

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**A NOVEL INTERSECTION OF SCIENCE AND ART, EXHIBITION DELIVERS
CELEBRATION OF PLACE WITH AN ENVIRONMENTAL ANGLE**

***Colors of Lake Tahoe* features 15 artworks from collaboration between
scientists at UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center and artist
Deborah Lawrence Schafer**



Incline Village, NV. (August 30, 2018)—Bay Area artist Deborah Lawrence Schafer and the Tahoe Environmental Research Center have announced an upcoming exhibition from their *Colors of Lake Tahoe* collaboration. This special exhibition will be on view from February 14 to March 15, 2019, at the Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village, Nevada.

Schafer created the artworks, a celebration of the Lake's color, and the area's scenery, flora and fauna, using spectral measurements of Lake Tahoe taken by TERC scientists. Reflecting the shifting ecology and conditions experienced by the planet at large, each artwork is overlaid with an original handmade graphite sketch featuring Tahoe scenery. Working in mixed media Schafer incorporates geometrical forms, a close study of color, and natural elements in the works to

convey the idea of interconnectedness and the concept of Lake Tahoe as a microcosm of our planet.

Scientists with UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC) began regularly measuring the Lake's color in May 2012 having tethered hyperspectral radiometers to the NASA-JPL Buoy TB3 (39°06'37"N 120°04'31"W) which were anchored 500 meters deep. Until storms damaged the equipment in 2016, spectral measurements were made at 12 meters and 5 meters during daylight hours.

Upon noticing unmistakable changes to the area when the snowpack on the surrounding mountains all but disappeared in 2015, Schafer became curious about how the drought was affecting the color of the Lake and contacted the team of scientists with the Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC) at the University of California, Davis.

"My primary interest is in the capacity for weather and environmental conditions to transform landscape and its relationship to time—and how this reflects life's transience," says Schafer. "These pieces attempt to capture moments in time and serve as evidence for the existence of places that have already vanished from the present moment, while also documenting landscapes that have existed for millions of years."

The scientists mathematically extrapolated the surface color from their readings taken underwater so that the color circles in the artworks could be printed from the numerical measurements (archival pigment based on cotton paper) with help from print color specialists. In doing this, the artworks also serve to visually document the varying colors of Lake Tahoe and are time-stamped with year, month, date, and 24-hour time from the moment each measurement was made.

Exhibition information:

Exhibition dates: Feb. 14–Mar. 15, 2019

Opening reception and artist talk: Feb. 14, 2019, 5–7pm

Tahoe Gallery (3rd Floor Prim Library)
Sierra Nevada College
291 Country Club Drive
Incline Village, Nevada

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About Deborah Lawrence Schafer

Born in 1970 in San Antonio, Texas Schafer has a BA in Visual Arts from Princeton University, worked at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. She also curated exhibitions of Latino and Latin American artwork at the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art in Sonoma, California, and El Museo del Barrio, in New York City. After more than a decade, she left her career in the arts and began helping a doctor-inventor bring new medical devices to market and eventually began painting once again. Today she continues working on both art and biotech projects. She is a Mexican National and U.S. citizen and currently lives and works in the Bay Area and coastal Maine. Her work is included in numerous private collections.

About UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC)

terc.ucdavis.edu

The Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC) leads research on the water quality, physical processes and ecology of Lake Tahoe and its watershed. Based on over half a century of lake monitoring and research combined with a network of real-time sensors, Lake Tahoe is offering new understanding of how our precious freshwater ecosystems are responding to change. Our education and outreach programs bring this research to the public through the Tahoe Science Center and special events. TERC's findings and methods are used to support policy decisions at Lake Tahoe and to aid research efforts at other lakes around the world. TERC is internationally recognized for its multidisciplinary, collaborative research on lakes and their surrounding watersheds. Formed in 2004, TERC continues and expands on the work previously conducted by the Tahoe Research Group (TRG).