

HEATHER 'BIRD' HARRIS

b. 1987 Manchester, Connecticut

Works in Atlanta, Georgia

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EDUCATION

- 2026 Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA
M.F.A. candidate
- 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
- 2008 School for International Training: Art & Culture, New Delhi, India

SOLO EXHIBITIONS + PROJECTS

- 2025 *Solo exhibition*, Spalding Nix, Atlanta, GA (*forthcoming*)
- 2024 *Sonoran Heritage Waters*, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ (*forthcoming*)
- 2023 *How to Become A Caretaker*, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
Landscape as a Living Historical Record, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
Land Memory Project, Science Gallery, Atlanta, GA
- 2022 *Where the Water Goes*, SALON Gallery, New Orleans, LA

RESIDENCIES + FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024 The Hambidge Center, Rabun Gap, GA (*May*)
Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Artist Residency, Millbrook, NY (*March*)
- 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 (Feb - Aug)

GROUP EXHIBITIONS (SELECTED)

- 2024 *Rescue: Waste and Redemption*, Lyndon House Arts Center, Athens, GA (curated by Lizzie Zucker Saltz)
- 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*, 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

CURATORIAL

- 2024 *Collective Telling*, co-curation with Jennifer Williams, Echo Contemporary Art, Atlanta, GA (*forthcoming*)
- 2022 *Earth Body*, co-curation with Erin Drakeford, Echo Contemporary Art, Atlanta, GA

GRANTS

- 2023 Alternate Roots
Georgia State University, supplemental funding

PUBLIC PROJECTS

- 2024 Elsewhere Projects, Atlanta, GA (*forthcoming*)
- 2023 *Tree Time: A Living History Walk*, collaboration with Rachel Parish and Ann Hill Bond, part of the series *The City Is A Circle* through Art on the BeltLine, Atlanta, GA
- Little Amal Hears the Story of Weelaunee*, producer for public collaboration between Little Amal and Muscogee activists including Mekko Chebon Kernell, Atlanta, GA
- Stacks Squares Mural, Cabbagetown Neighborhood Improvement Association, Atlanta, GA
- Procreate Project Archive Art Trail, Manchester, England

PRESS

- 2024 Chelsea Scudder, *Rebirth: Mothering Through Ecological Collapse*, Broadleaf Books, 2024. (*forthcoming*)
- 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 Darensbourg, *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.
- 2021 Contemporary Creatives, Artist Feature
- Carve Out Time for Art, Artist Feature

ARTIST TALKS + WORKSHOPS

- 2024 Inclusive SciComm Symposium, “Communicating Environmental Challenges,” University of Rhode Island (*forthcoming*)
- 2023 Louisiana State University, “Finding Grounding,” learning experience collaboration with Lilia Kapsali Grant and Courtney Taylor, Baton Rouge, LA, Oct 14
- Louisiana State University, artist talk, ecological art history class, Baton Rouge, LA, Oct 12
- Bell Moon Arts, Hayesville, NC, June 24-25
- Artist Mother/Thrive Retreat, Black Mountain, NC, May 27
- Visionary Projects, New York, NY, May 20
- Transient Bodies artists, Roaring Artist Gallery, May 12
- RicRACK, New Orleans, LA, April 16
- Where the Water Goes artists, Ground Floor Contemporary, April 15
- 2022 The Writer’s Wing, SALON Residency, New Orleans, LA, June 16

RELATED EXPERIENCE

- 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*
- Mentor Artist, Crit Crew program, Thrive Network. *Selected by Kaylan Buteyn and Jamie Smith. In partnerships with Katrina Andry and Jessica Caldas.*

- Education Consultant. *Partnered with three organizations in the South to write and advise on anti-racist history curriculum for K-8 and college.*
- 2021 - present Collaboration with soil scientist Ashley R. Booth, southwest Louisiana. *Collected soil samples from wetland conservation studies for environmental activism works*
- 2020 - present Pigment collaboration with artist Hannah Chalew, New Orleans, LA. *Including field research trips in the Gulf and Mississippi River led by Richie Blink*
- 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

Women Eco Artists Dialog, selected artist, 2021-present

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

COMMISSIONS (SELECTED)

2023 Private commission, land memory painting for a mother and father recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's using clay from the family's home they had to sell, Arkansas

Private Commission, land memory painting in collaboration with two families who occupied one plot of land in separate decades, Hattiesburg, MS

2022 Nonprofit Art Commission, series of 7 large-scale Louisiana earth pigment paintings (each 40"-60"), Where Y'art x Ochsner Health, Metairie LA

Private Commission, land memory painting in collaboration with artists Bo Bartlett, Betsy Eby, and Virginia Candler, Wheaton Island, ME

Private Commission, 4 land memory paintings for family members using earth pigments from their generational homes in Buffalo, NY and Ireland.

2021 Nonprofit Art Commission, large-scale Louisiana earth pigment painting (each 48" x 60"), Where Y'art x Ochsner Zen Lab, New Orleans, LA

Private Commission, land memory painting (72"x72") made from southern Louisiana clays and shotgun house colors in collaboration with an first-time home buyer, New Orleans, LA

2020 Private Commission, land memory painting made from deconstructed clam shells in collaboration with the artist's father, Matunuck Beach, RI

Private Commission, land memory painting in collaboration with two long-distance friends who once lived in the same place, Hanover, NH

Private Commission, Louisiana earth pigment painting (48"x60") made from the banks of the Mississippi River, Algiers Point, LA

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*)

GALLERY REPRESENTATION

Spalding Nix Fine Art, Atlanta, GA

Claire Elizabeth Gallery, New Orleans, LA

Mont Art House, Houston, TX