

HEATHER BIRD HARRIS

Artist & Educator

EDUCATION

2026 **MFA**, Painting, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA (*expected May 2026*)
2017 National Principal's Academy Fellowship, Relay Graduate School of Education, New York, NY
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

TEACHING + LEADERSHIP

2024 - 2026 **Instructor of Record**, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA (Painting & Drawing)
Developed syllabi for and instructed Water-Based Media and Two-Dimensional Design (Fall 2024 - Spring 2026), as well as served as TA for Drawing I (Spring 2024). Average student evaluations 4.9/5.0

Fall 2023 **Fellow**, Art & Social Justice Fellowship, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
Co-developed syllabus and co-taught Intro to Native American History alongside historian Dr. Loren Michael Mortimer, reimagining the course towards art and social justice. Students engaged in Landscape as Living Archive, creating public art activations on campus and the Atlanta Beltline.

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 artists seeking to deepen their practices and impact. Organized visiting lecture series, studio visits, group critiques, and weekly reading discussions.

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

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

2026 **Lecture**, Baton Rouge Community College, Division of Liberal Arts, Baton Rouge, LA (*forthcoming*)
Lecture and Workshop, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX (*forthcoming*)

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.

AWARDS + RESIDENCIES

2026 The Golden Foundation, Artist-In-Residence, New Berlin, NY

2025 The Hambidge Center, Artist-In Residence, Rabun Gap, GA

2024 Cannoo Hills Creative Arts Residency, Artist-In Residence, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, NY
University of Arizona, Artist-In-Residence, Tucson, AZ
The Hambidge Center, Artist-In Residence, Rabun Gap, GA
Artistic Assistance Project Development Grant, Alternate Roots, Atlanta, GA

2023 Art & Social Justice Fellowship, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
Zero Foot Hills Residency, Artist-In-Residence, Durham, CT

2022 SALON Residency, Artist-In-Residence, Arts Council of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA

2019 Named as an educator threatening America's conservative values and doxxed by MAGA education think tank

2015 Turnaround Arts School designation, President Obama's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities

SOLO + TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

2026 *Field Notes: Heather Bird Harris and Joel Silverman*, Two-Person Exhibition, Swan Coach House Gallery, Atlanta, GA (curated by Liz Fleming)
How to Hold the Weather, Ernest G. Welch Gallery, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

2025 *love as large as grief demands*, Spalding Nix, Atlanta, GA

2023 *Landscape as a Living Historical Record*, project, Emory University, Atlanta, GA
Land Memory Project, project, Science Gallery, Atlanta, GA (curated by Floyd Hall)

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

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025 *Plastic, the New Coal*, Wallace, LA (curated by Monique Verdin and Patricia Watts)
Shape Show, Site: Brooklyn, New York, NY (curated by Andrew Gardner)
Beyond the Surface, Tiger Strikes Asteroid GVL in partnership with South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium, Greenville, SC (juried), *Emerging Contaminants Critical Issue Award*
Films of Return, international online film festival (juried)
Cancer Alley United, RISE St. James, St. James, LA
Lost Horizons, Pollinator Space, Atlanta, GA (curated by Sabre Esler)
Cracked Open, Hartford ArtSpace Gallery, Hartford, CT (curated by Brooke Toczyłowski)
A Network for Autonomy, Emory Ethics Department, The Supermarket, Atlanta, GA

2024 *Assembly*, NADA Curated (curated by Katie Pfohl)
SITE, The Goat Farm Arts Center, Atlanta, GA (curated by Jacob O'Kelley)
Ecology, Claire Elizabeth Gallery, New Orleans, LA

HOMEWORK, Atlanta, GA (curated by Didi Dunphy)

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

The Corner Office, Atlanta Contemporary, Atlanta, GA

Canary in the Water, Blue Heron Nature Preserve, Atlanta, GA (curated by Pam Longobardi & Jeremy Bolen)

2023 *Finding Grounding*, Barnes Ogden Gallery, 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

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

Co-Create, Stay Home Gallery, Paris, TN (curated by Kaylan Buteyn & Jamie Smith)

2022 *Ensemble*, Spalding Nix Fine Art, Atlanta, GA

Little Things, Swan Coach House, Atlanta, GA (curated by Jacob O'Kelley & Maria Bruckman)

