

HEATHER 'BIRD' HARRIS

b. 1987 Manchester, Connecticut

Works in Atlanta, Georgia and New Orleans, Louisiana

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EDUCATION

- 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

- 2024 *Solo exhibition*, Spalding Nix, Atlanta, GA (*forthcoming*)
- 2023 *Land Memory*, Science Gallery, Emory University, Atlanta, GA (*forthcoming*)
- 2022 *Where the Water Goes*, SALON Gallery, New Orleans, LA
- 2009 *Come Together*, Case Center Gallery, Saratoga Springs, NY

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 ArtFields, Lake City, SC (juried) (*forthcoming*)
River Split, Mont Art House, Houston, TX (*forthcoming*)
Transient Bodies, Roaring Artist Gallery (curated by Inge Flinte) (*forthcoming*)
ART PAPERS Art Auction, Atlanta, GA (*forthcoming*)
Be Still, Echo Contemporary Art, Atlanta, GA (curated by Erin Drakeford)
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, Saratoga Springs, NY
Lines, Case Center Gallery, Saratoga Springs, NY
- 2008 *Selected Student Exhibition*, Schick Art Gallery, Saratoga Springs, NY

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

- 2024 *American Roots*, Echo Contemporary Art, Atlanta, GA (*forthcoming*)
2022 *Earth Body*, co-curation with Erin Drakeford, Echo Contemporary Art, Atlanta, GA

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

- 2023 Workshop-in-Residence with Judith Kugler, MASS MoCA, MA (October 4 - October 10)
Zero Foot Hills Residency, Durham, CT (July 10 - July 17)
Bell Moon Artist Residency, Hayesville, NC (June 5 - June 11)
Stay Home Gallery & Residency, Paris, TN (February 6 - February 12)
2022 SALON Residency + Gallery, Arts Council of New Orleans (February 15 - August 1)

BIBLIOGRAPHY + MEDIA

- 2024 Chelsea Scudder, *Rebirth: Mothering Through Ecological Collapse*, wetlands chapter (*forthcoming*)
2023 Halle Parker, "Environmental Artists Reimagine Louisiana's Future," WWNO, New Orleans Public Radio, NPR, January 20, 2023. (*forthcoming*)
2022 "Heather Bird Harris: Creating in the Face of Climate Change," Visionary Art Collective, access date: January 15, 2023. <https://www.visionaryartcollective.com/interviews/heather-bird-harris>
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

- 2023 Workshop, Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans, LA, September 13.
Workshop + Artist Talk, Bell Moon Arts, Hayesville, NC, June 24-25.
Workshop + Artist Talk, Visionary Projects, New York, NY, May 20.
2022 Artist Talk, The Writer's Wing, SALON Residency, New Orleans, LA, June 16.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

- 2023 Contributing artist, Ground Bright, Wild Pigment Project
Selected by Tilke Elkins. In conversation with Ashley R. Booth and Jeffery Darrensborg
Mentor Artist, Crit Crew program, Thrive Network
Selected by Kaylan Buteyn and Jamie Smith. In partnership with Katrina Andry.
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 two-day field research trip down the 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
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 Linrotbe.
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

- 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
- Where Y'art*, selected artist, 2020-present
- Turnaround Arts*, President Obama's Committee on the Arts, John F. Kennedy Center, 2015-2017

COMMISSIONS (SELECTED)

- 2023 Corporate Art Commission, earth pigment series, Four Seasons, Atlanta, GA (*forthcoming*)
- 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, land memory painting in collaboration with two families who occupied one plot of land in separate decades, Hattiesburg, MS
- 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

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

GALLERY REPRESENTATION

Spalding Nix Fine Art, Atlanta, GA
Mont Art House, Houston, TX