



Green Monkeys - Mandrill, Johanna Burke, 2016, Fiberglass figure adorned with dried natural plants, glass beads, and wooden beads. Courtesy of Bergdorf Goodman. Photo: Dan McMahon

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

OCTOBER 5, 2019—SEPTEMBER 6, 2020



AMERICAN VISIONARY ART MUSEUM

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

ALIVE! AWAKE! & (POSSIBLY) REALLY ANGRY!

"Man is rated the highest animal, at least among all animals who returned the questionnaire."

—ROBERT BRAULT



elcome! Be ye climate science denier, proud farmer, eco-activist, or just plain confused and scared: Herein lies one-stop shopping for clearly-stated environmental fact, good reason for hope, and a bit of humor—all aimed at a better understanding of the true state of life here on our one blue homegirl planet, Earth.

The **REALLY** great news is that all the critical ways we need to change and evolve how we share and manage Earth's resources, will act simultaneously to **IMPROVE**, not diminish, the quality of our own lives.

Eco-hero, Julia Butterfly Hill, smartly observed, "Why is everything good for our bodies, our communities, our world, and our planet called 'alternative'? That means everything bad for us is the excepted norm."

Right here in the US, we have legal industrial-scale production and use of over 80,000 chemicals—of which few were ever tested for their impact on human health. Then, there is the chronic practice of corporate welfare: Fossil fuel companies annually receive nearly \$1 trillion in global subsidies and pay next to nothing for their role as prime polluters of Earth's air, soil and waters.

Author Naomi Klein describes the intense climate changes we now witness as, "a civilizational wake-up call—a powerful message spoken in the language of fires, droughts, and extinctions—telling us we need an entirely new economic model and a new way of sharing this planet." This conclusion need not deal a death blow to capitalism—but it is a plea that every financial bottom line must forever be tied first and foremost to the highest standard of ethics, health, and non-polluting environmental practices.

Harvesting earth-wisdom from concerned indigenous leaders, science-based innovators, and from our exhibition's impassioned artists, we invite you to participate in the greatest world-wide **URGENT** transformation to health and life ever undertaken.

We give Artist Frederick Hundertwasser, the late passionate environmentalist, the last word of warning: "You are a guest of Nature—Behave!"

Wishing each of us more joy, less fear, real gratitude and behavior, worthy of the gift of life on this miraculous planet,

Rebecca Alban Hoffberger, Founder/Director, Curator and Proud Tree-Hugger,
Along with All of Us at the American Visionary Art Museum



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EXHIBITION ARTISTS

- Bobby Adams
- Chris Roberts Antieau
- Pat Bernstein
- Johanna Burke
- Marcario Matias Carrillo & Rosalva Matias Carrillo
- Abraham Lincoln Criss
- Peter Eglington
- Erika Ezerskiene
- Hubert le Gall
- Gary Greenberg
- William A. Hall
- Lorraine Hanover
- Dr. Bob Hieronimus
- Julia Butterfly Hill
- Stephen Holman
- Trams Hollingsworth
- Tim Laman
- Judith Selby Lang & Richard Lang
- Kerstin Langenberger
- Gary Larson
- David Liitschwager & Susan Middleton
- Mark Casey Milestone
- Nina Montenegro
- Christopher Moses
- Santiago Navila
- Brian Pardini
- Rick Skogsberg
- Louie Schwartzberg
- Judy Tallwing
- Mars Tokyo
- Shawn Ware



Laysan Albatross with Plastic Innards. Photo: David Liittschwager (top) and Susan Middleton (bottom).

ESSAYS



HISTORY OF PLASTIC

“Modern Technology Owes Ecology an Apology.”

—ALAN EDISON

1.

First patented in 1856, plastic (synthetic polymers) was originally called, “Parkesine,” after its British inventor, Alexander Parkes, who developed plastic as part of his quest to electroplate even the most delicate objects. Parkes proudly presented Queen Victoria’s consort, Prince Albert, with a magnificent gift of a silver plated, spider web.

2.

Early plastic processing was expensive and highly flammable. Not until the 1950s did the modern plastic industry take off. Today, almost 70 years later, plastic has become one of the greatest threats to our planet’s environment, to its sea life, and to our own human health. Over 350 million tons of plastic are produced globally each year, of which an estimated 91% is NOT recycled. Each year, 350 metric tons of plastic are dumped into the world’s oceans.

3.

We can now find micro plastic - degraded particles smaller than a grain of rice, down to those invisible to the human eye - floating in every cup of Earth’s ocean water, trapped in Arctic ice, airborne in the air we breathe, embedded in soil and fish, and in our bodies - even present in the cord blood of babies born today. A recent international study tested for the presence of micro plastic in human poop. Their shocking - literally “sh-tty” - discovery was that micro plastic was found in all the excrement sampled from donors from every continent - from big city dwellers, to residents of most the remote and formerly pristine places on earth.

