

# PERSPECTIVES

## ART ON ENVIRONMENT

# 3

SEPTEMBER 30 –  
NOVEMBER 20, 2016

75-89 BThHM 1,2,3 P

89-97 CTaSqU P

97-17 LwRSauN P

13 Artists

13 Topics

17 Interviews

A project of the  
Nurture Nature Center  
Easton, PA

THE  
NURTURE  
NATURE  
CENTER

# PERSPECTIVES ART ON ENVIRONMENT

# 3

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*Perspectives* is a project of the Nurture Nature Center designed to harness the power of art to explore important environmental issues, promote awareness and understanding, and inspire action. It works to engage artists, scientists, researchers and community members in a collaboration that fosters an exchange of experiences and ideas and strengthens personal, professional and community ties.

This exhibit represents the project's third year, which consisted of four community workshops, each with a focus on exploring timely topics and creating works in various media. Additionally, 13 artists researched 13 environmental topics they felt passionate about, conducting 17 interviews with professionals working in the field in order to better understand the science behind the issues. The artists then incorporated what they learned into their work. A series of events will be planned in conjunction with this exhibit to further discussion within the community.

A debt of gratitude is owed to Nurture Nature Center's (NNC) Science Director Dr. Kathryn Alese Semmens who worked with each artist to find resources and set up interviews with knowledgeable professionals in the 13 fields of interest. Also, thanks to NNC's Executive Director Rachel Hogan Carr for her unwavering support and encouragement for the project throughout the past three years. Finally, a very special thank you must go out to each and every scientist, researcher, professional or resident who kindly shared their time and expertise in the interviews and to the artists who willingly explored new territory. This booklet serves to introduce the artists and interviewees who collaborated in this year's project.

Keri Maxfield, Art Director, NNC

## Inside Out

Anna Kodama

*"Why did you separate me from the earth? What did you stand to gain?"*

Ahohni, *Hopelessness* album, 2016

It seems to me that the separation Ahohni sings about is at the root of all our problems. It's a feeling I have experienced when in deep grief or depression. The long way out requires sleeping outside on the ground, walking by the river, talking to my dog, touching and observing everything, and making art. For me it's all connected.

Years ago, I read *Last Child in the Woods* and the theme resonated: kids' need to play freely outdoors. Shut inside, glued to electronic media, they become bored, depressed, overweight, and inattentive. The book was a big deal when it came out, and educators moved in with 'no child left inside' programs.

That's important, but the problem doesn't always go away when we take kids on a hike or teach them the names of trees. There remains a deeper and more pervasive disconnect that extends into adulthood and makes us unable to experience the earth as anything other than a resource to be managed. Thomas Berry said our culture makes us like an autistic child when it comes to the natural world, locked into ourselves and unable to get out or to let the world in, unable to receive or give affection. Unable to relate, We'd as soon cut down our most beautiful forest in the world. We cut it down, for what? For timber, for board feet, for money."

Berry was a theologian, and he could speak subjectively about awe and about sickness of the soul. He could say things like "We bear the universe in our beings as the universe bears us in its being." But the separation is too real to be left in church. Biologist E. O. Wilson writes in terms of instinct and evolution. His *Biophilia* hypothesis says we're hard-wired to love life, to appreciate green spaces and delight in animals. Connection is our natural state.

The psychologists I interviewed each let me know that biophilia remains a strong drive in the human psyche. We don't necessarily need a wilderness experience to make the connection. Gail Melson's studies suggest that early childhood relationships with pets may be more important than with siblings. Unmediated play with animals pushes us out of self-centeredness and into new ways of communicating and moving. Pets stir our imagination, awaken our feelings and sense of morality and stretch us to consider life from another animal's perspective.

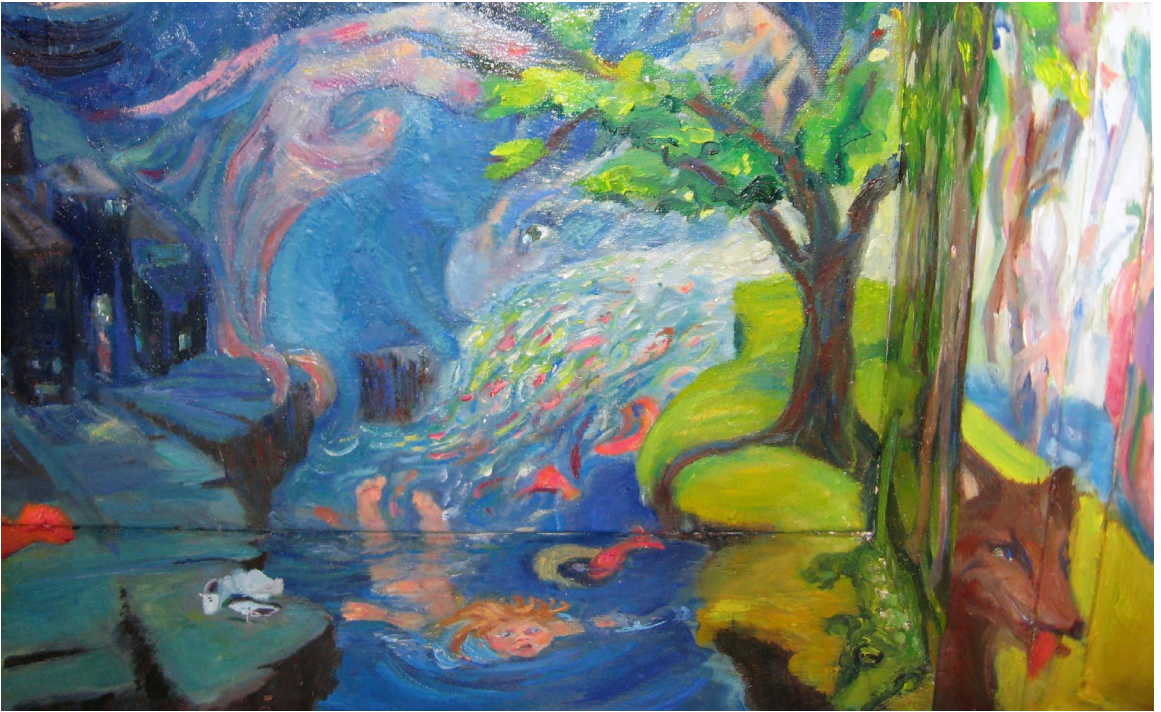
Lisa Nisbet's work applies the biophilia hypothesis to human well-being and our care for the planet. You can take her Nature Relatedness survey to see how connected you feel to the living earth.

*And now to the art.*

I was five years old. My older sister was stuck on a homework assignment: Write a poem. Something crashed in the attic. My father went up there with me behind him. Seconds later, he was talking about big gold eyes and we were down the stairs with the door shut. I still remember the red lights of a cruiser flashing in the driveway, the limp ringed tail and fastidious leather hands of the dead raccoon. They wouldn't let me touch it, let alone bring it to school. But I knew we had been visited. Something real had happened. Something great even. And now my sister had something to write:

"Policemen always travel in pairs  
Two by two they came up the stairs. . ."

## ANNA KODAMA



Anna Kodama; Detail: *Inside Out! - Cupboard*: oil on oak wood and canvas.



## ANNA KODAMA

Artist

Anna Kodama lives in Riegelsville PA and paints in order to figure things out and find new connections. She also takes long walks with her dog.

**Topic: Psychology/Environment**



Anna Kodama; Detail: *Inside Out! - Cupboard*: oil on oak wood and canvas.



Elizabeth (Lisa) Nisbet is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Trent University. Her research encompasses personality, social, health, and environmental psychology, exploring individual differences in 'nature relatedness' and the links between human-nature relationships, happiness, health, and sustainable behaviour. Her work is supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) and appears in *Environment and Behavior*, *Canadian Psychology*, the *Journal of Happiness Studies*, and *Psychological Science*. Dr. Nisbet teaches courses on health psychology, emotion and motivation, personality, environmental health, and environmental psychology.

