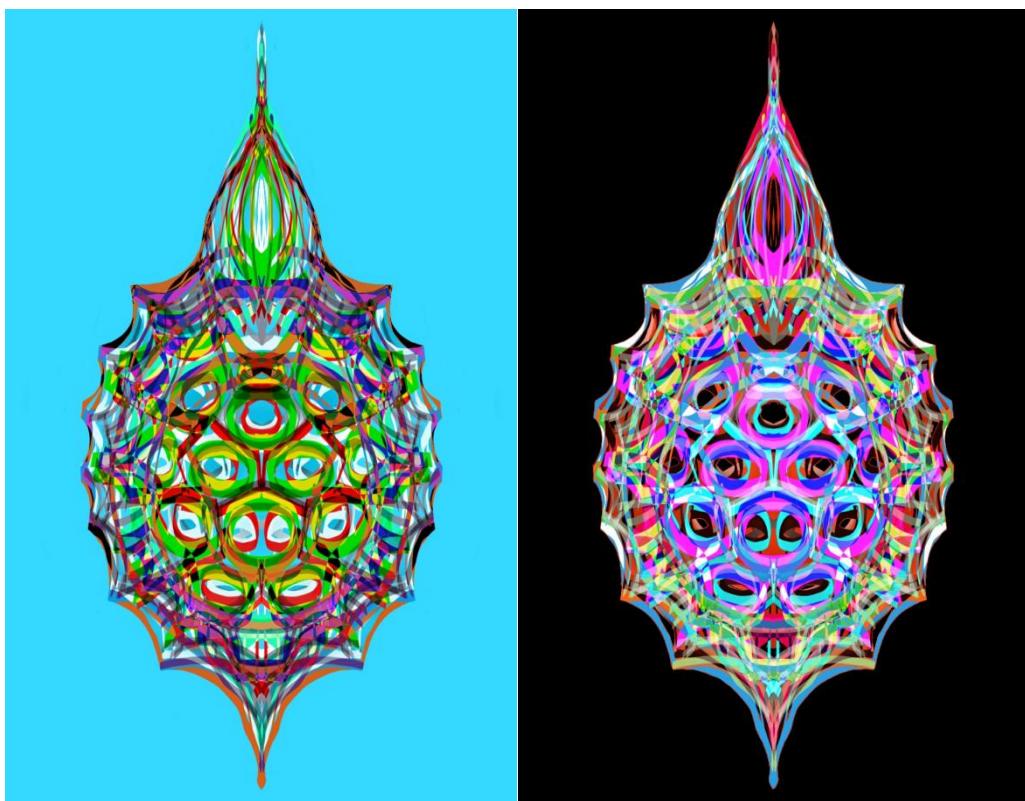


Digital Drawings of Radiolarians
Christina Crimari (Brodie) February 2021

It must be 15 years or more since I contributed my very first article to *Micscape*. At that time, I was a botanical painter, and went on to write the classic textbook on botanical painting, ***Drawing and Painting Plants*** (Bloomsbury, 2006). Even though time has moved on since then, and most of my artwork nowadays is focused on working with blacklight and digital media, it's always a challenge to revisit source material with a fresh inspiration and set of ideas.

After several years of having led a semi-nomadic existence, I recently unboxed my microscope from its Enigma Machine housing, and examined a set of slides which had originally been made for me by Brian Darnton and Klaus Dieter Kemp. As a botanical artist, I had worked in a number of different media, most notably using black scraperboard for a series of diatom, radiolarian and foraminiferan images I made in [February 2005](#).

