

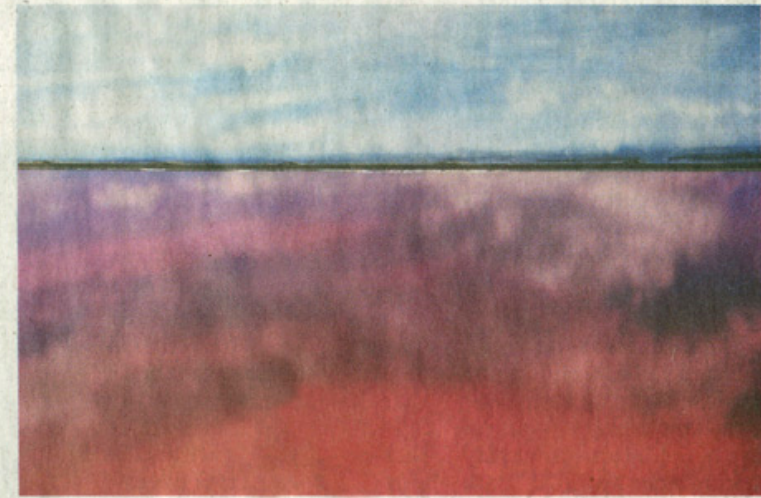
SECTION D » SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2009

THE MIX

The Salt Lake Tribune

Great Salt Lake images in stunning color in Park City

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT » Utahns might be guilty of driving by the Great Salt Lake without really seeing it, but the art photographs of New York photographer Diane Tuft review new colors to be found in our own iconic landscape. The saturated colors of her photography — the exhibit opens at Park City's Kimball Arts Center Jan. 31 and hangs through March 15 — are created by the interplay of sunlight and microscopic organisms that live in the salty waters. "I'm trying to capture the essence of nature," the photographer says. » **D3**



Great Salt Lake's hidden palette

New Yorker finds art in her color-saturated views of the briny body of water.

By BRIAN MAFFLY

The Salt Lake Tribune

Before her first visit to the Great Salt Lake, Diane Tuft had shot only black-and-white photographs. But the powerful colors of this iconic Utah landscape, created by the interplay of sunlight and microscopic organisms that thrive in the lake's saline waters, inspired her — make that forced her — to buy her first digital camera.