4.

To make things far worse, many plastics contain poisonous, cancer-inducing, reproductive and DNA-disruptive chemicals. Humans thrived for centuries without plastics. Engineering and manufacturing must shift to the use of environmentally-friendly alternatives, using benign natural, easily bio-degradable substances like hemp and corn. Banning production of the most toxic plastics must be swiftly legislated and enforced worldwide. Working cooperatively, we will find safe and effective ways to stop adding to this widespread toxic mess.

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5.

However, there is some good news: Inventors like Scott Brown are cooking up ways forward that could be an answer to our prayers. Brown has a working prototype that takes everything from raw sewage, child and adult diapers (a massive, daily and ever-increasing landfill problem) to any toxic and plastic mess imaginable, and safely reduces it to its essential molecular components - all with zero environmental off-gassing. Brown does this with a surprising surplus generation of useable clean energy! This means that soon every city and small town could cease their dependence on the current antiquated and vulnerable-to-hacking, electrical grid, while at the same time process their own garbage cleanly at its source!

6.

A breakthrough like Brown's is especially important given that in 2017, China abruptly stopped accepting 90% of the world's plastic recycling – in particular ours – rejecting all but the cleanest and highest quality plastic. The rest now mostly gets burned (creating more toxic fumes) or dumped onto the poorest river villages in the Far East, which in turn, ends up floating back to sea.

7.

The world's five major, tightly packed with plastic, swirling ocean gyres, are simply unimaginably enormous - occupying sectors of our oceans greater than the land mass of major countries. When ultraviolet light hits ocean plastic, it further degrades into micro particles that are eventually ingested by fish, and then in turn by us. It is estimated that countless sea creatures and 100 million marine mammals die of trash-related deaths each year. Discarded sea nets entangle and murder sea life, and cripple coral reefs. Sea turtles and baby albatross ingest plastic bits, mistaking them for food - causing bloated bellies and agonizing death, engorged and lacerated by plastic.

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8.

Earth's five oceans - the Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Southern and Arctic - are all interconnected. "What goes 'round comes 'round." Oceans cover over 70% of Earth's surface. These small toys and wrapper bits of foreign plastic garbage are "sailors" that have traveled many thousands of miles to reach, what should be, the pristine shores of Point Reyes Beach in Northern California, where they were picked up by environmental activist artists, Richard and Shelby Lang.

9.

80% of plastic ends up discarded in landfills where plastic's toxins leech out into ground water and soil for years. Plastic is more ubiquitous in our lives than you might imagine, including in our microfiber clothing and bedding, most lipsticks, lots of toothpastes, shaving creams, as well as food and drink containers. They shed micro plastic bits - some airborne and invisible to the eye - which we breath in, swallow and eat. These micro plastics can penetrate our gut wall, pass into blood cells and lodge in our vital organs, thought small enough to potentially pass through the protective blood-brain barrier. We humans have caused incalculable and unforeseen harm, not yet fully understood.

10.

The state of Maryland is arguably the world's capital for creative intelligence applied to defense industry weaponry. Chemical, biological, and nanotechnology warfare research centers are all headquartered here, with DARPA just down the road in Virginia. What we propose is to harness the brilliant minds of America's most lavishly funded enterprise - war - and shift their attention to our protection and actual defense from extinction - sort of a biblically inspired, "weapons into plowshares," scenario to benefit all humanity!



Earth Day Poster, Robert Richard Hieronimus, 1972, Pen and ink. Courtesy of the artist.

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WE HUMANS ARE NEWCOMERS TO EARTH!



Earth is 4.54 **BILLION** years old. Homo Erectus (upright humans) emerged out of Africa only 6 to 7 **MILLION** years ago. If the entire existence of planet Earth was symbolized by the actual height of the Empire State Building (1,250-ft), the whole of human history could be represented by the tiny sliver of a single penny laid flat on its side and placed on top!

Geologic records reveal that Earth has already undergone five prior extinction events—each time, wiping out nearly all life on earth. We all know about the end of the dinosaurs' reign; but each event also prepared the stage for growth and further evolution. These events acted as a kind of “restart” button, birthing new, or more adaptable species of flora, fauna and sea life.

Just a few hardy species have survived relatively unchanged since the last extinction event. These may well again triumph into the next, including: cockroaches, alligators, crocodiles, some birds, frogs and salamanders.

We are currently living in the Holocene era that some have updated with the new name, “The Anthropocene,” due to humankind’s unprecedented impact on our planet. Some fear we have now entered a sixth extinction period. All but one of the five prior extinctions are believed to have been triggered by carbon dioxide fluctuations.

PLEASE NOTE: Our host planet Earth always endures all her surface extinction events to adapt, regenerate, and thrive. She survives all the comings and goings of species to play mother again to the next new life on earth!