Gail F. Melson, PhD, is Professor Emerita at Purdue University in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies and in the Center for the Human-Animal Bond. She received her B.A. cum laude from Harvard University and M.S. and PhD in psychology from Michigan State University. Her scholarship focuses on the social-emotional development of children in the contexts of family, school, peer group and culture. In particular, her work addresses the role of animals, nature and technology as influences on development. Dr. Melson has authored four books and over 65 articles and book chapters. Her book, *Why the Wild Things Are: Animals in the Lives of Children* (Harvard University Press) has appeared in Chinese, Japanese, Korean and French language editions. Dr. Melson has been Visiting Professor at Radcliffe College, Tufts University and Hebrew University (Jerusalem). She lectures frequently on the role that animals, nature and technology plays for children's development, including recent keynote addresses in San Antonio, New Hampshire, Denver, Seattle, Tokyo, and Jerusalem. Dr. Melson consults on issues related to children, nature, technology and animals with nonprofit organizations and corporations, with emphasis on program development and evaluation. She serves as educational consultant to the award-winning app, VIRRY, which uses interactive technology to engage children with wild animals. Her blog for *Psychology Today* - *Why the Wild Things Are* - can be found at: [www.psychologytoday.com/blog/why-the-wild-things-are](http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/why-the-wild-things-are).



Anna Kodama; Detail: *Inside Out!* - Cupboard: oil on oak wood and canvas.

## ELYNN ALEXANDER



Elynn Alexander; *Planetary*- Metal, glass, wire, mixed materials



## ELYNN ALEXANDER

Writer, Artist, and Mother

Elynn Alexander (Lynn) is a writer, artist, and mother based in Easton, PA with special interest in assemblage, collage, repurposed and unconventional materials, and combining traditional elements with technology and digital media. Most of her poetry and art incorporate social and environmental themes. She has performed in and curated poetry events nationwide and has managed online literary projects and a micropress since 2009.

**Topic: Pollinators**



Emily May is a Pollinator Conservation Specialist for the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation ([www.xerces.org](http://www.xerces.org)). As an undergraduate, she studied biology at Middlebury College (VT), where she founded a campus pollinator garden. She received an M.S. degree in Entomology from Michigan State University, where she studied how wildflower plantings and pesticide applications affect wild bee communities in Michigan highbush blueberry. She currently works on outreach for the Integrated Crop Pollination Project ([www.projecticp.org](http://www.projecticp.org)), a national USDA-funded research project working to develop pollination strategies for fruit, nut, and vegetable crops that harness the pollinating power of both wild and managed pollinators. She is based at the University of Vermont in Burlington, VT.

For *Perspectives: Art on Environment 3*, I decided to focus on pollinators under threat, whose numbers have been declining due to a variety of reasons. My goal has been to examine the role of human behavior and to connect the role of pollinator decline with present and future implications for global societies. This information, in turn, informs the creative work undertaken as a partnering artist in *Perspectives* at the Nurture Nature Center.

The decline of pollinators has a direct impact on the availability of food supplies and the availability of certain foods that provide essential nutrients. Food supplies connect to issues of hunger, justice, poverty, and public health because of the connections between availability and food access and local economies. Our poorest countries feel the impact of changes in the global food supplies immediately, and many health issues and deficiencies can be directly linked to nutrition.

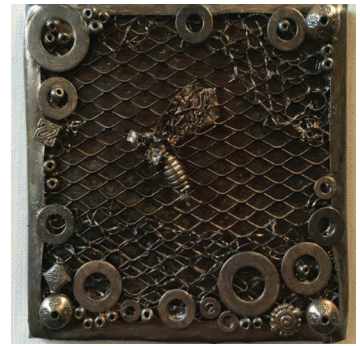
In my interview, I asked about some of the causes of the reduced numbers of pollinators, such as environmental toxins, biodiversity, human behavior and environmental policies. While the impact and numbers are the subject of ongoing studies, many of our pollinator species have declined in their numbers by 40% and many face extinction.

We also discussed research on cases of specific impact, such as the relationships between pollinator-dependent foods and nutritional deficiencies such as blindness connected to Vitamin A in regions where fruits and vegetables reliant on pollination serve as the primary providers of these nutrients are less accessible.

During the interview, I asked about a common human response when confronted with an environmental crisis: that solutions can be found in technology and the idea that action can be delayed, and even avoided, by turning to human-created solutions to human-made problems, without really confronting the behaviors that necessitate the response in the first place. Is this a realistic response? How do scientists in the field of study, such as scientists at the Xerces Society, view solutions like these?

There are many behaviors in the natural world that work in balance, each playing a role in the bigger picture. While some farmers have attempted, for example, to address the decline of bees from pesticides with hand and artificial pollinators, humans cannot replicate the natural world. There are thousands of species of bees, each with their own characteristics. The answer is that we must restore and preserve what nature is already doing, and doing well on her own.

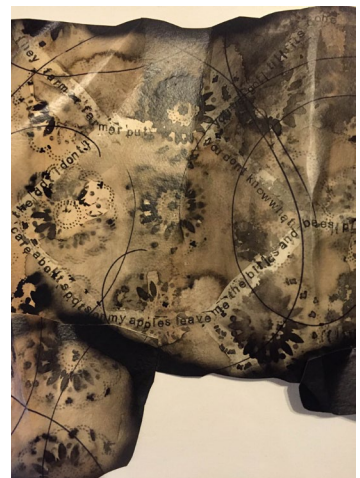
—Elynn Alexander



Elynn Alexander; *She Will Win*



Elynn Alexander; *Fossil*



Elynn Alexander; *Spots On My Apples*

## EARL STOCKER



## EARL STOCKER

Artist, Lifelong resident of Easton, PA.

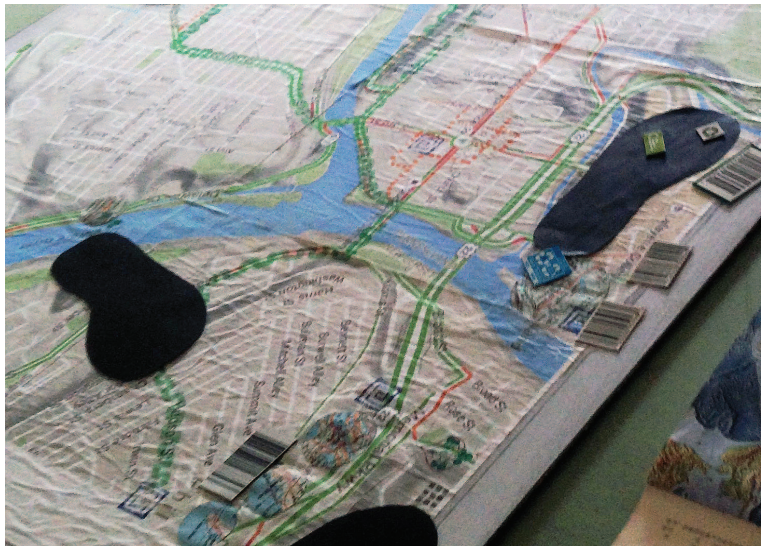
The work I have assembled for this year's *Perspectives* exhibition is based on Carbon Footprints.

Using a variety of mediums and techniques I hope to trigger in the viewers a heightened awareness of how the ways in which we choose to live our lives affects the world we live in. I hope you enjoy the work I have done and even more I hope you take along with you a greater understanding of how our behaviors and choices can create a more sustainable environment.

**Topic: Carbon Footprint**



Earl Stocker; Handmade Paper



Earl Stocker; Mapping Project

Chris Jones, Program Director of the CoolClimate Network at U.C. Berkeley. CoolClimate develops leading greenhouse gas management software and behavior-based programs that engage, educate, and motivate individuals, businesses, and communities to adopt low carbon technologies and practices. CoolClimate's carbon management software has been adopted by the state of California, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and communities throughout the U.S. Dr. Jones is an expert in carbon footprint analysis and the design and evaluation of behavior-based programs. He is serving his sixth year as Program Chair of the Behavior, Energy and Climate Change (BECC) Conference. He received his Ph.D. in Energy and Resources at U.C. Berkeley in 2014. He also holds an M.S. in Energy and Resources and an M.A. in Latin American Studies, both from U.C. Berkeley, and a B.A. in Politics from U.C. Santa Cruz.





## DEIRDRE S. JOHNSON

Poet, Playwright and Performer

Deirdre S. Johnson, celebrates all art expressions. Thru her words, she hopes to engage, enlighten and enthuse. She sees the beauty of life in all of its manifestations. It's what inspires her. Deirdre is an active member of Basement Poetry and board member of Allentown Public Theater. She is thrilled to be a part of this exhibit alongside her husband, Femi J. Johnson.