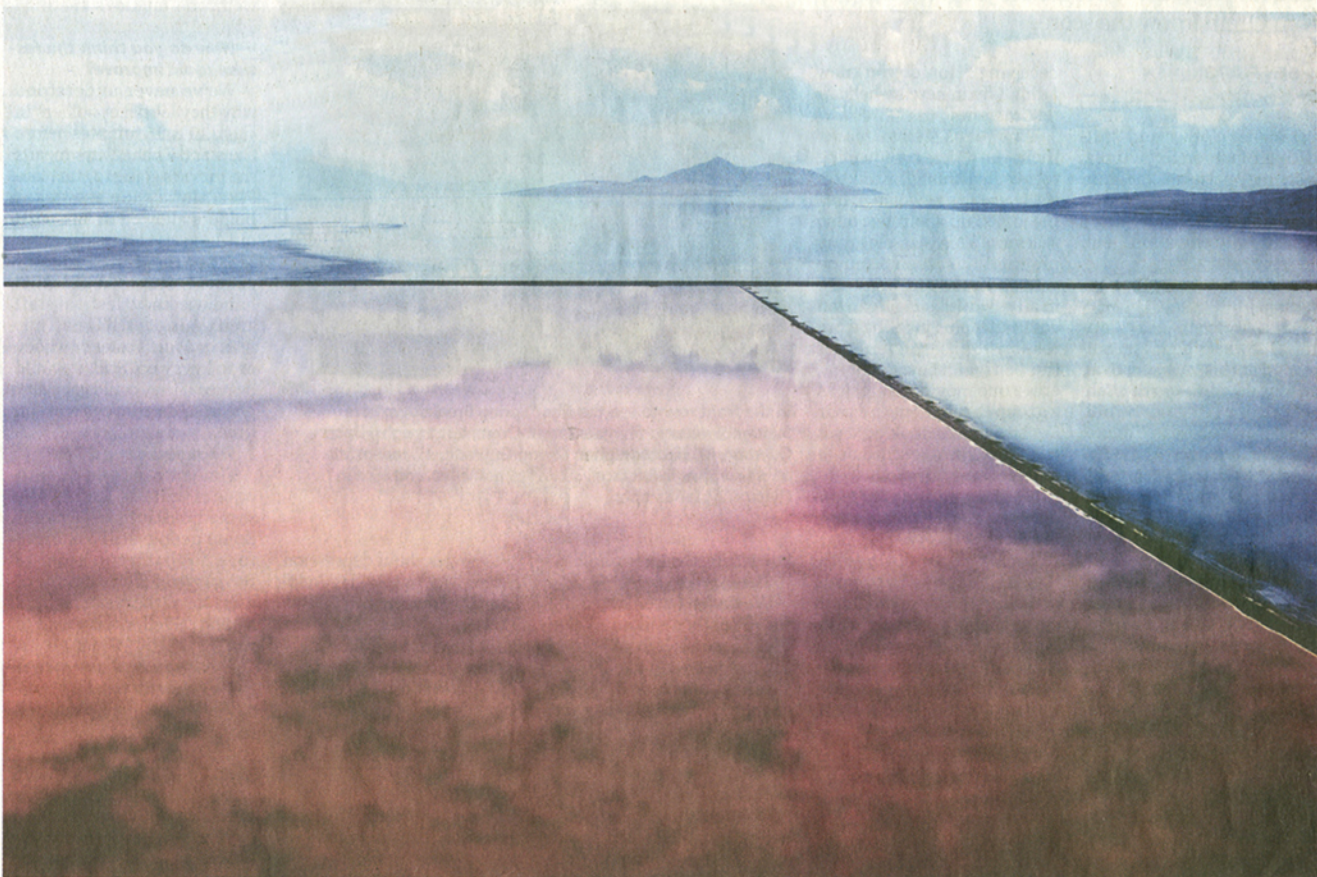
Tuft packed along her trusty old Leica for backup on a pilgrimage to the Spiral Jetty in the summer of 2005. The trip inspired her to return for a serious photographic foray to capture the unreal colors that now appear in her images.

"I have an incredible passion for travel and I've always been an artist," says Tuft, a photographer who lives in New York City. "The combination leads me to places where there is a tremendous amount of beauty. We as Americanized Westerners aren't interested in looking at the soul of nature, but everywhere else they worship nature. In Japan, rocks are very holy. Nature has a lot to tell us."

So in August 2005, Utah's inland sea became Tuft's subject, as she flew above it in a helicopter, clicking away with her new camera. The fruits of her labors will be shown at Park City's Kimball Art Center, beginning Jan. 31 when her exhibit "Salt Lake Reconsidered" opens, revealing a series of large photographs capturing colors of unimaginable intensity.

"Since the Great Salt Lake attracts an unusual amount of ultraviolet light, these images reveal the vivid colors that exist beyond our vision," Tuft writes in an artist's statement. "The photographs are completely natural with no alteration in color."

Tuft will be joined at the opening by Westminster



"States of Matter," a photograph by Diane Tuft, from the exhibit "Salt Lake Reconsidered" on display at the Kimball Arts Center Jan. 31 to March 15.

Salt Lake Reconsidered

What » Diane Tuft's photographs of the Great Salt Lake, exhibited at the Kimball Art Center, 638 Park Ave., Park City.

When » Opens Jan. 31 and hangs through March 15. Westminster College biologist Bonnie Baxter joins the New York photographer at 6 p.m. for an opening presentation about the exhibit's merger of science and art. For information, visit www.kimball-art.org or call 435-649-8882.

College's award-winning biology professor Bonnie Baxter, who heads the Great Salt Lake Institute, for a discussion of the science behind the potency of the lake's colors. Baxter's research examines how the lake's microscopic halophilic organisms survive in an ecosystem so awash in ultraviolet radiation and salt — environmental features that

are antagonistic to life. These bacteria's adaptations are what color the lake.

"It's a light spectrum we can't see," Tuft says. "I think it's nature coming back at us. Just because we can't see it doesn't mean it doesn't exist. I'm trying to capture the essence of nature."

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"Pulieus," a photograph of the Great Salt Lake by Diane Tuft.