Earth Body, Echo Contemporary Art, Atlanta, GA

Marks of Time, Fourth Wall, New Orleans, LA

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

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

WRITING

2025 "Tools for Carving Away: A Case Study of Mel Chin's Revival Field on the Role of the Artist in Public Practice," *ART PAPERS*, Fall 2025 (*forthcoming*)

"Tending Earthseeds: Dianna Settles' Invitations to a Revolution," *Scalawag Magazine*, Fall 2025. (*forthcoming*)

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

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

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

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

2024 "Documenting the Shadow Empire: Interview with Zora J. Murff," *ART PAPERS*, Fall 2024 Issue: *Documentary After Truth*

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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, *Soils Turn*, Winter 2025.

EC Flaming, "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*, February 13, 2025.

2024 EC Flaming, "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 Darenbourg, *Wild Pigment Project*, March 3, 2023.

Halle Parker, "These artists have something to say about the environment. They're using Louisiana dirt to do so," *WWNO New Orleans, WRKF Baton Rouge, and NPR*, January 18, 2023.

2021 Valentina Di Liscia, "Louisiana Artists Mobilize to Help Hurricane Ida Victims," *Hyperallergic*, September, 2021.

SELECTED ARTIST TALKS + WORKSHOPS

2026 **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) (forthcoming)

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) (forthcoming)

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) (forthcoming)

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**, “Finding Grounding: Nature Connection + Art Learning Experience,” in collaboration with Lilia Kapsali Grant, sponsored by Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, October 14.

Public Workshop, “Creative Visioning In Community: Authentically Expanding Your Support Network,” Artist Mother/Thrive Retreat, Black Mountain, NC, May 27.

Virtual Artist Talk, Ground Floor Contemporary, April 15.

Artist Talk, Mont Art House, Houston, TX, March 2.

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.

PUBLIC WORK

2025 *The World Will Go on Beautifully Without Us*, digital installation, A&E Atlanta, Atlanta, GA (curated by Lauren Jackson Harris)

Sites of Concern, solo installation, Hartsfield Jackson International Airport, Atlanta, GA (curated by Jess Bernhardt)

Mother Stone I, solo installation, Goat Farm Arts Center, Atlanta, GA (curated by Ali Bashuk)

2023 *Procreate Project Archive Art Trail*, group installation, Manchester, England (juried)

All Flourishing Is Mutual, mural, Stacks Squares, Cabbagetown, GA (curated by Angie Jerez)

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

2024 **Resonancia Natural**, quartet and video projection performance, Tucson, AZ, Fall 2024.
(in collaboration with composer Carolina Heredia, commissioned for *Sonoran Heritage Waters* by Sara Fraker, Jackie Glazier, supported by the Arizona Institute for Resilience at the University of Arizona)

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

2023 **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.

CURATORIAL

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

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

2026 **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

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, Allison Janae Hamilton

Curatorial Advisor, *Splinter/ed*, Eyedrum Gallery, Atlanta, GA, January 25 - March 2, 2025, works by Jessica Blinkhorn, Angela Bortone, Jessica Caldas, Shanequa Gay, Melissa Huang, Hannah Newman, and David Robinson

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 Darenbourg, 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, Evan Blackwell, Erin Drakeford, Heather Bird Harris, and Cheyenne Hendrickson

COLLECTIONS

The Goat Farm Arts Center, Atlanta, GA
Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, NY
RISE St. James, St. James Parish, LA

Susan Brennan, New Orleans, LA
Dr. Katharine Wilkinson, Atlanta, GA

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Pleiades Network, 2025-present
WEAD, artist, 2022-present
ecoartspace, artist, 2023-2025
Artist Mother /Thrive Network, Mentor Artist, 2022-2024
Wild Pigment Project, selected artist, Pigment People: Paint, Mineral, + Waste Stream, 2021-2024
Turnaround Arts, President Obama's Committee on the Arts, John F. Kennedy Center, 2015-2017

GALLERY REPRESENTATION

Spalding Nix Fine Art, Atlanta, GA
Claire Elizabeth Gallery, New Orleans, LA
Mont Art House, Houston, TX