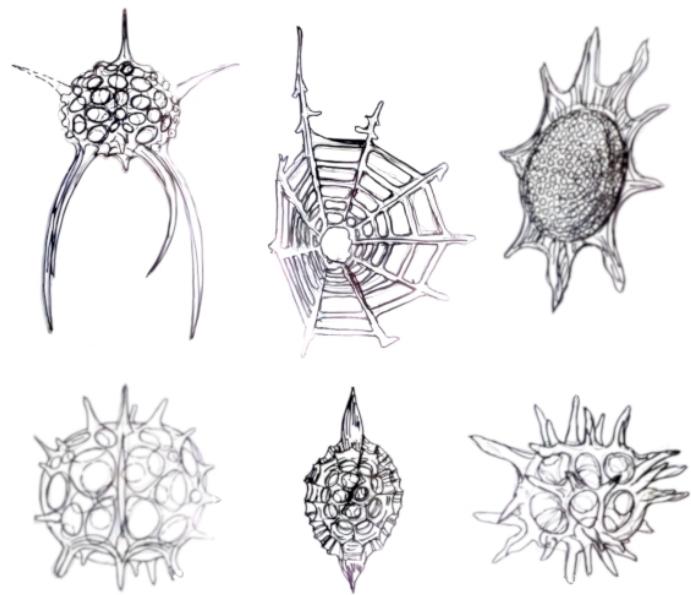


1: Rainbow Radiolarian

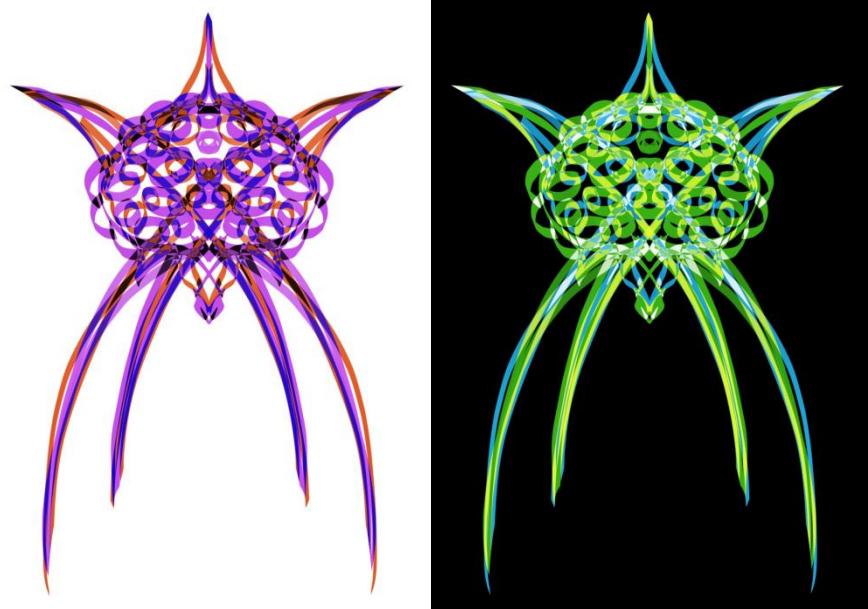
Fast-forward to 2021, and an astonishment that time has flown so quickly. The images you will see here are made with a digital drawing app and touchscreen, which give an opalescent, jewel-like quality to the work. Layers upon layers of individual

strokes interact with each other to create bold, certain, decisive, spiky - yet ever so fragile, translucent, natural architectural forms.

I will admit that the digital drawings I have made do not necessarily adhere to scientific protocol. The original series of sketches which I used to work from **below** may not be of complete specimens. Therefore, the final images are adapted, "idealized" ones; I'd appreciate identification for any of the following species, where this can be given.

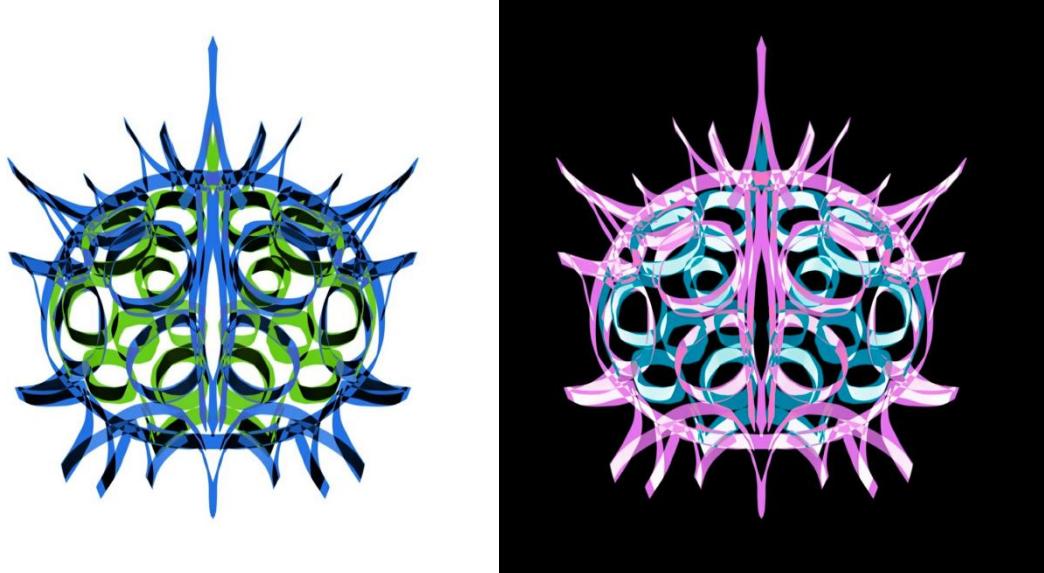


2: Source material: Pencil sketches of radiolarians, drawn from slides by Brian Darnton and Klaus Dieter Kemp.

