

An abstract artwork featuring a dense, textured composition of vibrant colors including blues, purples, greens, and oranges. The background is filled with intricate patterns of small dots and larger, irregular shapes, creating a rich, layered visual effect. The overall style is reminiscent of a detailed textile or a complex digital pattern.

# PERSPECTIVES

ART ON THE ENVIRONMENT

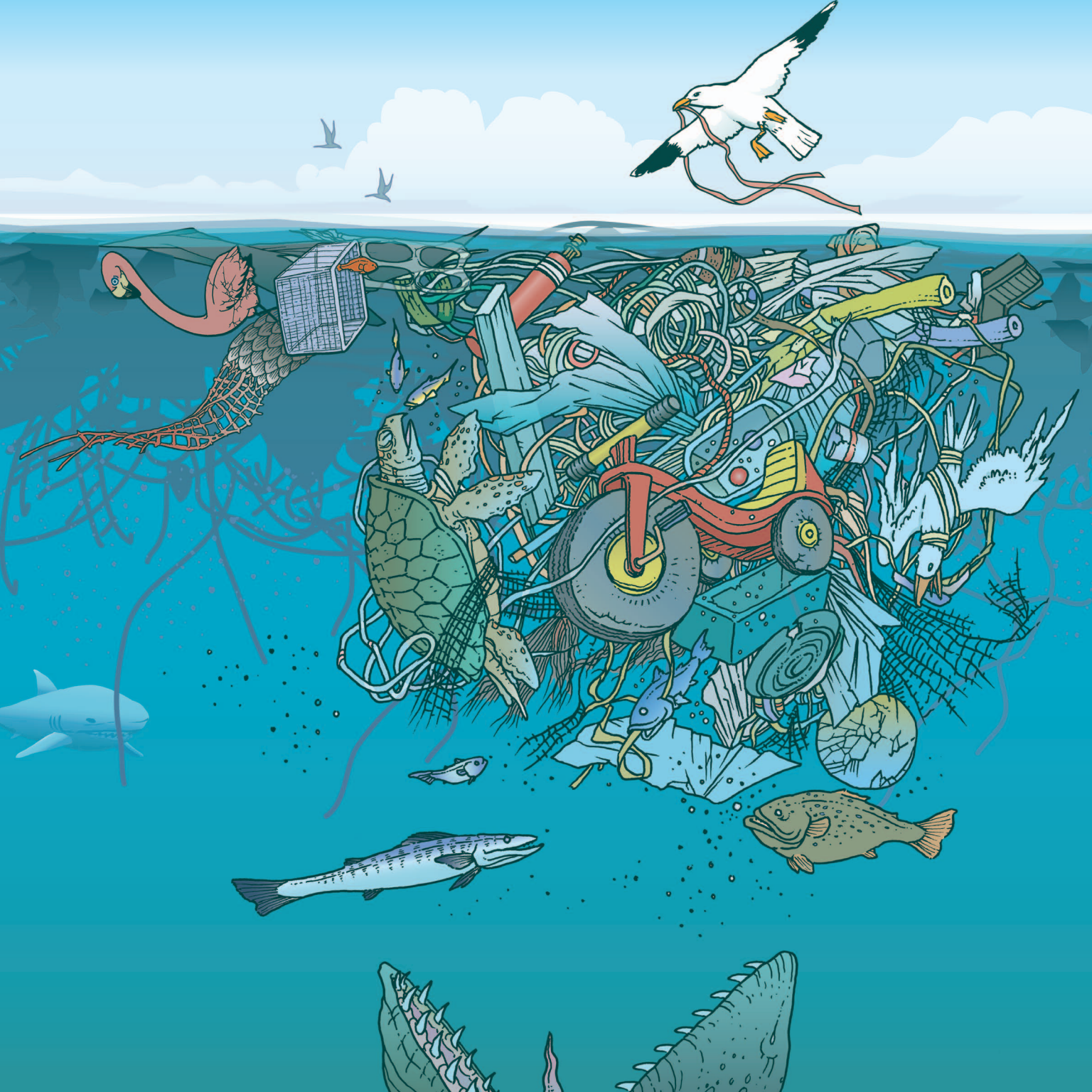
AUGUST 14 –  
OCTOBER 24

2015

OUR COMMUNITY, OUR ART, OUR ENVIRONMENT.



THE  
**NURTURE**  
**NATURE**  
CENTER



# ABOUT PERSPECTIVES

To harness the power of art to promote awareness and understanding, spur dialogue, and inspire action on issues of environmental concern.

In 2014, with support from the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts, Perspectives began as a small project to explore how community members could engage with artists and scientists to create art that increased understanding in environmental issues. The resulting workshops culminated in an exhibit in August 2014 that represented the works of 27 individuals. Response was overwhelmingly positive from those who participated as well as those who visited the exhibit.

