HEATHER BIRD HARRIS

Artist | Curator, Writer, & Educator
Atlanta, Georgia

EDUCATION

2026 **MFA**, Welch School of Art & Design, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA
2014 **MA**, Education Leadership, Teacher's College, Columbia University, New York, NY
2009 **BA** *cum laude*, Art History and Studio Art, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY
S. Michael Eigen '87 Prize in Art History, Periclean Honors Society

AWARDS + RESIDENCIES

2027 Swan Coach House Gallery, Emerging Curator Award, Atlanta, GA
2026 The Creatives Project, 2026 Curatorial Fellow, Atlanta, GA
The Golden Foundation, Artist-In-Residence, New Berlin, NY
Mildred Thompson House, Artist-In-Residence, Atlanta, GA
2025 The Hambidge Center, Artist-In Residence, Rabun Gap, GA
Tiger Strikes Asteroid & SC Sea Grant Consortium, Emerging Contaminants Critical Issue Award, Greenville, SC
2024 Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Cannoo Hills Creative Arts Residency, Artist-In Residence, Millbrook, NY
University of Arizona, Artist-In-Residence, Tucson, AZ
The Hambidge Center, Artist-In Residence, Rabun Gap, GA
Alternate Roots, Artistic Assistance Project Development Grant, Atlanta, GA
2023 Emory University, Art & Social Justice Fellowship, Atlanta, GA
Zero Foot Hills Residency, Artist-In-Residence, Durham, CT
2022 Arts Council of New Orleans, Artist-In-Residence, New Orleans, LA
2019 Named as an educator threatening America's conservative values and doxxed by MAGA education think tank
2017 Relay Graduate School of Education, National School Leader Fellowship, New York, NY
2015 President Obama's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, Turnaround Arts School Leader Fellowship, Washington, DC

SOLO + TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

2027 *Ancient Trees and Human Folly,* The Anderson, Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts, curated by Sarah Irvin, Richmond, VA *(forthcoming)*
2026 *How We Hold the Weather,* Ernest G. Welch Gallery, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA
Field Notes, two-person show curated by EC Fleming, Swan Coach House Gallery, Atlanta, GA
2025 *love as large as grief demands,* Spalding Nix, Atlanta, GA
2022 *Where the Water Goes,* SALON Gallery, Arts Council of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2027 *Land as Archive,* Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Portland State University, curated by Kathryn Hill, Portland, OR *(forthcoming)*
Floodlines: The Weather of Memory, Michael C. Carlos Museum, curated by Sierra King, Atlanta, GA *(forthcoming)*
Marietta Cobb Museum of Art, curated by Madeleine Beck, Marietta, GA *(forthcoming)*
Made in Paint, The Golden Foundation, New Berlin, NY *(forthcoming)*
2026 *How to Grow the Cow Pea: Survival Strategies from the U.S. South,* Visual Arts Center, UT Austin, curated by Melissa Fandos and Erika Mei Chua Holum, Austin, TX *(forthcoming)*
Zuckerman Museum of Art, Project Wall, curated by Cynthia Nourse Thompson, Kennesaw, GA *(forthcoming)*

2025 *Plastic, the New Coal*, curated by Monique Verdin and Patricia Watts, Vacherie, LA
Beyond the Surface, juried, Tiger Strikes Asteroid, Greenville, SC
Films of Return, juried, international online film festival
Cancer Alley United, RISE St. James, St. James, LA
Lost Horizons, curated by Sabre Esler, Pollinator Space, Atlanta, GA
Cracked Open, curated by Brooke Toczylowski, Hartford ArtSpace Gallery, Hartford, CT
A Network for Autonomy, Emory Ethics Department, The Supermarket, Atlanta, GA

2024 *Assembly*, curated by Katie Pfohl, NADA Curated
SITE, curated by Jacob O'Kelley, The Goat Farm Arts Center, Atlanta, GA
Rescue: Waste and Redemption, curated by Lizzie Zucker Saltz, Lyndon House Arts Center, Athens, GA
Ecology, Claire Elizabeth Gallery, New Orleans, LA
Canary in the Water, curated by Pam Longobardi and Jeremy Bolen, Blue Heron Nature Preserve, Atlanta, GA