### Topic: Flooding

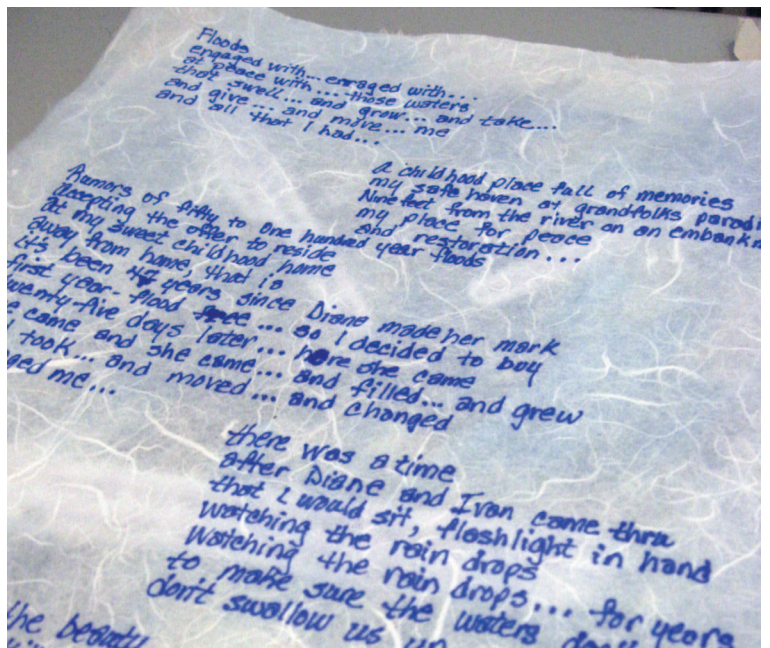


Interviewing Stephen Flowers gifted me the opportunity to shadow his shoes. I gained a new perspective on floods and the many impacts it can have on those who live near a river (and oceans). Stephen candidly shared his experiences, exemplifying what it means to be resilient. He has survived three major floods, all within a four year timeframe. The first two floods were seven months apart. *The Flood* poem hopes to capture some of his story.

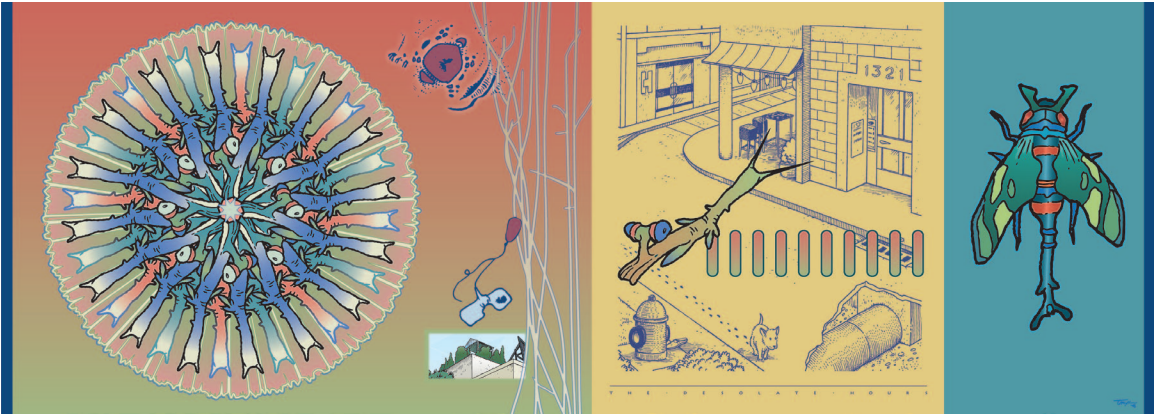
His experiences are humbling. He shared that after losing so much to flood waters, he gained a new insight of life. Those floods transformed him. Stephen now views the world with more compassionate eyes and does what he can for his community. - Deirdre S. Johnson



Stephen Flowers, Owner of Suddenly Samantha Salon, Easton, PA, lives on the banks of the Delaware River in Lower Mt. Bethel, PA. Stephen and his son, Caiden (also pictured here) survived the record floods that hit the area in September 2004, April 2005, and June 2006. His home was his grandparent's house since 1940. They lost the original home in the flood of 1955.



## TOM MAXFIELD



Tom Maxfield; *Desolate Hours* - 28" x 10", Digital collage print

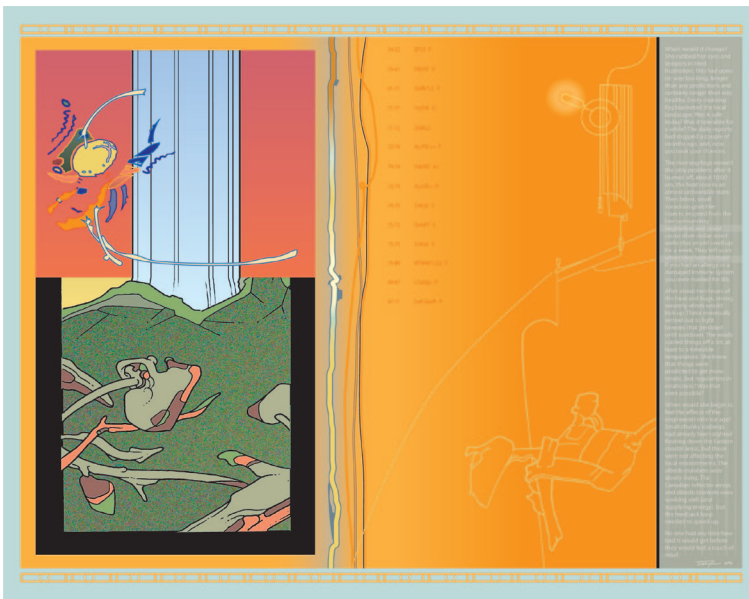
## TOM MAXFIELD

Illustrator, Graphic Artist, Futurist

Tom Maxfield has worked as an artist and teacher for over 30 years. He served twelve years as a Pennsylvania municipal official where he enacted many innovative protective environmental ordinances and policies. Through his membership on Township Council, the Planning Commission, and the Environmental Advisory Council, he has been involved in protecting wild areas and parks, and has been collaboratively responsible for preserving hundreds of acres of fields, forests, and waterways. The bulk of his artwork deals with environmental issues and future eco trends.



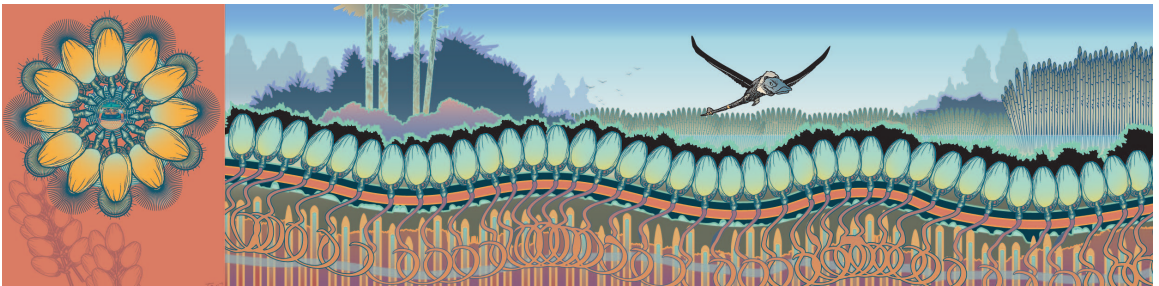
**Topic: The effects of climate change on present and future species.**



Tom Maxfield; *Brutal Times* - 12" x 10", Digital collage print

*"An interview with Moravian College's Diane White Husic provided me with plenty of ideas and issues to explore. During an hour-long conversation/interview, we talked about climate change trends, species migration, genetic engineering, eco timelines, mass extinctions, and many other topics. Listening to Diane speak opened up new avenues of thinking for me; it was as if I was permitted to participate in a panoramic continuum of natural systems, and I felt like I could suddenly see far ahead and into the past at the same time. It was a very rewarding and enlightening conversation."*

“The Last Flight” is about the end of a long journey for a future species guided by instincts and ancient drives. This large flyer has returned to the place of his birth after a year-long, continent-spanning journey during which he bred, ate little, and retraced a route flown by his ancestors for millennia. It is thought that some large pterosaurs followed life patterns similar to this by soaring on ocean air currents and staying aloft for long periods with very little expenditure of energy. In a similar fashion, this future flyer will feed on aquatic life taken on the wing. Now old and exhausted, he will finish his days in the teeming estuary of his birth in comparative ease. – Tom Maxfield



Tom Maxfield; *The Last Flight* – 57” x 14”, Digital collage print

DIANE HUSIC, B.S., Ph.D., is Dean of the School of Natural and Health Sciences at Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA. Her interests are varied, but focus largely on restoration and resilience of the natural world – how ecosystems can recover from and adapt to human influences on the planet.