Interested individuals met early in 2015 to plan “Perspectives 2.” The energy and ideas for collaboration that came from that early meeting were impressive -what had begun as a small project had clearly taken on momentum.

“Perspectives 2” was developed to offer dynamic programming that explored the way Art can communicate personal views, visualize complex issues and build awareness. Above all, the goal was to create art that was grounded in community experience and for those who participated, a fostering of individual growth.

Four workshops were scheduled during spring 2015. They were designed to explore key ways to communicate environmental /scientific information and to demonstrate how artists are using these visualizations to successfully portray their views. Each workshop had a collaborative exercise to encourage dialogue.

The four workshops were:

1. *Looking at Art and the Issues*

2. *Location, Location, Location - Creating and Using Maps to Symbolize Your Personal Journey, Experiences/Concerns*
3. *Running the Numbers - Art that Aids in Understanding Data*
4. *Symbolism: Personal Stories to Pop Culture - Using Personal and Iconic Images in a Work of Art to Tell a Story*

Additionally, a studio space was set up at the center for continued use throughout the summer.

Four partnering artists, Andi Grunberg, Femi J. Johnson, Lisette Morel and Melissa Perhamus, were dedicated mentors and created their own work alongside participants. Artists Anna Kodama and Linda Ganus Albuлесcu were guest speakers and artist/art educator Tom Maxfield played a key role in workshop development, presenting the fourth workshop on Symbolism. NNC’s Director, Rachel Hogan Carr, gave us room to grow. Her trust in the project gave us confidence to take on an expanded exhibit. NNC’s Science Director, Kate Semmens, became a critical link to scientific information and environmental professionals. Other artists and art educators gave of their time and talents freely and community members were never short on insight. NNC staff members supported the project in ways that were many times seamless and invaluable.

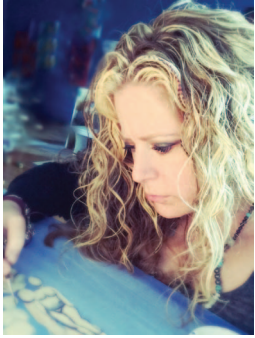
Forty-four individuals participated in this second year of the project. Now, as I prepare the exhibit, I am struck by the level of commitment each participant made to gain understanding of their subject matter and by the honesty of each artist in representing something they truly care about and want to share: their own perspectives, wonderfully diverse, authentic and endlessly interesting.

— Keri Maxfield, NNC Art Director

Cover: *Plastic Ocean Series: Microbeads* (detail), artist: Andi Grunberg  
Inside Cover: *The Consequences of Waste* (detail), artist: Tom Maxfield

# OUR COMMUNITY, OUR ART, OUR ENVIRONMENT.

## PARTNERING ARTISTS :



**ANDI GRUNBERG**

Andi Grunberg is one of the featured artists in the Perspectives 2 project. Art has been a part of her life since childhood. One of her degrees is in art, with a focus in metalsmithing. She is a mixed media and sculptural artist living and working in the Lehigh Valley. She currently works out of Expressions Studio in Allentown with two other local artists.



**FEMI J. JOHNSON**

Born in Manhattan, NY, Femi J. Johnson was raised in Easton from age ten. Primarily a Self-Taught artist with an extensive career in design for engineering. An AAS in fine arts helps Femi stay engaged with his contemporary views in art. Femi works predominantly in the medium of PaintCollaging and Drawing. Collage Painting gives meaning to a disjointed perspective, incorporating different media to get the feelings and thoughts out. Femi has shown regionally and internationally with work in corporate and private collections.



**LISETTE MOREL**

Lisette Morel, Dominican-American artist born 1974 in Manhattan, NY, is also participating in the upcoming “We Are You Project” Group Exhibition at Kean University, N.J. and recently exhibited in the group show “I Kan Do Dat” at Skylight Gallery, Brooklyn, NY curated by Daniel Simmons and Oshune Layne. In 2013 she was invited by artist Gregory Coates of Fuse Art Infrastructure to participate in experimental exhibitions, Allentown, PA. Morel was awarded the Artist in Resident at Soho20 Chelsea Gallery, NYC 2012. She completed the Aljira Emerge 10 program, as well as, participated in the “Repeating Islands” exhibition at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey. Her work has been exhibited at El Museo del Barrio’s Fifth Biennial: The (S) Files and at the Jersey City Museum and the African American Museum in Philadelphia, PA. Lisette is a recipient of the prestigious Joan Mitchell Foundation MFA Grant. Her work has been reviewed by *The New York Times* and *The Star Ledger*. She received her Masters in Fine Arts at the Tyler School of Art, Temple University and her Bachelor of Arts at Rutgers University.