2023 *Finding Grounding,* curated by Courtney Taylor, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
Wild Pigment, curated by Tilke Elkins, New Mexico State University Museum, Las Cruces, NM
Sex Ecologies: Becoming Plastic, curated by Leah Dalton, Stoveworks, Chattanooga, TN
JUSTICE, curated by Floyd Hall, Science Gallery, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
A Way of Seeing Everything and Nothing, juried, Ely Center of Contemporary Art, New Haven, CT
A Small Point of Land, juried, Bristol Art Museum, Bristol, RI
ArtFields, juried, Lake City, SC
The Art of Water VII, juried, James May Gallery, Milwaukee, WI
Co-Create, curated by Kaylan Buteyn & Jamie Smith, Stay Home Gallery, Paris, TN
TRIO: Artists in Dialogue, Mont Art House, Houston, TX
Where does the water go?, curated by Elisabeth Pellathy, Ground Floor Contemporary, Birmingham, AL

2022 *Ensemble*, Spalding Nix Fine Art, Atlanta, GA
Little Things, curated by Jacob O'Kelley & Maria Bruckman, Swan Coach House, Atlanta, GA

2021 *Anthropocene Epiphany,* juried, Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, Santa Ana, CA

2020 *Art for Activism*, curated by Brandon Juan Surtain, Good Children Gallery + Carroll Gallery, New Orleans, LA

PUBLIC PROJECTS

2025 *Sites of Concern*, curated by Jess Bernhardt, Hartsfield Jackson International Airport, Atlanta, GA
The World Will Go on Beautifully Without Us, curated by Lauren Jackson Harris, A&E Atlanta, Atlanta, GA
Mother Stone I, curated by Ali Bashuk, Goat Farm Arts Center, Atlanta, GA

2024 *Resonancia Natural,* quartet and video projection performance, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
in collaboration with composer Carolina Heredia, supported by the Arizona Institute for Resilience

Hope Springs Eternal, interdisciplinary performance, New Orleans, LA, Spring 2024.
in collaboration with RISE St. James, Melange Dance Company, Delechaise Ensemble, and Bryan Tarnowski

2023 *Landscape as a Living Historical Record*, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
Land Memory Project, curated by Floyd Hall, Science Gallery, Atlanta, GA
Procreate Project Archive Art Trail, juried, group installation, Manchester, England
All Flourishing Is Mutual, mural, curated by Angie Jerez, Stacks Squares, Cabbagetown, GA
Tree Time: A Living History Walk, public practice, Atlanta BeltLine, Atlanta, GA, November 12.
in collaboration with Ann Hill Bond, Rachel Parish, supported by Emory Art & Social Justice Fellowship

2021 *Ida Support Network***,** community project, New Orleans, LA, September - October 2021
Managed communications and social media for an artist-led community relief effort, including Instagram growth from 0 to 3,000 followers in 10 days, and distribution of $40K in direct aid.

TEACHING + LEADERSHIP

2024 - 2026 **Instructor of Record,** Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA (Painting & Drawing)
Courses: Water-Based Media, Two-Dimensional Design, Drawing I

Fall 2023 **Art & Social Justice Fellow,** Emory University, Atlanta, GA
Project: How to Read the Landscape as a Site of Living History

2023 - 2025 **Learning Consultant,** freelance
Developed curriculum, designed teacher training, and advised clients across the US: Imagine Learning, Study Sync, The Monarch School, New Orleans Curriculum Consortium, Schoolkit, and Bloomboard

2024 - 2025 **Founder,** Art + Emergence Learning Collaborative
Designed and facilitated three semesters of a virtual course on ecological art, critical theory, and social practice for emerging and mid-career artists seeking to deepen their practices and impact. Organized visiting lecture series, studio visits, group critiques, and weekly conceptual discussions.

2017 - 2023 **Director of Curriculum & Instruction**, Social Studies, ReNEW Schools / IDEA Schools, Louisiana
Designed and built an anti-racist, standards-aligned social studies curriculum (grades 3–8), resulting in 22% growth in student mastery. Trained 100+ teachers and consulted with school leaders to implement equitable learning practices and empowering history education for over 9,000 students.

2013 - 2017 **Principal**, ReNEW Dolores T. Aaron Academy, Middle School, New Orleans, LA
Led a team of 25 educators and managed a $3.5M budget, turning the school from the bottom 5% to the top 25% in the Recovery School District. Founded the school's first food bank partnership and fine arts program, including concert and marching bands. Secured $800K in funding for arts initiatives, including a $350K grant for an edible Teaching Garden with an outdoor classroom and sustainable architecture, and $300K in Turnaround Arts funding through President Obama's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. Led DTA to earn a "Top Gains" designation from the state.

