

HEATHER 'BIRD' HARRIS

b. 1987 Manchester, Connecticut

Works in Atlanta, Georgia

www.heatherbirdharris.com | bird@heatherbirdharris.com

EDUCATION

2027 Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

M.F.A. candidate (*forthcoming*)

2014 Columbia University, NY

M.A. in Education Leadership

2009 Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY

B.A. in Art History, minor Studio Art

S. Michael Eigen '87 Prize in Art History, Dept Honors-History of Art, Cum Laude, Periclean Honor Society

SOLO EXHIBITIONS + PROJECTS

2025 *Title TBD*, Spalding Nix, Atlanta, GA (*forthcoming*)

2024 *Sonoran Heritage Waters*, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ (*forthcoming*)

Hope Springs Eternal, facilitated painting performance in collaboration with RISE St. James, Melange Dance Company, Delechaise String Ensemble, and photographer Bryan Tarnowski, New Orleans, LA

2023 *Landscape as a Living Historical Record*, Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Land Memory Project, Science Gallery, Atlanta, GA (curated by Floyd Hall)

2022 *Where the Water Goes*, SALON Gallery, New Orleans, LA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)

2024 *TBD*, Claire Elizabeth Gallery, New Orleans, LA (three-person show) (*forthcoming*)

Rescue: Waste and Redemption, Lyndon House Arts Center, Athens, GA (curated by Lizzie Zucker Saltz)

Canary in the Water, Blue Heron Nature Preserve, Atlanta, GA (curated by Pam Longobardi and Jeremy Bolen) (three-person show)

2023 *Finding Grounding*, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA (curated by Courtney Taylor)

Collective, High Line Nine Galleries, New York, NY (curated by Visionary Projects)

A Way of Seeing Everything and Nothing, Ely Center of Contemporary Art, New Haven, CT (curated by Something Projects)

A Small Point of Land, Bristol Art Museum, Bristol, RI (juried)

Wild Pigment, New Mexico State University Museum, Las Cruces, NM (curated by Tilke Elkins)

Sex Ecologies: Becoming Plastic, Stoveworks, Chattanooga, TN (curated by Leah Dalton)

Small Changes, Decatur Arts Alliance, Decatur, GA (curated by Susan Bridges)

The Art of Water VII, James May Gallery, Milwaukee, WI (juried)

JUSTICE, Science Gallery, Emory University, Atlanta, GA (curated by Floyd Hall)

ArtFields, Lake City, SC (juried)

Where does the water go?, Ground Floor Contemporary, Birmingham, AL (curated by Elisabeth Pellathy)

- Transient Bodies*, Roaring Artist Gallery (curated by Inge Flinte)
TRIO: Artists in Dialogue, with Tyler Buck Guinn and Colt Seager, Mont Art House, Houston, TX
ART PAPERS Art Auction, Atlanta, GA
Co-Create, Stay Home Gallery, Paris, TN (curated by Kaylan Buteyn and Jamie Smith)
- 2022 *Ensemble*, Spalding Nix Fine Art, Atlanta, GA
Little Things, Swan Coach House, Atlanta, GA (curated by Jacob O’Kelley and Maria Bruckman)
Atlanta Art Week Showcase, Jennifer Balcos Gallery, Atlanta, GA
Marks of Time, Fourth Wall, New Orleans, LA
Prologue, studio activation, Echo Contemporary Art, Atlanta, GA
SALON Residents Group Show, SALON Gallery, New Orleans, LA
- 2021 *Anthropocene Epiphany*, Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, Santa Ana, CA
Magnolia Ball, Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans, LA
Natural Pigments, Pigments Revealed Symposium
Restore Mother Earth, Longue Vue House and Gardens, New Orleans, LA
- 2020 *Hear Us Roar*, Roaring Artist Gallery
Art for Activism II, Good Children Gallery, New Orleans, LA (curated by Brandon Juan Surtain)
Art for Activism, Carroll Gallery, New Orleans, LA (curated by Brandon Juan Surtain)
- 2009 *Senior Showcase*, Case Center Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY
Karma, Case Center Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY (two-person show)
- 2008 *Selected Student Exhibition*, Schick Art Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY

RESIDENCIES + FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024 The Hambidge Center, Artist Residency, Rabun Gap, GA (May)
 Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Cannoo Hills Creative Arts Residency, Millbrook, NY (Mar - July)
- 2023 Emory University Arts and Social Justice Fellowship (Aug - Dec)
 Zero Foot Hills Residency, Durham, CT (July)
 Stay Home Gallery & Residency, Paris, TN (Feb)
- 2022 SALON Residency + Gallery, Arts Council of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA (Feb - Aug)

CURATORIAL

- 2025 *Rebirth & Collapse*, collaboration with writer Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder, traveling exhibition, New Orleans, LA, Savannah, GA, Burlington, VT, and Portland, ME (*forthcoming*)
- 2024 *One Earth*, co-curated with Ashley Woods, Kendeda Building, Atlanta, GA (*forthcoming*)
- Featuring Steven L. Anderson, Jamie Bourgeois, Johnnie Diacon, Kelly Dillard, Craig Dongowski, Sally Eppstein, Heiða Halldórsdóttir, Roxane Hollosi, Stephanie Kolpy, Pam Longobardi, Chip Moody, Dorothy O’Connor, and Gregor Turk
- Collective Telling: Southern Rooted Perspectives on Place, History + Emergence*, co-curated with Jennifer Williams, Echo Contemporary Art, Atlanta, GA (Jan 11 - Feb 17)
- Featured Nic[o] Brierre Aziz, kai lumumba barrow, Ann Hill Bond, Hannah Chalew, Jeffery Darensbourg, Fernando López, Johnnie Diacon, Shana M. griffin, Coulter Fussell, Cheyenne

Hendrickson, Jenny Fine, Hotvluke Harjo, Hannah Palmer, Sachi Rome, Renee Royale, Mariana Sheppard, Sergio Suarez, Carlie Trosclair, and Harrison Wayne

- Supported by grants from Alternate Roots, Georgia State University, and Susan G. Brennan
- Compensated artists according to W.A.G.E.
- Curated 12 events over 6 weeks of free public programming

2023 *How to Become a Caretaker*, Emory University, Atlanta Georgia (Nov 28 - Jan 19)

- In collaboration with Dr. Loren Michael Mortimer, Provost Postdoctoral Fellow in Native North American History and the Emory Art & Social Justice Fellowship
- Featured Emory undergraduate students Licia Brown, Matowacipi Horse, Anish Jha, Lydia Levy, Royce Mann, Jaanaki Radhakrishnan, Ted Wilson, and Floyd Woolen.

2022 *Earth Body*, co-curation with Erin Drakeford, Echo Contemporary Art, Atlanta, GA (Nov 7 - 14)

- Featured Evan Blackwell, Erin Drakeford, Cheyenne Hendrickson, Heather Bird Harris, and Michelle Laxalt

PRESS & SCHOLARSHIP

2025 Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder, *Rebirth: Mothering Through Ecological Collapse*, Broadleaf Books, 2024. (*forthcoming*)

2024 Jerry Cullum, [“Diverse group exhibits explore the South’s many identities.”](#) ArtsATL, February 7, 2024.

Ada Evans, “Art of Waning Spaces: The Role of Materials in Imagining Coastal Climate Change,” Master of Arts thesis, Department of Art History, Tulane University, March 2024

2023 Kaylan Buteyn, [“Mothering and Art Making During Our Climate Crisis with Heather Bird Harris”](#), Artist Mother Podcast, Sept 2023.

Between the Art, [“Heather Bird Harris: The Integration of Art, Earth and the History of Place.”](#) Aug 2023.

Sea Change, [“We Could All Use A Little Creativity.”](#) WWNO New Orleans Public Radio, July 2023.

Dr. Katherine Wilkerson, [“The Great Circulation: A June Note.”](#) *All We Can Save Project*, June 2023.

Kiki McGrath, *EcoTheo Review*, Summer 2023.

Anna Brones, [“Using Dirt to Paint a Larger Picture of Place and Memory.”](#) *Creative Fuel*, April 21, 2023.

Tilke Elkins, [“pied midden : issue no.40 : radical noticing : heather bird harris.”](#) and,

[“Lu Kaliksh Interview.”](#) with Ashley Booth and Jeffery Darenbourg, *Wild Pigment Project*, March 3, 2023.

Halle Parker, [“These artists have something to say about the environment. They’re using Louisiana dirt to do so.”](#) WWNO New Orleans, WRKF Baton Rouge, and NPR, January 18, 2023.