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IN PRAISE OF GREEN

*The human eye is hardwired to perceive more subtle variations
in the color green than in any other color.*



Christopher Bird and Peter Tompkins's beautifully conceived and well-researched book, *The Secret Life of Plants*, (so profound, it inspired a movie of the same name, scored by Stevie Wonder) observes: "Without green plants we could neither breathe nor eat. On the undersurface of every leaf, a million moveable lips are engaged in devouring carbon dioxide and expelling oxygen."

As to the possible awake, conscious nature of green plants, Bird and Tompkins's book delivers a well-documented punch. Respected inventor of the modern lie detector, Cleve Baxter, conducted a series of astonishing experiments in which he collected house plants that were present at the scene of a murder. Baxter discovered that they could be reliably counted on to emit the equivalent of a "scream" when exposed to the presence of the actual murderer, differentiated from a lineup of innocent participants.

Ardent and successful gardeners the world over will swear that plants not only respond to love but return it as well. Although for centuries, people have extolled the virtues of slow walks in the forest. As Abraham Lincoln put it, "I'm a slow walker, but I never walk back."

New studies in medicine have shown that the practice of forest bathing, popularized in the 1980's in Japan as *shinrin-yoku*, can measurably act to reduce blood pressure, lower cortisol levels and improve concentration and memory. A chemical released by trees and plants, called phytoncides, also works to boost to our immune system. And leaving cell phones at home is an essential part of gaining the full and intimate benefit from silent communion with fragrant woods.

In an interview with *Newsweek*, visionary artist Minnie Evans, confided, "I love people to a certain extent, but sometimes I wish to get to the garden and talk to God. I have the blooms, and when the blooms are gone, I love to watch the green. God dressed the world in green."



Green Monkeys - Small monkeys, Johanna Burke, 2016, Fiberglass figure adorned with dried natural plants, glass beads, wooden beads. Courtesy of Bergdorf Goodman. Photo: Dan McMahon.

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MUSHROOMS AKA “FUNGI”...

1. Earth's oldest living resident is also its largest: the Honey Mushroom is more than 2,400 years-old and covers over 2,000 contiguous land acres. Yet, it is just one of the more than 1.5 million known species of fungi.
2. “FUNGUS” comes from the Latin word for mushroom. As a species, fungi are more closely related to animals than to plants; unlike plants that contain chlorophyll and can produce their own carbohydrates through photosynthesis, fungi and animals cannot. Both fungi and animals possess the molecule chitin that helps build exoskeleton and bone structure—and is never found in plants.
3. Fungi can cure disease and have been used to save countless lives—as with the great benefits of the antibiotic PENICILLIN (cultured from mold, a type of fungus). Many other fungi are also used in medicine for their tremendous, anti-viral, anti-inflammatory and even anti-diabetic properties.
4. Other varieties of mushrooms can prove deadly: they can kill instantly, with one of any eight possible toxic compounds known as “amatoxin.” Some fungi act a bit like vampires and are parasites, living off of other organisms. Athlete's foot, ringworm, candidiasis skin and vaginal yeast infections are all pesky fungal invaders—the true party poopers among fungi!



Polli-Nation Mandala, Peter Eglington, 2017,
Mixed media on canvas. Courtesy of the artist.

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...TRULY ARE NATURE'S FUN GUYS

- 5 . Some fungi glow in the dark! Others have long been respected as sacred agents, renowned by both shamans and medical researchers. Hallucinatory, psycho-active, ingredients can have a profound impact on both animals and humans; and as with ALL powerful medicine, these fungi can be both highly beneficial, and potentially damaging.
- 6 . Fungi are absolutely essential to the decomposition of organic matter, releasing much-needed nutrients back into the soil. Fungi colonize the root systems of trees and plants, and provide them with increased water and nutrient absorption. In turn plants and trees provide fungi with carbohydrates that they cannot create. Together, trees and fungi make for one of Earth's greatest, most harmoniously beneficial marriages.
- 7 . In 2011, a Yale research team in Ecuador discovered one of the most exciting and potentially wildly beneficial fungi: the Amazonian mushroom *PESTALOTIOPSIS MICROSPORA*. This mushroom can subsist SOLELY on polyurethane, without using any oxygen—the first living organism found with the capacity to gobble up and digest that great modern scourge—plastic! Very promising research is happening right now, to colonize this miraculous fungus to feast to its heart's content on landfill plastic.



Ammaw, Peter Eglington, 2017, Mixed media on canvas. Courtesy of Bill Linton.

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HEY, MISTER, CAN YOU SPARE A PLANET?...



In 1950, Earth's human population totaled 2.5+ billion. Today, our human family has grown to 7.7 billion. By 2050, our numbers are projected to reach between 9.3 to 9.8 billion—all occurring at the same moment when our Pacific Ocean fisheries will face total depletion and arable farmland will be greatly decreased. Why all the fuss about an average world temperature INCREASE of just 4°C (7.2°F), as calculated from pre-industrial time before we started grand scale belching out fossil fuel CO₂, having the potential to cause a new extinction event? After all, a 4°C degree increase doesn't sound so bad—we've all put up with some record hot days before.