2012 - 2013 **Assistant Principal**, ReNEW Dolores T. Aaron Academy, Middle School, New Orleans, LA
Strengthened school culture by developing systems and monitoring progress toward team goals

2009 - 2012 **Lead Teacher**, History, English, and Art teacher in New Orleans charter schools (K-8)
Developed interdisciplinary curricula; Increased student mastery in every subject and grade level by 16%, including 100% state test pass rate in 7th ELA, a first in school history. Teacher of the Year (2012)

2007 - 2009 **Education Assistant,** Tang Teaching Museum, Saratoga Springs, NY
Organized outreach program, delivering standards-aligned art programming to 100+ New York libraries and public schools, connecting contemporary exhibitions to K–12 learning.

VISITING ARTIST

2027 **Lecture, Workshop + Graduate Studio Visits**, Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts, Richmond, VA, Jan 22 - Feb 22.

2026 **Lecture, Workshop, + Class Visits,** Westminster Schools, Atlanta, GA, October 1 - 25.

Lecture, Baton Rouge Community College, Division of Liberal Arts, Baton Rouge, LA, April 2.

2024 **Lecture, Workshop + Graduate Studio Visits,** University of Arizona School of Art, Tucson, AZ, Nov 8-16.

Lecture and Workshop, Tohono O'odham Community College, Sells, AZ, November 13.

Lecture and Workshop, Emory University, Scholars Retreat, Young Harris, GA, January 13-15.

2023 **Lecture**, College of Art & Design, Louisiana State University, Course: Art and Ecology, Baton Rouge, LA, October 12.

CURATORIAL

Curating independently funded exhibitions focused on site, materiality, and history. Committed to WAGE artist compensation and robust public programming.

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2027 **Curator**, Swan Coach House Gallery, Atlanta, GA, February 25 - March 25, 2027, works by Stephanie Dowda DeMer, Anna Rotty, and Renee Royale

2026 **Curator,** *Gavin Bernard: The Commons*, The Creatives Project, Christ Church, Hapeville, GA, Sept 25 - Oct 10
Supported by funding from the Fulton County Board of Commissioners.
Exhibition included three public activations, engaging 350+ community members

Curator, *Boundary Layers,* Whitespace Gallery, Atlanta, GA, January 24 - March 8, 2026, works by Hannah Chalew, Elisa Dore, Alexa Kumiko Hatanaka, Madeleine Kelly, Michelle Laxalt, Mary Mattingly, Melissa McGill, Zipporah Camille Thompson, Erin Palovick, Carley Rickles, Sachi Rome, Renee Royale, Carlie Trosclair, Elizabeth M. Webb, and Kate Burke
Facilitated three public programs over 6 weeks, engaging 400+ community members

2025 **Curator**, *Entanglements*, Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts, Lexington, KY, November 12 - 15, 2025, works by Cristina Molina, Melissa McGill, featuring activist group RISE St. James and writer Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder

Curator, *The All We Can Save Project*, January 2025 - December 2027. Curated contemporary artworks for virtual climate communications to 100k readers, featuring works by Renee Royale, Heidi Gustafson, Sam Hodge, Hannah Chalew, Carlie Trosclair, Ruth Owens, Haley Mellin, Jamie Bourgeois, Tokie Rome-Taylor, Pam Longobardi, Mary Mattingly, Lisa Sanditz, Ashley Teamer, Monique Verdin, Anna Rotty, Candace Caston, Melissa McGill, Eva Struble, Kariann Fuqua, and Allison Janae Hamilton.