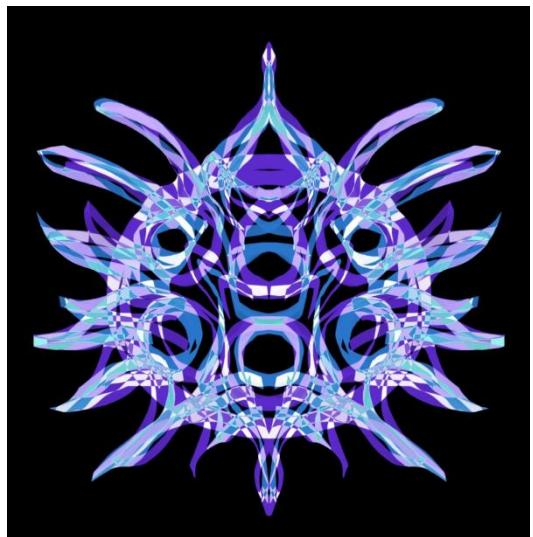


3: Radiolarian #1

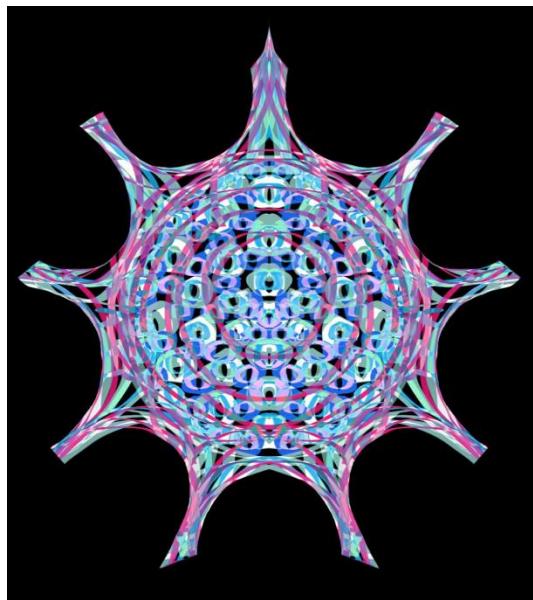
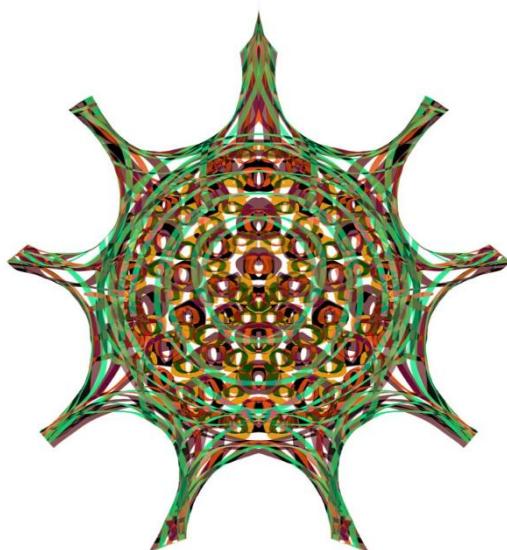
You will note that each image in this series has a “light” and “dark” version, which serve to emphasize further the transparency of the real-life structure. This dual view is very similar to the work I do with blacklight painting, where the appearance of an artwork can change dramatically under different lighting conditions. It also gives me a chance to indulge my fondness for a neon colour palette!



4. Radiolarian #2



5. Radiolarian #3



6. Radiolarian #4



7. Radiolarian #5

Christina Brodie/ Crimari Website: www.crimari.com

Images of radiolarians and other natural forms: <https://www.crimari.com/electronic-calligraphy>

Work pre-2014: <https://www.queen-christina.com/queen-christina-botanical-art-ceramics>

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