2022 [“Heather Bird Harris: Creating in the Face of Climate Change.”](#) *Visionary Art Collective*, April 1, 2022.

Land Art Collective, Artist Feature

Artist/Mother Network, Artist Feature

“Land, Water, Color: In the Studio with Heather Bird Harris,” *In Her Studio*, May 2022. 120-126.

PUBLIC PROJECTS

2023 *Tree Time: A Living History Walk*, collaboration with Rachel Parish and Ann Hill Bond, BeltLine, Atlanta, GA (Nov 12, 20224)

- TREE TIME was a full-day meandering between two of the oldest trees along the Atlanta BeltLine. Participants witnessed 7+ miles of ancient, changing, and connected landscapes, featuring talks from

community leaders and memory-keepers along the path, including Davida Huntley, King Williams, Genia Billingsley, Maria Soto, and Mary Kilgo.

Little Amal Hears the Story of Weelaunee, producer, Atlanta, GA (Oct 10, 2024)

- Worked with Muscogee activists led by Mekko Chebon Kernell and the international Little Amal Team to produce this free community event which drew over 200 people
- In partnership with Walk With Amal and the Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative (NAISI) at Emory University

Stacks Squares Mural, Cabbagetown Neighborhood Improvement Association, Atlanta, GA (Fall 2023)

Procreate Project Archive Art Trail, Manchester, England (Fall 2023)

ARTIST TALKS + WORKSHOPS

- 2024 “*Communicating Environmental Challenges*,” Inclusive SciComm Symposium, University of Rhode Island (Winter 2024)
Artist Talk, Claire Elizabeth Gallery, New Orleans, LA (Nov 2)
“*Grateful Gathering: Foraging for Wild Ink Materials*,” with Maria Soto, Atlanta, GA (Fall 2024)
“*Working With Site-Specific Earth Pigments*,” workshop, Blue Heron Nature Preserve, Atlanta, GA (Sept 14)
“*Grateful Gathering: Foraging for Wild Ink Materials on the Atlanta BeltLine Westside Trail*,” with Maria Soto, Trees Atlanta, Atlanta, GA June 1 + 8
Artist Talk and Studio Visit, Georgia Women in the Arts, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, April 30
“*The Way of Water: Exploring Local Ecosystems*,” with Renee Royale, Creative Fuel Collective, virtual, April 17
Artist Talk, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, staff ecologists, Millbrook, NY, March 13
In conversation with Cora Nimtz, MINT Gallery, Atlanta, GA, March 7
“*Grateful Gathering: Working With Site-Specific Earth Pigments*,” virtual, February 15 + 22
“*Reading Landscapes*,” Land Art Collective, virtual, February 4
In conversation with Renee Royale, Echo Contemporary Art, February 3
“*Creative Visioning In Community: Authentically Expanding Your Support Network*,” Emory University Scholars Retreat, January 13-15
- 2023 “*Finding Grounding: Nature Connection + Art Learning Experience*” (with Lilia Kapsali Grant), curated by Courtney Taylor, Baton Rouge, LA, Oct 14
Artist Talk, Louisiana State University, ecological art history class, Baton Rouge, LA, Oct 12
“*Working With Site-Specific Earth Pigments*,” workshop, Matunuck, RI, July 8
“*Working With Site-Specific Earth Pigments*,” workshop, Bell Moon Arts, Hayesville, NC, June 24-25
Creative Visioning In Community: Authentically Expanding Your Support Network, Artist Mother/Thrive Retreat, Black Mountain, NC, May 27
“*Working With Site-Specific Earth Pigments*,” workshop, Visionary Projects, New York, NY, May 20
Artist Talk, *Transient Bodies* exhibition, Roaring Artist Gallery, virtual, May 12
“*Working With Site-Specific Earth Pigments*,” workshop, RicRACK, New Orleans, LA, April 16
Artist Talk, *Where the Water Goes* exhibition, Ground Floor Contemporary, virtual, April 15
Artist Talk with Colt Saeger and Tyler Guinn, *Trio* exhibition, Mont Art House, Houston, TX, March 2
- 2022 The Writer’s Wing, SALON Residency, New Orleans, LA, June 16