2024 **Co-Curator,** *Natural Observations: Affect and Consequence*, Kendeda Building, Atlanta, GA, June 20, 2024, works by 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

Co-Curator, *Collective Telling: Southern Rooted Perspectives on Place, History + Emergence*, Echo Contemporary Art, Atlanta, GA, January 11 - February 17, 2024, works by 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, Hotvlkuce Harjo, Hannah Palmer, Sachi Rome, Renee Royale, Mariana Sheppard, Sergio Suarez, Carlie Trosclair, and Harrison Wayne.
Supported by grants valuing 10k from Alternate Roots, Georgia State, and Susan G. Brennan, supporting free public programming of 12 events over 6 weeks, engaging 400+ community members

2023 **Curator**, *How to Become a Caretaker*, White Hall, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, November 28 - January 19, with works and research by Emory undergraduate students Licia Brown, Matowacipi Horse, Anish Jha, Lydia Levy, Royce Mann, Jaanaki Radhakrishnan, Ted Wilson, and Floyd Woolen, in collaboration with Dr. Loren Michael Mortimer, Provost Postdoctoral Fellow in Native North American History

2022 **Co-Curator**, *Earth Body*, Echo Contemporary Art, Atlanta, GA, November 7 - 14, works by Michelle Laxalt, Cheyenne Hendrickson, Evan Blackwell, Heather Bird Harris and Erin Drakeford

WRITING

2027 Catalogue essay, Steven Anderson, Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia, Fall 2026. (*forthcoming*)

2026 "Tending Earthseeds: Dianna Settles' Invitations to a Revolution," *Scalawag Magazine (forthcoming)*

"Tools for Carving Away: A Case Study of Mel Chin's Revival Field on the Role of the Artist in Public Practice," *ART PAPERS*, Final Issue: *Fire Ecology*, Spring 2026.

2025 "Prospect.6: The Future Is Present, The Harbinger Is Home," *ART PAPERS,* Winter 2025.

"Review: *from within, so together*," *Burnaway*, October 2025.

"Earthseeds," *Brink Literary Journal*, Issue 10, Renewal, Fall 2025

"Review: Encounters at Johnson Lowe Gallery Invites Slow Looking in a Fast World," *Arts ATL*, October 2025.

2024 "Documenting the Shadow Empire: Interview with Zora J. Murff," *ART PAPERS*

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

2027 Melissa Fandos and Erika Mei Chua Holum, *How to Grow the Cow Pea: Survival Strategies from the U.S. South, (forthcoming)*

2026 Régine Debatty, "Book Review: Soils Turn—A Field Guide to Artistic Earthly Engagements," *we make money not art,* April 14, 2026.

Kelz Smoot, "What the Land Remembers: Material Memory in *Boundary Layers* Exhibition," *Slip Art Magazine*, March 31, 2026.

Gray Chapman, "In a new Whitespace Gallery exhibition, artists seek answers in life's margins," *Atlanta Magazine*, January 30, 2026.

Sherri Daye Scott, "Curator Heather Bird Harris on 'Boundary Layers' at Whitespace Gallery," RoughDraft Atlanta, January 21, 2026.

2025 Courtney Taylor, "Ecosophical Artistic Praxes for Future Ecologies: Matter & Meaning in the Lower Mississippi Delta," Ph.D dissertation, Department of Art History, Louisiana State University, October 2025.

Patricia Lee Watts, Alexandra Regan Toland, eds., *Soils Turn*, ecoartspace: Santa Fe, New Mexico, 2025.

EC Flamming, "In the Studio with Heather Bird Harris," *Burnaway*, April 2025.

Chelsea Steinauer-Scudder, *Mother, Creature, Kin: What Learn from Nature's Mothers in a Time of Unraveling,* Broadleaf Books, 2025. 218-220.

Gabriela Gomez-Misserian, "Earth Tones," *Garden & Gun*, Fall 2025.

Hannah Palmer, "Is Atlanta a climate haven?" *Atlanta Magazine*, June 27, 2025.

Noah Reyes, "Review: Heather Bird Harris sees the Earth's future at Spalding Nix," *ArtsATL*, Feb 13, 2025.

2024 EC Flamming, "The Perpetual Almost: Atlanta Art Week and the Atlanta Art Fair, *ART PAPERS*, Fall 2024 Issue: *Documentary After Truth.*

Krystle Chanel, *City In A Forest*, documentary film, 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.

Jerry Cullum, "Diverse group exhibits explore the South's many identities," *ArtsATL*, February 7, 2024.

2023 Kaylan Buteyn, "Mothering and Art Making During Our Climate Crisis with Heather Bird Harris", *Artist Mother Podcast*, Sept 2023.

Halle Parker and Carlyle Calhoun, "We Could All Use A Little Creativity," *Sea Change*, WWNO, July 2023.

Is, Was, Will Be (2023). Featured in *EcoTheo Review*, Summer Issue, 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.