## PARTICIPANTS:

Dawn Agran	Andi Grunberg	Kate Semmens
Elli Albrecht	Ana Hamilton	Julian Signer
Linda Ganus Albulescu	Yvette Hendler	Jody Smith
Elynn Alexander	Ginny Hoyt	Alex Smyth
Debbie Bodayle	Arvelo Jenna	Earl Stocker
Martina Calluori	Femi J. Johnson	Dierdre Van Walters
Sam Chanitz	Anna Kodama	Stephen Washington
Jude-Laure Denis	Madison Krapf	Chris Woolley
Bronwynne Dobrowolski	Francesca Laudone	
Rayne Dobrowolski	Jacob Lazarek	
Andrew Youssef	Rebekah Lazarek	
Tori Evert	Tom Maxfield	
Cassidy Flynn	Aine McDevitt	
Egidio Galgano	Lisette Morel	
Alexa Gatti	Bruce Nicholas	
Mallory Gerber	Melissa Perhamus	
Tucker Gordon	Maryann Riker	
Teri Greenridge	Pam Ruch	



### MELISSA PERHAMUS

Colors pop and lines dance creating imaginary landscapes of an organic memory for you to linger in. Melissa Perhamus is inspired by the visual world filled with colors, textures, lines and shapes and the feelings evoked by the interplay of these. She grew up in Upstate NY where trees burned into her soul. Understanding at a very young age the power of art, she pursued it as a career earning a B.A. in Studio Art from SUNY Potsdam with a very influential semester abroad at Colleges of Ripon and York St John, York, England. Having explored many different methods and styles, she has found her way to a unique style using plastic wrap, masking tape, and lots of water to create images filled with "ghost trees" and intertwining roots and limbs of trees. This process combines intellectual philosophy with playful explorations which keeps her work honest and fresh. The occasional incorporation of maps into her work stems from a lifelong fascination with the romantic notions they evoke along with the similarities of their lines to roots, limbs and textures of nature.





*Existence Anyone Anywhere*, artist: Femi J. Johnson



## WORKSHOP TWO:

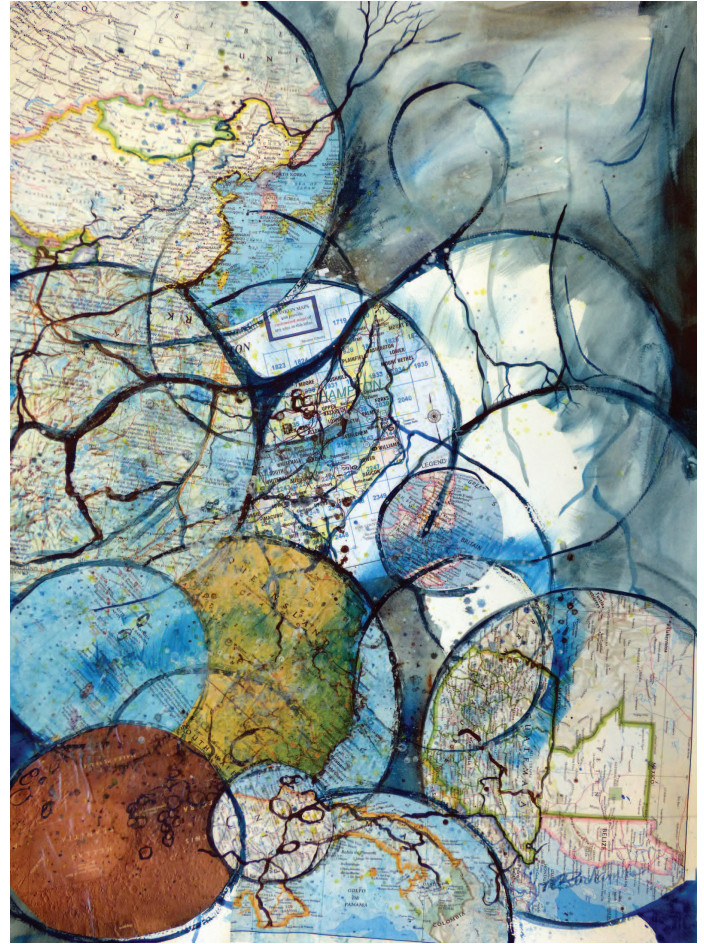
# LOCATION, LOCATION MAPS

### CREATING AND USING MAPS TO SYMBOLIZE YOUR PERSONAL JOURNEY, EXPERIENCES, CONCERNS

Maps are a perfect artistic medium for expressing issues on the environment. They are all about science, people and the natural world. Maps demonstrate interconnectedness and the cumulative effects of our individual behaviors. They can be data-driven or symbolic of something deeply personal and the message can range from “this is how the world is” to “this is my vision — my world.”

