

DANIELLE FAFCHAMPS

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Throughout the filmed talk, while the scientist described how stem cells could be created, Fafchamps pulled out tiny bits of clay and created a sculpture of a seated woman. She fashioned the basic piece during the filmed presentation, finishing it later in her studio.

In a larger sense, just as human or animal forms are created out of cells or amoebas, a sculptor can create a human figure from a shapeless mass of clay. Likewise, stem cells can be created in the laboratory by biologists and scientists from other cells found in the human body.

Supporting other artists

Fafchamps is an active participant in, and supporter of, the local arts community. Recently, beneath the clear blue skies of a

spring afternoon, the 2019 Silicon Valley Open Studios was in full swing at Fafchamps's home. An abundance of artwork by 14 artists was on display, representing a wide variety of fields, including oil painting, pottery, jewelry and sculpture.

Each artist demonstrated his or her art at individual booths in the garden. Earrings made of silver and Venetian glass, ceramic vases and trays in muted hues, sculpted heads and intricately carved spheres made of clay glowed in the afternoon sunlight. A graphite artist described how she used only colored pencil to create vivid pictures of the Monarch butterfly, and flowers in a profusion of pinks and yellows.

"Danielle tries to support all artists. She has been very helpful," ceramic artist Doris Fischer-Colbrie said.

According to photographer Arup Biswas, Fafchamps takes an

active role in helping local artists in a variety of ways. For instance, over the years she has helped recruit artists for and publicize The Main Gallery, housed in a historic Victorian building in Redwood City.

Opening her home for the annual Silicon Valley Open Studios involves a great deal of organization, marketing and coordination, and can take months to prepare. "Danielle has been really kind in allowing us to display our

work at her home," said Biswas, whose art includes panoramic views of Yosemite as well as vistas of wildflower-strewn meadows.

Over the last 10 years, Fafchamps has won a number of awards, including numerous first-place prizes at a number of local and statewide shows. She routinely exhibits at area shows and has been invited to display her work at several juried events.

See more of her work at daniellefafchamps.com **A**



Photo by Magali Gauthier/The Almanac

The sculpture Fafchamps began to create during her appearance on a Discovery Channel program.