

Project Overview – *The Tipping Point*

Presented by Jill Drlleovich, Joy Hagen, and Franchesca Vargas Smith

THE TIPPING POINT PROJECT

Have you ever experienced a pivotal moment or tipping point in your life? A moment that was unpredictable and without a doubt changed your life? A point when you've experienced something so profound that it changes not only who you are but also who you need to be. Tipping points can come in the form of trauma or hitting rock bottom, or they may even be a positive experience that impacts your soul so deep it changes your life completely.

We all have untold stories, unable to find the power within us to let our voices be heard. The purpose of *The Tipping Point Project* is to facilitate an artistic outlet for those who are finally ready to tell their stories and raise their voices through artistic expression. The brainchild of Project Director Jill Drlleovich, The Tipping Point Project artists will create sculptural installation pieces using the never-used cooling tower fan blades manufactured for the failed Satsop Nuclear Power Plant Project in Elma, Washington. Artistic expression is a powerful way to tell stories and connect with the viewer in a way that may not have been possible otherwise. It can evoke empathy and compassion and presents another way of looking at the world around us. Art itself can become a tipping point for change. We hope to not only provide a release for the unheard, muffled voices of those creating the art but also to move the viewer to allow their true voices to sing out their own stories.

THE TIPPING POINT CURATORS

JILL DRILLEOVICH – *The Tipping Point* is the brainchild of Jill Drlleovich. Born in 1950 in Brooklyn, New York, she was raised in Long Island by parents who instilled the value of education, critical thought, and hard work.

Jill came of age just as the veneer of the conformist 1950s gave way to the counterculture movement of the 1960s. She became aware and active during this politically explosive era, participating in sit-ins and protests. As a young mother in the 1970s, it was this background that prompted Jill to stage a dramatic protest against the building of a nuclear power plant in Shoreham, New York. Along with other protesters, she was able to forestall the building of the power plant. It was a powerful victory and an early example of grassroots organizing in her life. Although she did not know it at the time, a similar story was playing out across the country in Washington state.

After running a small art gallery in New York in the 1970s, Jill moved to Washington state. She quickly became involved with local art communities and started working on large-scale sculptures. Part of her process involved visiting old scrap and metal recycling yards to hunt for intriguing materials. It was during one fateful visit that Jill discovered the castoff fan blades for the defunct Satsop Nuclear Power Plant project in Elma, Washington, and *The Tipping Point Project* was born. These blades make up the base material for *The Tipping Point*, an artistic outreach project that seeks to link activist artists across generations and movements. Jill will be taking this project one step further with *Blades of Change*, a book documenting the development and culmination of the various *Tipping Point* installations. Jill is our Project Director.

JOY HAGEN – The daughter of a forester, Hagen's early childhood was spent living in the jungle in the Philippines. It also offered the opportunity to live in Panama. Returning to Seattle, summertime always involved hiking and camping deep in the forests and exploring old logging roads around the Pacific

Northwest. Art was an ever-present childhood activity, and she has been drawing and painting ever since. Joy currently works out of her home studio in Kirkland.

After three years running a children's shop in Bellevue and Kirkland, and 15 years running her own decorative painting business, Joy began her fine art career in 2000. Along the way, she chaired juried shows, curated exhibitions, served as Art Docent with the Lake Washington School District, and served as Evergreen Association of Fine Arts (EAFA) Gallery manager at the Seattle Design Center for five years. She is currently Grants Manager for EAFA. She co-founded and currently manages Studio 103 in Seattle's Pioneer Square and serves as curator of Slash & Burn, a collaborative endeavor which has, thus far, exhibited at Kirkland Arts Center, Sammamish City Hall, Green River Community College, and Seattle City Hall. Her work can be found in the permanent collections of the Cities of Kent, Kenmore, and Seattle; with Swedish Medical Group in Everett and Redmond; and at the Swedish Medical Center Cancer Institute in Edmonds. Joy will be serving as project manager and organizer with Franchesca Vargas Smith.

FRANCHESCA VARGAS SMITH – Local Activist and community leader with the City of Renton. Vargas is invested in seeing her community prosper and be trailblazers in the world of art and activism. Mother of four and daughter of immigrants, she has unique insights into the struggles of the disenfranchised and underprivileged communities she has grown up in. She will be using her knowledge working with cities to oversee project management, public relations, and fundraising efforts.

Image Examples



Design Mock-Up for one potential sculpture



Jill Drlevich with an installation of the fan blades in Pioneer Square



Example of a painted fan blade