Dr. Husic has taught courses on environmental science, conservation biology, nutrition, biochemistry, sustainability, environmental literature, and climate change. Her research focuses on a contaminated site (the Palmerton Superfund site) examining heavy metal impacts on plants and the effectiveness of ecological restoration efforts in restoring biodiversity. Along with students and citizen volunteers, she monitors habitat for climate change impacts along a portion of the Appalachian Mountains, and she serves as the coordinator of the Eastern Pennsylvania Phenology Project. In addition, she is a Board Member of the Lehigh Gap Nature Center (housed at the Superfund site) and of the Rocky Mountain Science and Sustainability Network – an organization that engages undergraduate students of color in citizen science projects in conjunction with the National Park Service.



She is an author on over 50 publications and has contributed to several reports. She was also a contributor to the NGO Committee on the Status of Women outcome document for the North America and European region and has attended the international meetings as a credentialed observer for the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change since 2009. She serves as a member of the steering committee for the Research and Independent NGOs constituency group, and has worked with the Women’s Major Group on the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

Special thanks also to James Titus, Sea Level Rise expert at US Environmental Protection Agency, for sharing his time and expertise in an additional interview.

YEVETTE HENDLER



Yevette Hendler; *Top of the Mill*



Yevette Hendler; *Ambassador for the Day*



## YEVETTE HENDLER

Fine Art Photographer, Mixed-media Artist

Hunterdon County, NJ resident and artist, Yvette Hendler uses photography to present her vision of the every day world. Hendler's images have been shown in solo as well as group shows throughout Central NJ, the Lehigh Valley, PA, and her piece "The Heart of Easton" is part of the City of Easton permanent art collection.

**Topic: Stream Health/  
Dam Removal**

## Dam: Good vs Evil and an unlikely encounter

Yvette Hendler

Dams have been around for thousands of years. It would only stand to reason that some of them would become obsolete over time. Many dams, especially locally, were put in place for reasons that no longer exist with the most common being to power mills that have been long since abandoned. These dams in particular that continue to exist provide no benefit for the environment. In fact, they hurt the fish and plant life, which in turn impacts the surrounding ecosystem.

While creating images for this project, I visited one such dam that will undoubtedly take itself down given enough time. Wehrs Dam located in Orefield, PA was built to power the grist mill that shut down over six decades ago. Now the only thing that the dam provides is an aesthetic appeal, but it does great damage to water quality, marine life and increases the chances of flooding and its impact.

As is typical with many art endeavors, the story I ended up telling was completely different than was initially intended. During my conversations with both Kristie Fach, Director of Ecological Restoration at Wildlands Conservancy and Dr. Laura Craig, Director, Science & Economics and River Restoration Programs, American Rivers, I got a good visual of the impact that obsolete dams make on our environment. It was so ironic that my visit to this dam on this day brought to life parts of our conversations as if nature had a secret ear on the phone line. High algae growth and sediment buildup behind the dam, the water being unnaturally stagnant with elevated levels from the natural flowing river below, increased geese population (and goose poop! Oh the poop!!) and the dam was crumbling due to disrepair were immediate observations by my untrained eye.

However, the other side of the dam seemed to be a totally different world. There was a beautiful heron ready for his close-up enjoying the free flowing water. It even felt cooler and more natural. Then I had a most unexpected encounter. A fisherman in the river I am used to seeing as a common place thing, but this man wasn't fishing. He was using a metal detector. This hobby allowed him to spend some peaceful time in nature and sometimes he would even find interesting stuff. When I asked him about which side of the dam he preferred to scavenge for goodies, he said he could never do this on the other side of the dam because the water level is too high. Also, the algae buildup makes it more slippery to stand and get a good footing.

Because water levels are typically lower this time of year, I was able to see in one visit the good vs evil of these obsolete dams. It's like

## YEVETTE HENDLER

reading the book, and my visit to Wehrs Dam was like watching the book come to life in a movie. Even though people were enjoying both sides of the dam, you could see a better water quality on the free flowing side. Our friend, the heron, became ambassador for all migratory birds who enjoy the free flowing water and its benefits while the stagnant side of the dam which abounds in geese (and goose poop) had no such companion.

Which side of the dam would you like to visit?

— Yevette Hendler



Yevette Hendler; *Working the River*



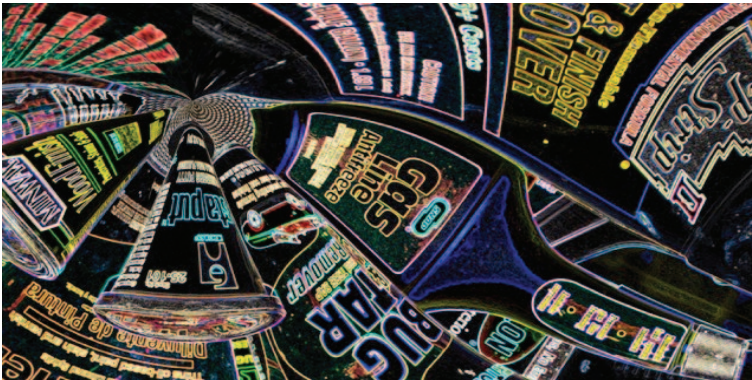
Kristie Fach, Director of Ecological Restoration, Wildlands Conservancy

As Wildlands Conservancy's Director of Ecological Restoration, Kristie Fach is responsible for understanding the restoration needs and opportunities in the 1000+ square-mile Lehigh River watershed, and developing and executing a wide array of strategies to address them. Throughout her 15 years of work in the conservation field, she has completed many large-scale restoration projects that involved enhancing endangered species habitat, removing dams, and guiding stewardship on public and private land to protect sensitive wildlife habitat.



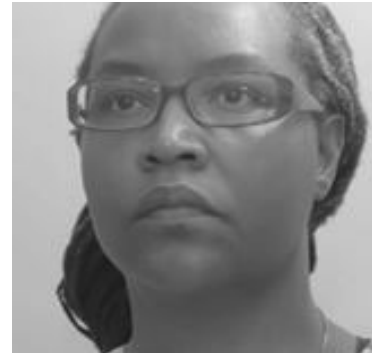
Dr. Laura Craig, Director, Science & Economics and River Restoration Programs, American Rivers, is an accomplished river restoration practitioner and aquatic ecologist with outreach experience, leadership skills, and documented success as a conservation partner. She works to ensure that American Rivers' national river conservation efforts are informed by current scientific knowledge and that science permeates all appropriate aspects of the organization's work. Her specific areas of expertise are ecosystem ecology, nutrient dynamics, and restoration theory, and she has a keen interest in improving how we manage existing and emerging threats to rivers. Within the Restoration Program, Laura facilitates and manages dam removal projects across Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania and works to establish collaborative partnerships to improve restoration monitoring, increase communication between researchers and practitioners, and further the science of restoration ecology. Prior to joining American Rivers, Laura was a researcher at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. Laura received a BS in Biology from Susquehanna University and a PhD in Aquatic Ecology from University of Maryland-College Park.