RELATED EXPERIENCE

- 2022 - present Learning Consultant, freelance. *Consulting with organizations and individuals across the U.S. on art and learning-adjacent projects that require creative responses to address complex problems.*
Mentor Artist, Crit Crew program, Thrive Network. *Selected by Kaylan Buteyn and Jamie Smith. In partnerships with Katrina Andry, Jessica Caldas, and Erin Palovick.*
- 2023 Collaboration with dendrochronologist Clay Tucker, Atlanta. *Analyzed tree rings as primary sources.*
Contributing artist, Ground Bright, Wild Pigment Project. *Selected by Tilke Elkins. In conversation with Ashley R. Booth and Jeffery Darrensbourg*
- 2021 Collaboration with soil scientist Ashley R. Booth, southwest Louisiana. *Collected soil samples from wetland conservation studies for environmental activism works*
- 2017 - 2023 History Curriculum Director and anti-racist history curriculum writer for schools in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, LA. *Trained hundreds of teachers and consulted with school leaders to implement equitable learning practices and empowering history education for over 9,000 students in grades 3-8*
- 2019 Gave birth to Hazel Marie Harris, New Orleans, LA
- 2017 Gave birth to Jade Langston Harris, New Orleans, LA
- 2012 - 2017 Principal of Dolores T. Aaron Academy, a middle school in New Orleans East
Led the turnaround of DTA to be in the top 25% of schools in the RSD, up from the bottom 5% in 2011
Managed a staff of 20-30 educators and a \$3.5 million budget
Created school's first instructional coaching program based on Relay Graduate School National Principals Fellowship
Built DTA's first arts program, including a concert and marching band; led DTA to become 1 of 50 "Turnaround Arts Schools" nationwide through President Obama's Committee on the Arts
- 2009 - 2012 History, English, and Art teacher in New Orleans charter schools. *Taught Art to approximately 450 students in K-8; created and developed comprehensive art curriculum. Teacher of the Year, 2012*
- 2008 - 2009 Collaboration with visiting artist Oliver Herring, Tang Museum, Saratoga Springs, NY
Hosted two iterations of his relational works, "Task Parties," at Skidmore College and in downtown Saratoga Springs with the goal of fostering a sense of community and enhancing individual creative freedom. Included conceptualizing, planning, managing production, leading community outreach, and moderating an artist talk.
- 2007 - 2009 Education Assistant, Tang Museum, Saratoga Springs, NY
Organized the Tang Summer Suitcase Program, a non-profit outreach program that brought comprehensive interdisciplinary art programs to over 100 NY libraries and public schools
Created art programs that related to contemporary exhibitions and aligned with K-12 NY learning standards
Wrote and designed museum viewer guides that emphasized visual learning strategies and critical thinking
Led visiting K-12 school groups through museum exhibitions and fostered thematic discussions
- 2007 - 2009 Student Art History Representative, Skidmore College. *Link between students and faculty, problem-solved departmental issues, organized departmental events*
- 2009 Apprenticeship with photographer Emma Dodge Hanson, Saratoga Springs, NY
- 2008 Researcher, Tibetan Buddhist Iconography, Ladakh, India. *Received grant to research 16th century temples in Ladakh, India with art historian Rob Linrothe. Presented research at New York Conference on Asian Studies, "Architecture and Murals: A Fieldwork Study of the Leh Namgyal Tsemo Gonkhang"*
- 2005 - 2007 Class President, Skidmore College
- 2007 Apprenticeship with artist RK Sharma, Kolkata, India. *Two week intensive apprenticeship focusing on miniature painting and traditional pigment processing*

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

ecoartspace, artist, 2023-present

Sugarlift, artist, 2023-present

Artist Mother / Thrive Network, community member + mentor artist, 2020-present

Wild Pigment Project, selected artist, Pigment People: Paint, Mineral, + Waste Stream, 2021-present

Artists Commit, artist-led collective committed to a climate-conscious future, 2021 - present

Turnaround Arts, President Obama's Committee on the Arts, John F. Kennedy Center, 2015-2017

COLLECTIONS

Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Susan Brennan, New Orleans, LA

Dr. Katharine Wilkinson, Atlanta, GA

Ochsner, New Orleans, LA

Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, NY (*forthcoming*)

RISE St. James, St. James Parish, LA (*forthcoming*)

GALLERY REPRESENTATION

Spalding Nix Fine Art, Atlanta, GA

Claire Elizabeth Gallery, New Orleans, LA

Mont Art House, Houston, TX