2021 Valentina Di Liscia, “Louisiana Artists Mobilize to Help Hurricane Ida Victims,” *Hyperallergic*, September 3, 2021

SELECTED ARTIST TALKS + WORKSHOPS

2026 **Lecture,** “Tools for Carving Away: Brain Food for Seeding Creative, Community-Centered Ideas,” Atlanta Regional Commission, Community-Centered Design, Atlanta, GA, Aug 20.

Artist Talk, The Golden Foundation, New Berlin, NY, August 7.

Public Presentation, “How to Read Trees as Primary Sources: A Visual Record of Embodied Time, Disruption, and Adaptation,” MIT Museum, Boston, MA (in collaboration with dendrochronologist Dr. Clay Tucker), Apr 22.

Public Walk, “How to Read a Forest: A Walk with Atlanta’s Oldest Oak,” Trees Atlanta, Atlanta, GA (in collaboration with forest educator Eli Dickerson), April 12.

Public Presentation, “Using Art and Science to Read The Stories Hidden in Atlanta's Tree Rings,” Trees Atlanta, Atlanta, GA (in collaboration with dendrochronologist Dr. Clay Tucker), April 1.

2025 **Conference Panelist,** “Exploring Tree-Ring Science Through an Artistic Lens,” with dendrochronologist Clay Tucker, Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers, Lexington, KY, November 24.

Public Talk, Fall of Freedom's National Day of Action, ART PAPERS, Atlanta, GA, November 22.

Moderator, Panel Discussion: Chip Moody, Daniel Byrd, Letha Wilson and Michael David, Johnson Lowe Gallery, Atlanta, GA, October 25.

Artist Talk, University of Southern Mississippi, School of Biological, Environmental, and Earth Sciences, Tree Ring Lab, Hattiesburg, MS, June 26

Artist Talk, “From Soil to Stream: Visualizing the Stress of a Changing Earth,” Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, staff ecologists, Millbrook, NY, May 29.

Public Workshop,“Landscape Inks,” Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, NY, May 29.

Public Talk, “the shape of memory: Carlie Trosclair in Conversation with Heather Bird Harris,” sponsored by The Ellis-Beauregard Foundation, Center for Maine Contemporary Art, Rockport, ME, May 25.

Public Workshop,“Grateful Gathering: Winter Foraging for Wild Ink Materials,” in collaboration with M Soto, Create ATL, Atlanta, GA, April 4.

Public Workshop,“Prose & Poetry of Possibility,” in collaboration with Jamie Bourgeois, Spalding Nix Fine Art, Atlanta, GA, March 5.

2024 **Public Lecture,** “Observing and Imagining the Health of the Santa Cruz Watershed,” University of Arizona School of Art, Tucson, AZ, November 12.

Conference Panelist, “Inscriptions of Survival: Learning to Read Landscapes as Living Historical Records,” *Rediscovering Place in an Unstable Climate*, SECAC, Atlanta, GA, October 24.

Artist Talk, “Field Notes on (E)Merging: A Conversation with Carlie Trosclair and Heather Bird Harris,” Sibyl Gallery, New Orleans, September 14.

Public Workshop,*“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.

Virtual Artist Talk, *“The Way of Water: Exploring Local Ecosystems,”* with Renee Royale, Creative Fuel Collective, April 17.

Artist Talk, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, staff ecologists, Millbrook, NY, March 13

Virtual Artist Talk, *"Reading Landscapes,"* Land Art Collective, February 4.

Public Talk, "Artist Renee Royale in Conversation with Curator Heather Bird Harris," Echo Contemporary Art, February 3.

2023 **Public Workshop**, "Creative Visioning In Community: Authentically Expanding Your Support Network," Artist Mother Retreat, Black Mountain, NC, May 27.

Public Workshop, "Finding Grounding: Nature Connection + Art Learning Experience," in collaboration with Lilia Kapsali Grant, supported through Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, October 14.

2022 **Artist Talk,** The Writer's Wing, SALON Residency, New Orleans, LA, June 16.

2009 **Moderator, "**Oliver Herring: Me Us Them," Tang Teaching Museum, Saratoga Springs, NY, March 20.

2008 **Conference Panelist,** "Architecture and Murals: A Fieldwork Study of the Leh Namgyal Tsemo Gonkhang," *Recent Work on Buddhist Philosophy and Art in Tibet,* New York Conference on Asian Studies, Hamilton College, September 26.