Workshop Two was an exploration of what maps can tell us, how scientists map information and how artists have altered maps to reflect their own experiences. Together, these two approaches to representing our world can form powerful images representing place, perceptions and experiences.

Workshop participants were asked to begin the creative thought process by creating a symbolic map “inset” of a place that was formative in their appreciation of the environment. These small circular creations got everyone searching through old maps and magazines, ripping and tearing away in an editorial way to hone in on that special place and define what it was that moved them.



*Worlds*, artist: Melissa Perhamus

Also available to workshop participants was Nurture Nature Center’s unique and beautiful exhibit of mapped datasets. NOAA’s Science on Sphere® - a six-foot animated globe sharing visualizations of mapped data of earth and our solar system was a mesmerizing display that made for easy inspiration.





*Kisses for Your Soul (detail), artist: Lisette Morel*

*Places that Changed Me, Workshop Two:  
Location, Location - Maps!*



Cassidy Flynn



Madison Krapf



Francesca Laudone



Tori Evert





*Wasteland 1*, artist: Stephen Washington

## WORKSHOP FOUR:

# SYMBOLISM PERSONAL STORIES TO POP CULTURE

“Art can help build awareness. Indeed, nature and science are inextricably linked to art in the environmental realm. While science measures the health of the planet, art helps us visualize our complex relationship to the natural world. Art has a unique set of tools to represent our world: irony and allegory, metaphor and humor.”

- *Art Works for Change*

Symbolism is a powerful instrument of communication. Popular symbolic imagery can be used to quickly connect with the public’s consciousness on critical issues. Photographs, advertising, news imagery and logos can take on new meaning when selectively used with other imagery or isolated from its original context. Symbols are often used in humorous or sarcastic ways to highlight issues such as consumerism, commercialism, or spirituality and, it can lay bare our cultural tendencies.

Personally symbolic imagery can invite the viewer into the artists interior world where perceptions and perspectives may be altered.

Workshop Four challenged participants to use a juxtaposition of classic symbolic images collaged together to make a statement about America today. A pile of 1950’s LIFE magazines offered some idealistic imagery that was good fodder for sarcasm. The resulting pieces were “quilted” together to make a collaborative piece, “Social Fabric: American Dream - New Realities” (right).

*CORPDUSTER*, artist: Linda Ganus Albulescu



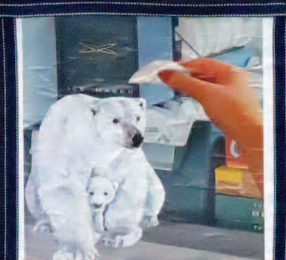
*Social Fabric: American Dream - New Realities,*  
 Collaborative "Quilt" Workshop Four on Symbolism



*Social Fabric...*, artist: Yvette Hendler



*Social Fabric...*, artist: Aine Freeman McDevitt



*Social Fabric...*, artist: Andi Grunberg

Artists: Lisette Morel, Linda Ganus, Bronwynne Dobrowolski, Alexa Gatti, Femi Johnson, Stephen Washington, Rebekah Lazarek, Melissa Perhamus, Yvette Hendler, and Elynn Alexander



*D.A. Dan (So Named Because of His Hair and not His Career) Found His Flow at the Confluence, artist: Maryann Riker*



*1st Element, artist: Elli Albrecht*



*No GMO, artist: Earl Stocker*



¿Que' hemos hecho?, artist: Tom Maxfield

“I found it to be such an intimate atmosphere where the public/community and the artists exchanged on an equal platform. The various topics were carefully investigated and presented so that the community could connect art-making as a voice to express the ecological, natural and man-made elements affecting their daily lives and the planet.”

“The importance of Perspectives is that it reveals the similarities between the approaches to practicing art and science - and they are closer than most people suspect.”

“As a professional artist this was my second year participating in Perspectives at the Nurture Nature Center. The scientific aspect enhanced my experience by providing a thoughtful springboard for my creativity. Working with both other professional artists and those from the community wanting to join the conversation of environmental issues was freeing for me.”

“The refreshing aspect and what sets this platform apart from other community involved projects is the authentic engagement/involvement in art making amongst all who participated; the artist was not in charge per se to direct the community on what a particular perspective should be - instead the participating artists and the public created together, supported and inspired each individual perspective.”

“...the informative interactive workshops are inspirational booster shots.”

“Perspective opens up a chance for dialogue on matters of importance. Perspective is more than simply a viewpoint, it is awareness. If you can't change something, change the way you think.”

“The presentations provided along with the guest speakers have been so insightful and the community of artists and creative thinkers have also helped me to overcome a fear I have of sharing my own visual voice.”

“As a community outreach program, I think it is amazing. The everyday person who has a desire to share their thoughts on a topic can participate without fear of judgment. They have access to facts to support their beliefs or challenge them. And an opportunity to work with professionals to help guide them through the process.”



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