"Photography is my passion and learning and re-discovering my surroundings through my lens is an on going process of the beauty of the earth." - Lillian June Robinson



Lillian June Robinson; *Reaction*

## LILLIAN JUNE ROBINSON



Photographer

Lillian June Robinson is a native of Easton, PA

**Topic: Recycling**

My *Perspective* work is on household chemical recycling. In my conversation with Kenneth Zinis, Northampton County Environment and Sustainability Community and Economic Development, I was surprised to learn that there are Craigslist trading of unfinished paint and household chemicals. I did not realize until I spoke with Ken that I too hold on to chemicals and corrosive materials. In my submission of photographs I tried to express what happens to these chemicals, paints, stains and drain cleaner, etc. left in basements and garages to "Use at a Later Date". Northampton County holds a collection of these items twice a year, May and October. The October date is the 8th Northampton County Community College. - Lillian June Robinson



**KENNETH G. ZINIS**, Environmental Services Coordinator

Ken Zinis leads recycling, environmental and sustainability initiatives for Northampton County and coordinates and provides technical and program support and leadership to the communities.

Ken brings environmental and sustainability skills and expertise from his experience with the chemical and pharmaceutical manufacturing and waste management industries. He has been active with several non-profit environmental protection organizations and initiatives, and currently serves on the board of the Lehigh Valley Pretreatment Information Exchange, protecting the Valley's water resources.

Ken holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology plus a Master's in Sustainability Management from Wilkes University.



Aine Freeman McDevitt; Detail: *What Lies Beneath*

In this body of work I am choosing soil as one of my main mediums. Soil from my garden. I am exploring the idea of layers of life, constant flux and glimpsing teeming life in looking beneath the surface- digging deep. Listening, feeling, looking and seeing what lies beneath. I started most pieces with a few layers of phosphorescent paint that has become for the most part undetectable outside my own workspace at night and that hidden energy became part of my exploration, tying in with the ideas of soil as an ever-changing living collection of micro and macro creatures. Experiencing the soil allows the individual to open oneself to all the live energy that hums beneath, the energy that feeds us and that we feed back. So many stories and life forces fighting to the surface. All that came before us and what will become of us existing at once. I thought a lot about hallowed ground, blood and land, hollow earth mythology, creativity and life and death ... but really I think too much and lots of really sad stuff happens so making something soothes me, my garden soothes me, the soil soothes me. This soil has made me, she has helped heal me, she is my constant companion (it is where my Angel lies) ; I will become her too in some way. I try to show gratitude back to her .

— Aine Freeman McDevitt



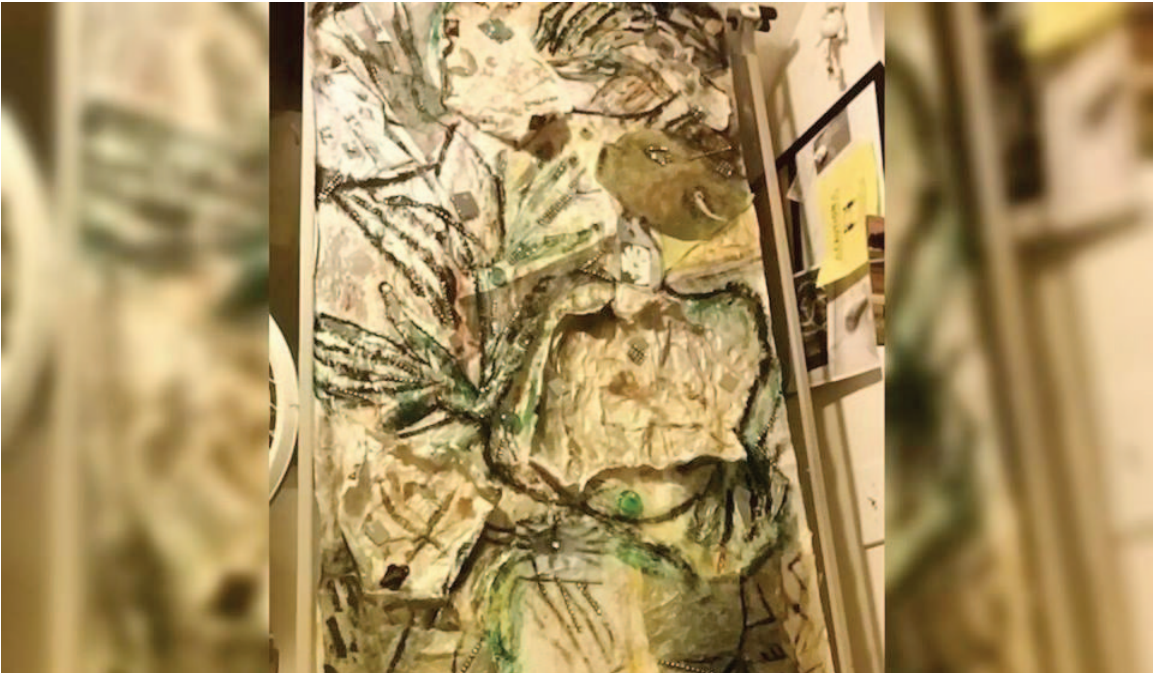


## AINE FREEMAN MCDEVITT

Mixed-media Artist

McDevitt is a graduate of Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY with degrees in Art and English. She works in mixed media; often with found, “rescued” or repurposed objects with intent on creating an organic abstract visual narrative. She currently lives and works in the Lehigh Valley.

**Topic: Agriculture/Soil Ecology**



Aine Freeman McDevitt; Detail: *What Lies Beneath*

**ALISON GRANTHAM**, Blue Apron’s Agroecologist and Farm Sourcing Operations Manager, followed her passion for soils to a career in sustainable agriculture. Beginning with research on soil carbon in forests at Harvard’s Long-Term Ecological Research station in 2006, Alison went on to lead research on organic and sustainable agriculture at the Rodale Institute, managed Penn State Extension’s beginning farmer training program, and completed a dual-title PhD focusing on improving nitrogen management in agriculture at Penn State prior to joining BA last fall. At Blue Apron, Alison is building a new precision planning approach to manage Blue Apron’s specialty produce sourcing along with a suite of technical tools (i.e. soil testing, climate data reports, on-farm sensor technology) to enhance Blue Apron’s farm partners’ growing practices.



## LINDA GANUS ALBULESCU



Linda Ganus Albulescu; *Threshold* - clip from video installation

## LINDA GANUS ALBULESCU

Visual Artist

Linda Ganus Albulescu, an adjunct professor at Lehigh University, holds an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts, and received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI. She is active as a visual artist in the Lehigh Valley and New York metro areas. She has received numerous Best-in-Show and First Prize awards, including solo exhibits held at Lehigh University, Moravian College, and the Nurture Nature Center. Ms. Ganus has also studied painting and drawing at the New York Studio School and the New York Academy of Art, and has exhibited widely across the United States. Her work has been commissioned by organizations such as the New York Philharmonic, David Sarnoff Research Center, Musical America, G. Schirmer, Inc., and the Kinhaven Music Institute, as well as numerous private collectors. Linda is a member of Pleiades Gallery of Contemporary Art in New York City and currently lives in Easton, PA with her husband, Eugene Albulescu and her stepdaughters Tasha and Elena.



**Topic: Noise Pollution**

## THRESHOLD: VIDEO and 2-D work

Linda Ganus Albulescu

Threshold, a multimedia installation (video, printmaking, painting) is my response to the growing phenomena called noise pollution. As someone who has always been sensitive to unwanted ambient noise in the environment, I find it something hard to escape from. For example, when people live near an airport, what are the long-term health effects of living with the constant sounds of planes taking off and landing? Is the noise merely annoying or quantifiably detrimental as an environmental factor in our health?

The 14-minute video THRESHOLD is a non-linear narrative that is more of an audio-visual video impressionistic poem than a documentary. While I had set out initially to capture footage in what I thought would be two completely different environments: loud, busy airports and quiet, isolated bird sanctuaries, in order to contrast scenes of loud jet noise and tranquil birds peacefully floating in the sky, I actually was surprised at how often the two sets of "actors" showed up in each other's "locations." Birds, including scavenging seagulls and predatory hawks, were hanging around busy areas where people were congregating, eating and throwing away trash, like airports! Conversely, when I went to beaches or sanctuaries where I hoped to capture birds in their natural habitat, often planes flew unexpectedly overhead into the scene, skywriting, carrying advertising banners, or just moving people en masse through the sky. My handheld video capture, often from a rocking sailboat, unintentionally made some of the smooth, mechanized movement of the planes mimic darting, organic bird flight. In one short sequence, a bird actually seems to overtake and pass a flying jet plane from the viewer's point of view; time and distance become dependent on perspective. The resulting montage/collage is my meditation on the intersection and overlapping images and sounds, and the affective emotional and sensory responses they provoke.