Here's your answer: The last Ice Age kicked off with just a 4°C average global temperature DECREASE!

Stable Earth temperature sustains surface life by only a very delicate balance. When average ocean temperatures increase—even by a single degree—we get more evaporation and therefore more fiercely destructive storms, winds, and hurricanes. With glaciers melting into the ocean, we get sea rise that will damage and inundate our biggest coastal cities, making many of them permanently uninhabitable.



Think how dangerous it is when our own human bodies run a high fever. If our 98.6°F average temperature were to raise permanently by 7.2 F degrees, our organs would begin their fatal shut down.

Over the last few years, Earth has broken many previous heat records, causing death, increased asthma, and new climate refugees desperately seeking a viable home. In 2014, for the first time, the famed Alaskan Iditarod dog sled race required artificial snow.

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...BECAUSE WE'RE GONNA NEED AN
EXTRA EARTH REAL SOON...

Here's the difference between climate and weather: **WEATHER** is the short term, atmospheric condition of a specific place—local. **CLIMATE** is the result of long-term observation and calculation that computes changes in any overall temperature: rainfall, snowfall, storms, drought, cloud cover and glacier melt.

We sincerely wish climate change deniers were right. Sadly, global data proves otherwise. Working together, humanity still has an unprecedented opportunity to orchestrate a healthier and more balanced, peaceful world.

The coldest growing seasons of the future [will be] hotter than the hottest of the past.

Is agriculture adapted to that?

I don't know. Can fish play the piano?

—CARY FOWLER



Pinocchio, Hubert le Gall, bronze/gold.
Courtesy of the artist.

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BOWERBIRDS & SINGING CHEERLEADERS

The Earth would die if the sun stopped kissing her. —HAFIZ



n the bird world, there is no more creative architect than the amorous male bowerbird who competes among his peers to create the most alluring bachelor pad. The arched entry to his lair acts like a giant *huppah*, inviting the most discriminating female bowerbirds to be wooed and wowed by his style, inventiveness and careful attention to form and color.

These charmers are especially enamored with the color blue and will fly far and wide to gather up cobalt-colored plastic milk bottle tops to entice the ladies.

In the rest of the bird world, lovely, happy, dawn birdsongs welcoming spring—sung mostly by male birds—have been found to possess unexpected powers. When recorded and replayed in the presence of test plants grown with same stock, nutrients, soil, sunlight and water as their counterpart control plants, the plants exposed to the sounds of bird serenades were seen to grow exponentially more luxurious!

It is as if spring birdsongs serve as nature's audible plant cheerleader, cooed and chirped, sweet talking encouragement to all that grows. This secret dawn chorus reveals an inherent orchestration of life forces far more harmoniously interwoven and complex than we ever imagined.

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Bowerbirds by Tim Laman. Photos, 2011.

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TREES & HUMANS

What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another. —CHRIS MASER



ethoven went a bit too far in his love for trees, saying, “I value the life of one tree more than I value the life of one man.” The Cherokees had balance in their sense of tree kinship, calling trees, “The Standing People.”

Right now, in 2019, human beings set thousands of fires to the “Lungs of our Planet”—Brazil’s Amazonian rainforests. Not only do healthy rainforests—especially the Amazonian—provide us with 20% of breathable oxygen, but it is home to one in ten species of life on Earth.

There is a great hero supreme among trees, one that The World Tree Organization calls, **“THE TREE THAT WILL SAVE THE WORLD.”** The **PAULOWNIA FORTUNA** or **EMPRESS SPLENDOR TREE**, sacred for centuries to the animist Shinto faith, and throughout the Far East, is now being planted by farmers all over the world as a premier environmental solution to carbon offset.

Here are just some of the Paulownia tree’s most miraculous attributes:

- 🌿 Grows 5 to 20 feet in its first year.
- 🌿 Consumes 11 times more carbon dioxide than other trees.
- 🌿 Its fallen leaves dramatically help depleted soil back to health and contain high levels of protein for animal feed.
- 🌿 Ideal for construction, Paulownia wood is as light as balsam, but amazingly three times stronger than pine, and can be harvested in just 10 years.
- 🌿 Naturally insect resistant, medicinal applications are being researched.
- 🌿 Of the 23 species of Paulownia, only one is invasive. Today, its offspring can be seen locally, flowering purple in May, having long ago gone rogue from seed pods that were used as 18th-century packing material, ensuring the safe arrival of porcelain from China.

Artists like Abraham Lincoln Criss and Bill Romeka were intuitively drawn to this tree that can grow in minimal soil—even springing up from amidst rain gutter debris.

Inside every Paulownia tree’s root are heart-shaped rings. Artist Criss takes great advantage of this heart to form the body of his handmade turtle stool.

