatively study that scientific work. Plein Air Painting and arts/science collaboration have been proven to improve artists perception of the environment and natural dynamics of subjects. Artistic collaboration allows the exploration of scientific research in a way that draws the focus of research and progress to the origin of curiosity about the world around us. Visual representation presents itself in a more approachable manner compared to a research paper, and can be shared to a broader audience and help the audience understand concepts related to ecosystems, environments, and the world we live in.

Collaboration with scientists will give the show depth and purpose in the community.

METHODS AND CONCEPT
I have been investigating these themes with stream ecologist Tamara Harms and fire scientist Zav Grabinski to learn and share information about their work, following scientists into the field to observe their work, speaking with them about their research, and reading through studies to form background knowledge of the locations I paint. I direct visual emphasis through the use of intentional colors. Bright, dramatic colors vary from the naturalistic landscape palette, in an effort to illustrate invisible chemistry while enhancing the visual effect of the work. Abstract and representational combinations make the work accessible to varying aesthetic preferences.

RESULTS AND EXPERIENCE
The physical result of this project is a show on display in Arctic Java for two months. Not only does this reach the UAF community, but any public who happen to pass through the building as well. Each painting was labeled with scientific information from the site or information on why it was included in the body of work.

CONCLUSION
URSA has helped me present a scientific topic to the community. This project offered great experience for me professionally and academically, it challenged my painting techniques, my organization skills, and taught me how to collaborate with an interdisciplinary approach. I am excited to see where this show goes, and look forward to community feedback.

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