The collaged and impressionistic nature of building my video made me want to capture and display some still moments of my noise pollution meditation alongside the time-based video work; while actual sounds happen as sequences of sound waves in time, an auditory memory could transcend this parameter, and perhaps be symbolized by a still visual. I thought first of printing out video stills, but decided to hand-build some prints instead, concentrating on the rifts and junctures between how the ear, eye, and brain processes ambient noises that fill our world. These prints are made without a press, but hand-stamped and collaged with fragments and signifiers of audiovisual simulacra, including alphabet letters and linocut "waves" as silent stand-ins in for noise.

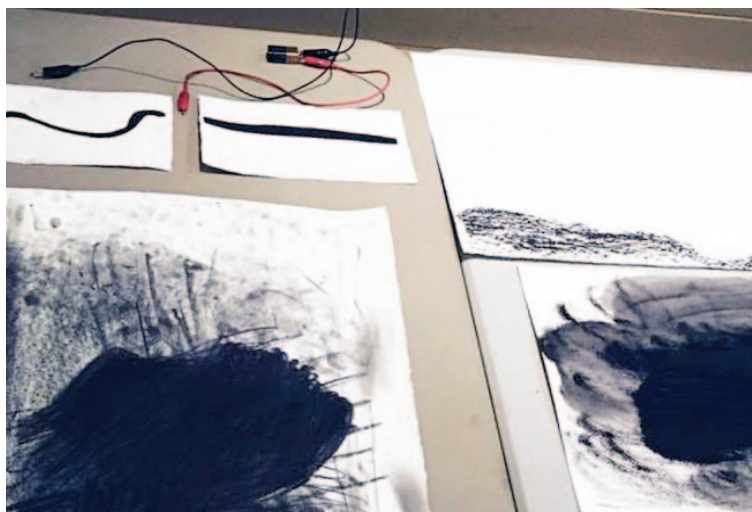


**STEPHEN STANSFELD** is Professor of Psychiatry at Queen Mary University of London. He was Chair of the International Commission on the Biological Effects of Noise from 2008 to 2014 and directed the 7th Framework funded European Network on Noise and Health, involving 33 European partners. He directed the European 5th Framework funded RANCH Study on the effects of aircraft and road traffic noise on children's cognition and health. He currently chairs the WHO Guidelines Development Group on the new guidelines for environmental noise. He carries out research on noise and health and longitudinal studies of adolescent mental health.

## LISETTE MOREL



Lisette Morel; Detail: Artist's installation



Detail of interactive installation that allows visitors the chance to test conductivity over the artist's graphite drawings using a LED light.



## LISETTE MOREL

Visual Artist

Lisette Morel is a Dominican-American artist born in Manhattan, NY. Morel has participated in numerous projects and exhibitions. 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 and 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.

**Topic: Electrical Conductivity of Graphite**

“This Epic Current We Deny...” a trio of large bodies from above unraveling like scrolls to reveal/conceal and enter your space

Lisette Morel

This site-specific installation is an intentional investigational response to working with graphite.

Graphite serves a common useful purpose, we write and draw with it. But what if graphite could be utilized for other purposes; graphite is a conductor for electricity. According to research, experimentations with materials, and questions answered by a scientist, graphite can conduct electricity—that is powerful. Well if this is true then what other common materials can we re-channel? Repurposing of materials to push my marks—the unpredictable look of and the physical feeling when moving these non-traditional materials has become a part of my process; large strokes I can make with a mop and repetitive emotional marks I can make with my red stained lips onto to a surface. So investigating the properties of graphite was intriguing. Of course what I learned was that it would take more than just a light line of graphite on paper to actually see a LED light up, instead I had to repetitively rub the graphite over and over onto paper, accumulating with no signs of broken uneven strokes. This act of marking, I was engaged in, connected to my process where the accumulations of marks pull me into a ritualistic state of mind and records my physicality and the duration of the making. So in keeping true to my process I armed myself with limited supplies, paper, graphite, pastels, my body and my car and I proceeded to mark with graphite.

The table with the smaller works is intended to function as an interactive hands on installation. Some drawings—paper circuits mimic a electric circuit board while the other works on paper are original pieces courtesy of the artist, family and students.



Lisette Morel; Detail: Artist's installation



Detail of interactive installation that allows visitors the chance to test conductivity over the artist's graphite drawings using a LED light.

J. Scott Bunch is currently an Assistant Professor at Boston University in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Division of Materials Science and Engineering, and Department of Physics. He is primarily interested in the mechanical properties of atomically thin materials such as graphene. He received his B.S. degree in Physics from Florida International University and a Ph.D. in Physics from Cornell University where he studied the electrical and mechanical properties of graphene. After finishing his Ph.D., he spent 3 months as a postdoctoral researcher in the Laboratory of Atomic and Solid State Physics at Cornell University. His awards include a Ph.D. fellowship from Lucent Technologies, Bell Laboratories, the DARPA MTO Young Faculty Award, and the NSF CAREER Award.



# MARYANN J. RIKER



Maryann J. Riker; Detail: *Protection/Encroachment* - Mixed-media installation

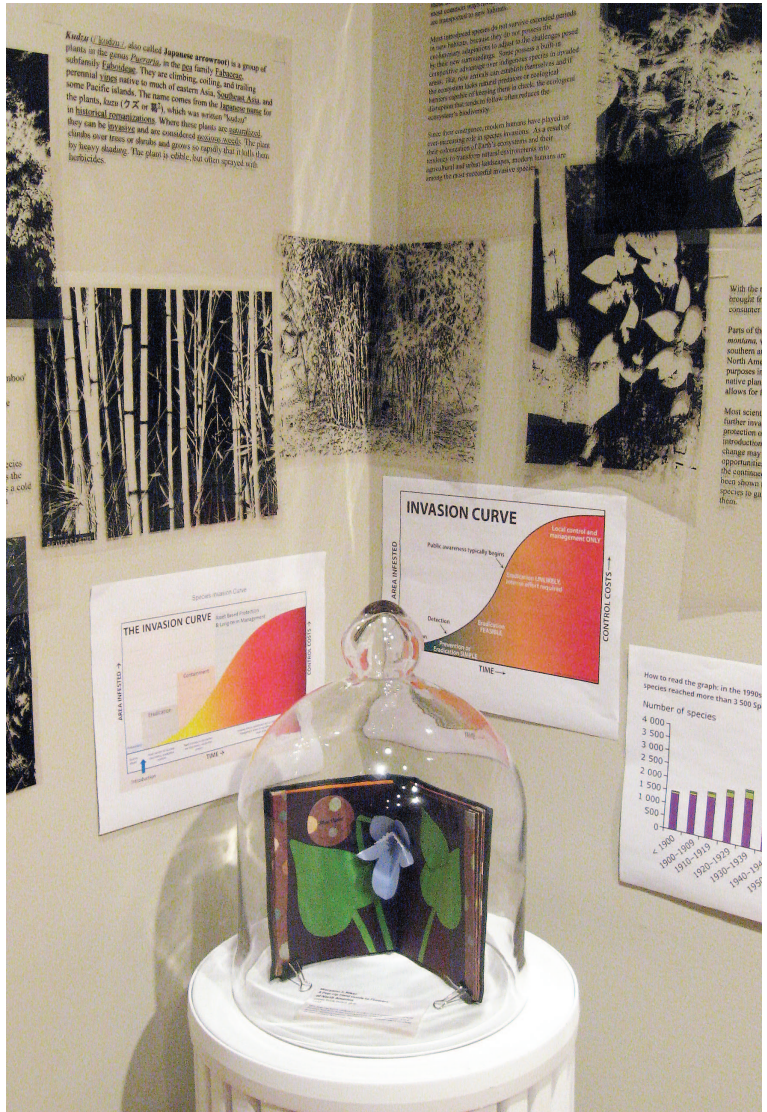


# MARYANN J. RIKER

Mixed-media Artist

Maryann J. Riker uses handmade paper, cloth, beading, paint, embroidery and transparencies to convey a visual narrative through the book format and her mixed media works. Her work incorporates vintage photography, advertising text and graphic iconography to create visual narratives that take us on a journey encompassing the passage of time and memory. Through her usage of symbols and pictures, the artist allows the viewer to mentally create their own narrative. Her work has garnered a number of awards and is included in many private collections as well as special collections including Special Collections at Lafayette College, Easton, PA, Newark Public Library, and Rutgers University. Riker holds an undergraduate degree from Moravian College, a Master's degree from Montclair State University and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Vermont College.