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Paulownia Turtle, Abraham Lincoln Criss, 1988, Paulownia wood, gum wood, glass, paint. Gift of the artist.

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THE WOODPECKER'S SECRET



ong a passionate student of nature's intelligent design, the great Leonardo Da Vinci wondered, "Why is a **WOODPECKER'S** tongue so long?"

On dissection, the answer was clear. To perfectly protect its bird brain from the 1,000+ g-force generated by rapid pecking into hard wood trees in the daily effort to uncover tasty insects to eat, the woodpecker retracts its long fleshy tongue into a special cavity, located just under its skull and encircling and cushioning its delicate organ, shielding its brain from any harm.

"God does not play dice with the universe." —ALBERT EINSTEIN



Birds of Prey, Chris Roberts Antieau, 2016,
Embroidery on silk. Courtesy of the artist.

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SPIRIT HOUSES



pirit houses like these are shrines—created in recognition and respectful appeal—to the protective spirits of a place. They act as a focus for welcoming unseen, beneficent, nature forces into a home or a business to help bring about harmonious blessing. Spirit houses have been continuously present throughout Southeast Asian cultures for several centuries.



White Spirit Bears, Judy Tallwing, 2012, Resin, silver, garnet, sterling, acrylic, copper, diamonds. Courtesy of Holly Stone.

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SOIL...

1. Each teaspoon of healthy soil contains an astonishing 7 BILLION living organisms.
2. Healthy soil acts to trap carbon, keeping it from escaping into our atmosphere.
3. Earth has lost 1/3 of its farmable, nutrient-rich, land over just the last 40 years.
4. Worldwide, we currently lose nearly 30 million acres (12 million hectares) of farmland to desertification each year.
5. Soil is degraded and depleted by chemical-heavy farming, deforestation, lack of crop diversity and rotation, mechanical tillage, and overgrazing—all caused by human action. These actions then leave soil vulnerable to wind erosion.
6. The science to restore Earth's soil health is known, with a growing international chorus of robust champions and practitioners but is still fiercely opposed by major commercial food industry leaders, unwilling to change their harmful ways.
7. Permafrost is defined as any ground that remains completely frozen for two or more consecutive years. Even the most ancient permafrost is thawing now, along with major glaciers. (Think: woolly mammoths discovered with flesh and stomach contents still preserved!). In winter (2018–2019) the North Pole had multiple days of 60°F to 70°F, far above average. Melt days like these are only projected to increase.



Face of the Deep,
Rick Skogsberg, Painted shoe.
Courtesy of BigTown Gallery.



Ice Age,
Rick Skogsberg, Painted shoe.
Courtesy of BigTown Gallery.



Crystal Palaces,
Rick Skogsberg, Painted shoe.
Courtesy of BigTown Gallery.

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...THE DIRT BENEATH OUR FEET

- 8 . Arctic permafrost contains 1.8 trillion tons of carbon—twice what is currently suspended in our atmosphere. When permafrost thaws that carbon can be released as methane—34 times more powerful as a greenhouse gas warming force than is carbon dioxide.
- 9 . Weirder still, permafrost has been shown to preserve past plague bacteria and viruses, long eradicated. As permafrost thaws, these disease agents are again live, active and released. One such thawing caused a breakout of anthrax in Siberia. In Alaska, recently uncovered mass graves of Spanish flu victims killed in the 1918 worldwide epidemic, contain live remnants of the deadly virus. Yikes!
- 10 . Lightning strikes play an essential role in Earth's rich interconnected ecosystem, converting soil nitrogen into consumable nitrates for plants, and by increasing ozone production for the planet.

PLEASE NOTE: ALL but 1 of Earth's 5 extinction events were caused by GREENHOUSE GAS

"Someday we shall look back on this dark era of agriculture and shake our heads.

How could we have ever believed that it was a good idea to grow our food with poisons?" —JANE GOODALL



PI,
Rick Skogsberg, Painted shoe.
Courtesy of BigTown Gallery.



Trade Winds,
Rick Skogsberg, Painted shoe.
Courtesy of BigTown Gallery.



Arctic Melting,
Rick Skogsberg, Painted shoe.
Courtesy of BigTown Gallery.

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ALASKA'S PROJECT CHARIOT & OTHER EARTH-POLLUTING DEFENSE AND COMMERCIAL INDUSTRY OBSCENITIES



Defense industries across our planet (no major governmental power comes off well here) have repeatedly sought out pristine and remote lands, paradisiacal islands, oceans teeming with healthy sea life, and territories occupied by earth-loving indigenous peoples, to conduct their poisonous nuclear, chemical, and biological warfare experiments. These once pristine sites have names like Bikini Atoll, Yucca Mountain, Rocky Flats, Snake River Aquifer, Plum Island, and most recently, Russia's White Sea.

The poster child for this kind of tragic environmental assault is surely Project Chariot. In 1958, the Atomic Energy Commission planned, at the behest of physicist Edward Teller anxious to demonstrate a "peaceful use" of atomic power, to detonate 5-chained nuclear explosions in order to create a commercial deep-water port off of Alaska's northern slope. Mercifully, wiser heads prevailed, halting that proposed mega-explosion of radioactivity. Thwarted, other US scientists decided to go ahead with a covert Plan B, and stealthily planted radioactive material (gathered from Nevada's A-bomb test sites) to seed the environmentally pure Alaskan Native village lands—just to observe how long it would take to corrupt and contaminate ground water, fisheries, and impact civilian Inupiat Eskimo health. Only after several decades of soaring cancer rates for the Native Inupiat, was the truth of Project Chariot—this secret radioactive experiment on civilians and nature—revealed and a clean-up undertaken.

Native Americans, burdened by few job opportunities, too often have little choice but to live and work in dangerous environmental conditions, especially amid the uranium mining defense industry conducted on or near their lands. Colorado's Rocky Flats Nuclear Arsenal holds millions of pounds of highly radioactive materials and bio-weapon nerve agents, both of which have periodically and rather famously, leaked. A 1957 Rocky Flats Facility fire—laden with plutonium—spread its deadly smoke over northwest Denver, and still contaminates much of the facility's surrounding soil at 5X the recommended minimal cleanup standards.

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oday, there are a whopping 1,344 officially declared federal Superfund sites, deemed America's "most dangerously toxic." New Jersey has 114 of them— and leads with the highest concentration of noxious sites for any one state, followed by California and Pennsylvania. The Magnesium Corporation has been rated the US's "worst air polluter," belching chlorine gas and hydrochloric acid clouds over the Goshute Indian Reservation in Utah. The residents of the Wind River Reservation in northwestern Wyoming, not far from Yellowstone, were told not to drink their tap water and to always bathe with a fan running to circulate and disperse the water's harmful fumes!

Superfund sites also include those devastated by commercial industrial pollution. DuPont produced its non-stick Teflon enabled by the cancer causing "C8" chemical, that seriously poisoned ground water from Ohio to West Virginia. Cattle that drank from streams polluted by C8 died. On autopsy, their organs had turned a bright green color. Flame retardant fabrics are made so, due to a particularly dangerous chemical to reproductive health—BPA. Once required by law in American infant sleep ware, this chemical, too, has spread to ground water.

Fracking for oil and natural gas requires a really noxious brew: an estimated 200+ chemical secret "proprietary" formula—known to have seriously contaminated nearby drinking and ground water with reproductive and endocrine-disruptive, cancer-causing agents, among them: arsenic, benzene, xylene, mercury, lead, methanol, and formaldehyde—especially devastating in Central and Western Pennsylvania shale country.

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ALASKA'S PROJECT CHARIOT & OTHER EARTH-POLLUTING DEFENSE AND COMMERCIAL INDUSTRY OBSCENITIES



Mountaintop coal mining, a method touted to save the lives and lungs of miners, has done just the opposite. This method blasts the forested tops off once glorious mountains in West Virginia, Ohio and beyond, scarring the landscape for generations, and fills pristine valleys and hollows with blasted rocky rubble and toxic sludge. The promise of “Clean Coal” was a lie: coal extraction poisons ground water for miles, raises cancer rates, and can create household water so foul it can be set on fire right from the tap.

Powerful corporations, with little regulated testing or care, have unleashed new chemicals into our world proven to cause catastrophic harm to animal, plant and human life.

- **BERKELEY PIT, IN BUTTE, MONTANA, IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST TOXIC POND, FILLED WITH POISONOUS CHEMICALS RESULTING FROM PROCESSING THE NEARBY COPPER MINE. THOUSANDS OF MIGRATING SNOW GEESSE WERE KILLED BY THEIR STOP BY TO DRINK FROM ITS WATERS.**
- **JAPANESE INDUSTRY RELEASED MERCURY IN UNCONTROLLED VOLUME INTO ITS WATERS, POISONING FISH TO THIS DAY. THE STILL UN-CAPPED NUCLEAR DISASTER OF FUKUSHIMA PRESENTS A HEALTH CHALLENGE SO WIDESPREAD IT HAS LOWERED COLLECTIVE LONGEVITY AVERAGES FOR THE JAPANESE PEOPLE.**
- **IN 2019, A RUSSIAN NUCLEAR ROCKET TEST WENT VERY WRONG, RELEASING STILL UNKNOWN CONTAMINATION IN THE ONCE PURE WHITE SEA DETECTED BY NEARBY NORWAY.**

We cannot erase the enormous harm caused by humanity's past foolish actions. Many contaminated sites continue to present problems for which we have still not found solutions. However, collectively, with wise input from indigenous leaders, we can prioritize work to shift the world's vast concentration of defense intelligence and funding to defend humanity from its worse self, enforce controlled production of untested chemicals, and invent systems that will forever prevent further corruption of earth and her surface life—including all her children.

Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children. —SITTING BULL

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OUR GLOBAL BEES

- Honeybees will fly over 55,000 miles and visit 2 million flowers just to make 1 pound of honey.
- One worker bee will make 1/12 of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.
- Out of 20,000 species of bees, only four make honey.
- Kept in sealed, air and moisture tight containers, honey is a miracle food that can uniquely remain edible over thousands of years. The honey found sealed in Egyptian King Tut's tomb could be safely eaten today.
- Honey has effectively been used to kill many forms of bacteria, even acting as a teenager's best friend to deeply cleanse pores of acne. Honey is antibacterial, antifungal, antiseptic, sterile and never spoils.
- If we enjoy fruits and vegetables, a glass of wine, or even wearing cotton, we need to work to protect and support our pollinators, chief among them: bees, butterflies, birds (especially hummingbirds), ants, and bats.
- Plant bee-friendly flowers, and please don't be so fast to mow down flowering weeds like dandelions in the spring.
- Even more CRITICAL: we must all stop treating our lawns and gardens with chemicals and pesticides, that we now know are established bee killers—as well as harmful to people, pets, birds, beneficial insects, baby crabs, and the Bay ecosystem.
- There are 430+ species of Maryland bees.
- Bees are known as the “angels of agriculture.” They pollinate 71 of our world's top 100 food crops, and the most nutritious, fruits and vegetables. Last year, national bee losses were the highest on record at 50%, now aligned with Maryland's 50% or higher losses the past 5 years—only 15% losses are sustainable—putting our food security at risk.
- Globally bees are dying off in alarming and record numbers. In 2016, Maryland became the first US state to pass the most hopeful law to ban consumer use of neonicotinoid (neonic) pesticides in a sincere effort to protect its star pollinators. Neonics are systemic and persistent killers—a single application will poison nectar, pollen, leaves and fruit of the plant for years to come.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

POVERTY & CLIMATE CHANGE...



he poverty stricken suffer the impact of climate change and polluted environmental conditions disproportionately to those with greater income, material resources, political influence and choice.

Here in Baltimore City, the residents of zip codes 21223, 21213, and 21205, experience 3X the asthma-related emergency room visits than the national average. All across the country, municipal sewage treatment plants, landfills and trash incinerators, tend to be located in the poorest neighborhoods.

When catastrophic storms force mandatory evacuations, modest income families living in harm's way have few options to quickly and safely relocate. Their ability to recover from income and assets lost during extreme weather events can be severely limited. Dependence on week to week paychecks, with little to no savings, may throw their lives into a downward spiral and chaos—from which some never fully recover.

As global temperatures continue to hit record highs, the ensuing freak fires, storms, water and air pollution all have a brutal impact on farmers, independent fishermen, the elderly, and especially, outdoor workers. Field workers in Mexico's sugar cane industry are experiencing an explosive rate of kidney failure, as record heat combines with humidity to generate lethal heat indices.

In 2019, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported that extreme heat waves in cities actually caused more deaths than all other weather events (hurricanes, tornadoes, lightening, snow, ice., etc.) combined—particularly disturbing as cities continue to hit and hold ever higher temperatures.

When Ellicott City was hit with a news making, second “1000-year flood”—in just three years—little notice was taken of the same storm's ruinous flooding of 200 historic row homes, clustered in the low-lying, southwest Baltimore City neighborhood, located along the Frederick Road corridor.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

...WE'VE GOT THAT SINKING FEELING

Ultimately, the poor are the “canary in the coal mine” of climate change. Yet, nature’s unbalanced and unleashed forces will quickly evolve to prove themselves equal opportunity bad actors, imparting no immunity to the rich. Just ask the one-time residents of wealthy Paradise, California.

Due to the unique geological forces that created the Chesapeake Bay, the Maryland Coast is now sinking at twice the rate of the rest of the US East Coast, exacerbating the ongoing sea rise, especially for Annapolis, low-lying portions of Baltimore City, and the Maryland/DC/Virginia coasts where tremendous wealth is invested in homes and the seat of government. Just since 1950, thirteen Chesapeake Bay islands, several once inhabited fishing villages, have been lost, totally submerged underwater.*

Continuing to develop shore property, without consideration of projected future sea rise calculation, could bankrupt insurance companies and mortgage lenders.

We are given an unprecedented opportunity to plan and to act now with greater compassion for one another and with informed, Earth-respecting wisdom.