**Topic: Invasive Species**



Maryann J. Riker; *Protection/Encroachment* - Mixed-media installation

**Invasive Species** - Any nonnative species that significantly modifies or disrupts the ecosystems it colonizes. Such species may arrive in new areas through natural migration, but they are often introduced by the activities of other species.

My installation entitled "Protection/Encroachment" deals with the topic of invasive species. It is inspired by Japanese ghost stories and those wonderful Victorians who collected anything and everything and housed them in their glass greenhouses and "wunderkabinets." My installation serves to highlight the protection of North America's indigenous wildflowers. Their protection is paramount to retain the indigenous populations of other species within their ecosystems and invasive species that threaten their survival. The pop-up artist's book showcases graphic representations of these wildflowers and is housed under a protective glass dome to protect their existence. Like Japanese ghosts who materialize as black smoke and hover, graphic representations of kudzu and golden bamboo hover and visually encroach on their presence and threaten to upset the delicate balance.

The artist questions this introduction of invasive species into natural environments that threaten native species. Were the native species not once invasive species, themselves? Through adaptation and mutation these species became natural and changed their environment to accommodate their needs. So, at what point does an invasive species become a natural species?

After all, early hominids who rose out of the savannahs of Africa and traveled land bridges through Europe to North America were nothing more than an invasive species that changed and adapted their new environments to their needs.

I also want to thank Brian Greene, whose input and knowledge of invasive species started me on an intellectual journey regarding the conditions of invasive species and their impact on environments. It also is making me question the very idea of humanity as an invasive species and its impact on environment: from the rise of early humans to recent waves of immigration in the late 19th and early 20th century. And, that is what collaboration is best at—making one think in new ways and conceive of new ideas through the mutual sharing of knowledge. Thank you!

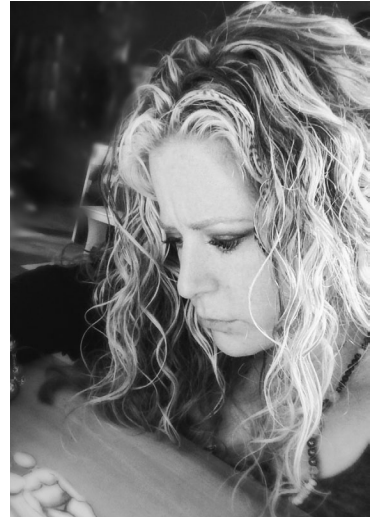
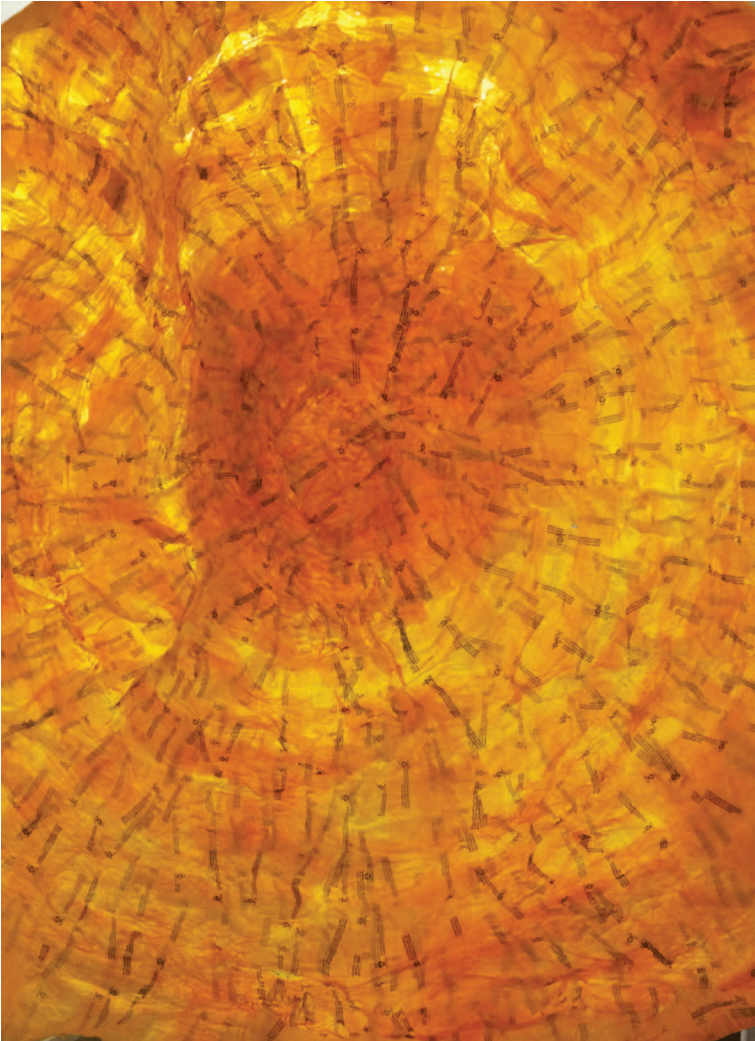
— Maryann J. Riker



### Brian Greene

An environmental scientist who specializes in environmental monitoring, Brian Greene works to understand the natural world by observing the ecology in a quantitative way. From reptiles in the tropics, amphibians in the mountains, plants in floodplains and water in rivers his research focuses on providing insights on how to manage the environment. He also works as an environmental educator to share scientific knowledge with students and the general public. Brian has worked at research institutions all across the country and is a new resident of Easton, PA. He currently works for the Wildlands Conservancy as their Bike and Boat Program Coordinator.

## ANDI GRUNBERG



### ANDI GRUNBERG

Mixed-media artist

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

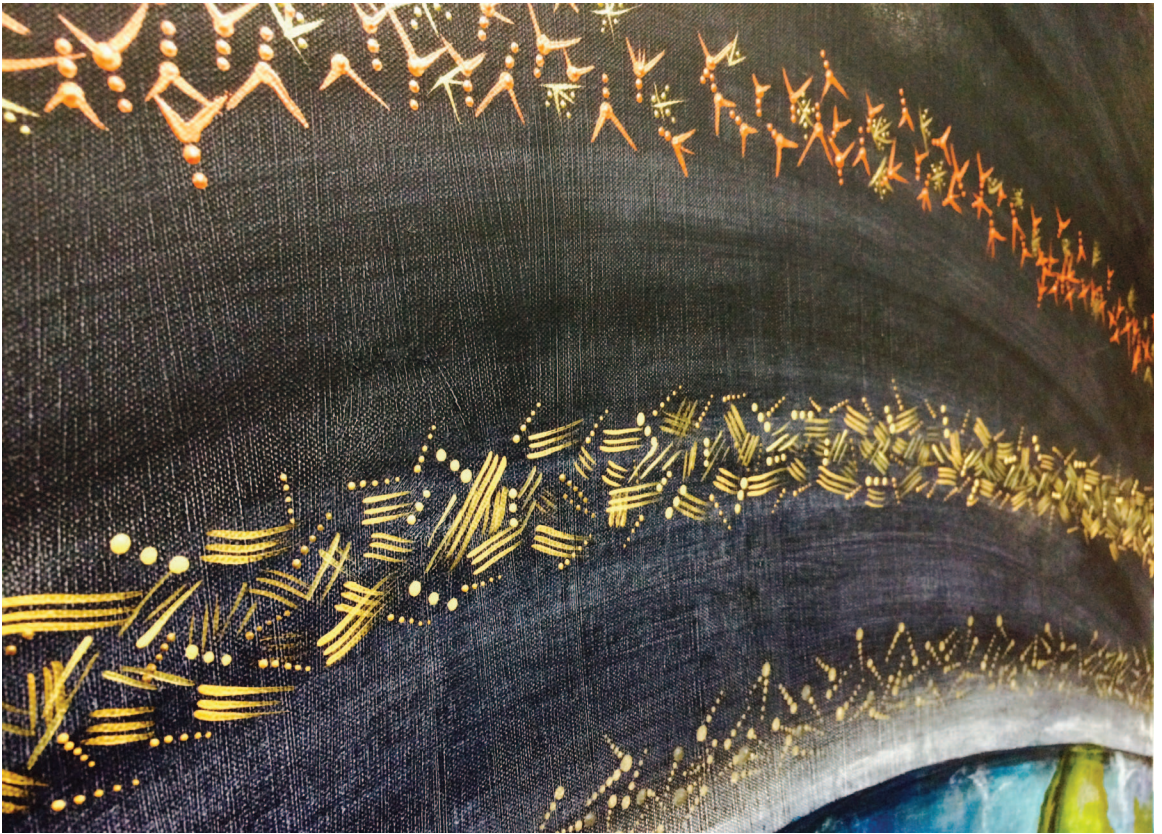
**Topics: Marine Debris and Orbital Debris**

Andi Grunberg; Detail: *Macrobeads*



Dr. J.-C. Liou is NASA's Chief Scientist for Orbital Debris. He has more than 20 years of experience on various orbital debris research activities, including environment modeling, in-situ measurements, laboratory impact experiments, and policy development. He is a member of the U.S. government delegation to the United Nations' Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and serves as the head of the NASA delegation to the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC).



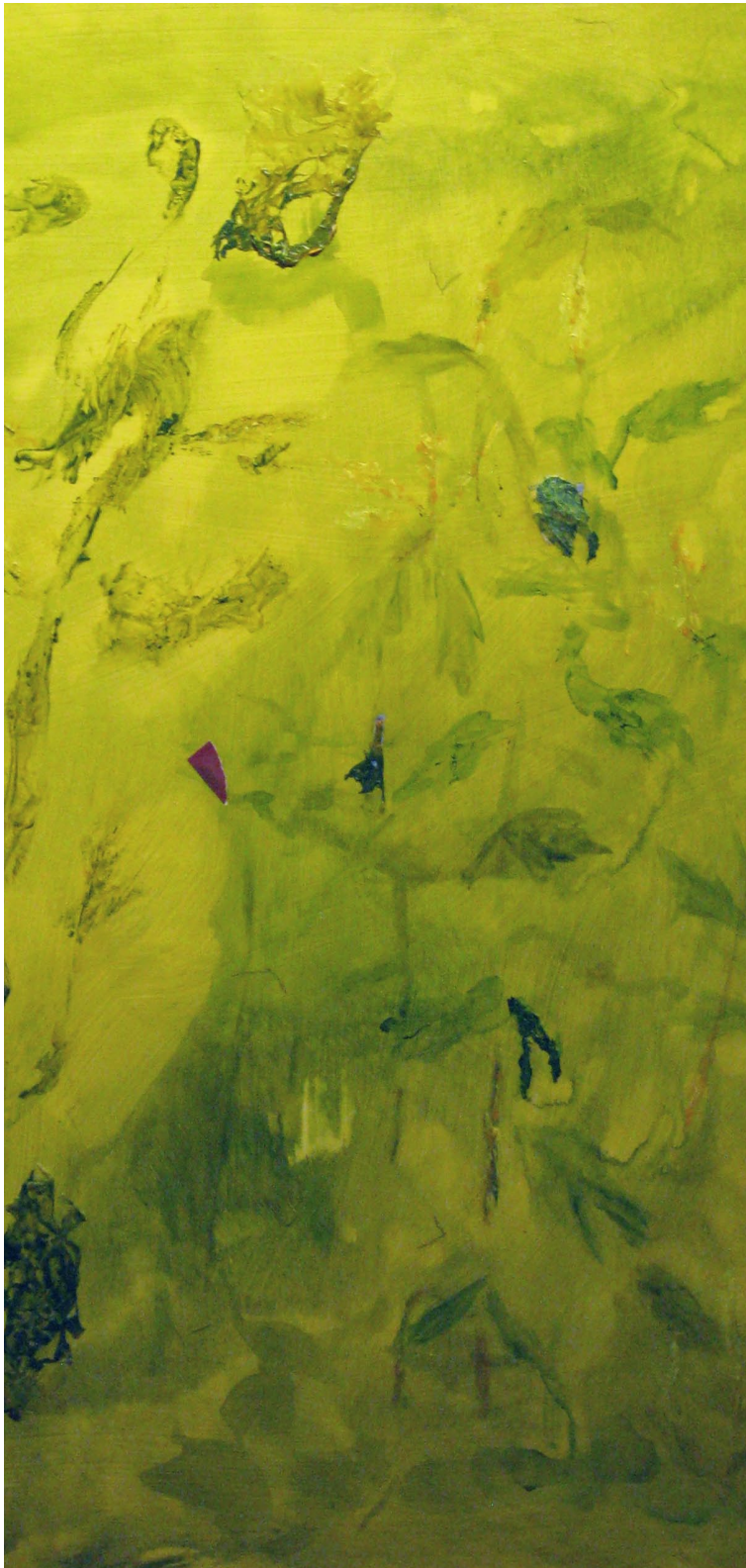


Andi Grunberg; Detail: *Debris: As Above, So Below*



Dr. Kara Lavender Law is a Research Professor at Sea Education Association (SEA; Woods Hole, MA), studying the sources, distribution, behavior and fate of plastic debris in the ocean. Trained as a physical oceanographer, Dr. Law has more than 12 months of sea time on oceanographic and sailing research vessels, including in the eastern North Pacific and western North Atlantic Oceans where plastic debris accumulates in regions dubbed, “garbage patches”. Dr. Law’s current research interests focus on the sources of plastic to the marine environment, understanding how ocean physics determines the distribution of plastic and other marine debris, and the degradation and ultimate fate of different plastic materials in the ocean. She serves as the co-principal investigator of the Marine Debris Working Group at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS), and holds a PhD in physical oceanography from Scripps Institution of Oceanography and a BS in mathematics from Duke University.

## FEMI J. JOHNSON



## FEMI J. JOHNSON

Visual Artist

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, Femi works predominantly in the medium of PaintCollaging and Drawing. Collage Painting gives meaning to a disjointed perspective, incorporating different mediums to get the feelings and thoughts out. Femi has shown regionally and internationally with work in corporate and private collections.

**Topic: Pollen, Allergies, and Climate Change**

Femi J. Johnson: Detail: Allergies/Atmosphere

## Global warming is personal

Femi J. Johnson

I was thinking, how does my life harmonize with *Perspectives* work while experiencing some of the most severe allergy symptoms in years? Asking why led to an interview with Dr. Jennifer Albertine and referenced article.

“Northern ragweed ecotypes flower earlier and longer in response to elevated CO<sub>2</sub>: what are you sneezing at?”

What was tested and concluded?

“We tested for variation in flowering responses of the allergenic plant, *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* (Common Ragweed)

*We conclude that increased flower production, duration, and possibly pollen output, can be expected in Northeastern United States with rising levels of CO<sub>2</sub>. The effects are likely, to be most significant in northern parts of the region.”*

For me that means:

increases in CO<sub>2</sub>, increased plant growth, increases in pollen and increased allergies.

How do I represent that visually in a *Perspectives* work while experiencing allergies on a such a severe personal level? My motivation was to match the passion for cause and solution in Dr. Albertine’s voice. The feeling came in the palette; restricting color but not tone. The movement in the painting reflects my existence living in the atmosphere of allergens.

If the symptoms attributed to rising CO<sub>2</sub> can invade us causing a severe reaction, can we approach solutions with the same passion?

Stinson, K.A., Albertine, J.M., Hancock, L.M.S. et al. *Oecologia* (2016) 182: 587. doi:10.1007/s00442-016-3670-x



Femi J. Johnson; Detail: *Allergies/Atmosphere*



Dr. Albertine is currently visiting faculty at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA, where she teaches classes in the Environmental Studies department on Human Health and Climate Change, Food Security, and Environmental Science. She previously held a post-doctoral research position at Harvard University and the University of Massachusetts–Amherst, with Dr. Kristina Stinson, studying landscape level responses to climate change of the allergenic plant, Ragweed. Her research has also investigated the impacts of air pollutants, ozone and carbon dioxide, on pollen production in grasses and the interactive effects of heat and air pollution on crop productivity. She received a PhD in Plant and Soil Science and a BS in Environmental Science, both from the University of Massachusetts.

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