** United States Geological Survey Report:
Communities of Southern Chesapeake Bay Find
Sea Level Rise Heightened by Sinking Land,
Released: 12/9/2013*



Turkey Vulture, Chris Roberts Antieau, 2018, Fabric Appliqué and Embroidery. Courtesy of the artist.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

THE TOP 10 THINGS MEAT-LOVERS NEED TO KNOW

If you love the taste of meat, you're not alone. Each year, an estimated 7 billion animals are slaughtered to meet the demand for meat products in the United States—poultry, beef, pork, and lamb. What we all need to know is that eating meat, and just what kind of meat one eats, has a significant impact on our environment and on one's health. And for the complete picture, we need to know just how market-bound animals are bred, live, and die. For your consideration:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

1

WATER SUPPLY: More than 1/2 of all water used in the United States goes for livestock sewage systems and for growing feed. On average, a pound of meat requires 2,500 gallons of water to produce, a pound of wheat —just 25. NEWSWEEK put it, “the water that goes into a 1,000 pound steer could float a destroyer.”

2

AIR AND WATER POLLUTION: US livestock produce 20 times more excrement than do humans, constituting 12% of all ozone-depleting methane emissions and can raise ammonia and nitrate levels in drinking water to dangerous levels. Residents living near factory farms report a far greater incidence of serious illness than is normal.

3

SOIL: 200 years ago, American topsoil depth averaged 21 inches—today on average, it measures barely 6 inches and continues to erode. Through the demands of feeding giant livestock herds, meat production is responsible for nearly 85% of this erosion and is also the major factor leading to global desertification.

4

LAND USE: 260 million acres of US forest and countless acres of global rainforests have been cleared to grow crops for livestock—causing approximately 1,000 plant species to become extinct each year. Eighty percent of corn and soybeans grown in the US are used to feed livestock. The same amount of corn and soybeans would feed 1.3 billion people per year.

5

ENERGY EFFICIENCY: The world's petroleum reserves could last 20 times longer if used for food production other than meat. An acre cultivated in spinach yields 26 times more protein than it does for beef.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

HEALTH & DISEASE PREVENTION

6

MAJOR ILLNESS: Heart attacks are the most common causes of death in the United States—occurring in 50% of all meat-eating men and in only 15% of vegetarian men. TIME magazine reported “in regions where meat is scarce, cardiovascular disease is unknown.” Women who eat meat daily have 4 times the chance of developing breast cancer than women who eat meat less than once a week. Meat contains no essential nutrients that cannot be found in a higher quality in plants.

7

TOXINS: European countries have banned nearly all imports of American beef due its high antibiotic content. 55% of all antibiotics used in the US are fed to livestock —creating higher levels of resistance in human consumers. Most factory farmed meat contains 14 times more pesticides (such as Dioxin and DDT) than food from plant sources. The beef industry’s emphasis on damp, dark, cramped and unnatural mass production methods routinely incorporates hormone injections, pesticides, insecticides and toxic waste.

8

NO MEAT-EATING IN EDEN: Our non-pointed teeth and human digestive system were not designed for eating meat—a natural carnivore’s bowel is relatively short, smooth inside, and contains much stronger digestive acids. 98% of all US milk is factory produced and uses high levels of artificial hormones to increase production—thought a major factor in early onset of puberty. On average, vegetarians not only live six years longer than meat eaters, but they live healthier lives, with far fewer incidences of cancer, stroke, diabetes and colitis.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

THE TOP 10 THINGS MEAT-LOVERS NEED TO KNOW

ANIMAL WELFARE

9

CROWDING & OVERPRODUCTION: On the old family farm, a healthy sow naturally gave birth to about 6 piglets a year. Today's factory farms aim at manipulating a sow to produce 45 per year. Their pigs are stacked, two and three decks high, in tight spaces where their legs can become crippled from disuse. Male cattle are often castrated to make them more docile and to promote fat production—analgesics are seldom used. Egg factories weed out male chicks, disposing about half a million per day, into containers where they are crushed or suffocated to be disposed of or are ground alive for use in animal feed.

In addition to other livestock, there are over a billion cattle on this earth. Together, their weight is more than the combined weight of the entire human population! The beef industry works hard to sustain their numbers in the most unnatural way.

10

CONTENTED COWS? John Robbins, author of *DIET FOR A NEW AMERICA*, describes the life of a dairy cow living in today's modern milk factory: She "is bred, fed, medicated, inseminated and manipulated to a single purpose—maximum milk production at minimum cost . . . and is kept pregnant nearly all the time with her young taken from her almost immediately after birth."

What you can do for yourself, the animals, and the earth is eat less flesh. And if you do eat meat, choose meat that has been raised using organic methods and under certified humane conditions. If you decide to try to become a vegetarian, or just more of one, learn what makes for an optimal healthy and balanced diet to maximize your chance of succeeding. The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine has introduced a revised recommended "New Four Food Groups." They are: fruit, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes.

"Nothing will benefit human health and increase chances for survival of life on Earth as much as the evolution to a vegetarian diet." —ALBERT EINSTEIN

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH



*Group of People Standing Near
Large Pile of Buffalo Bones
Along Railroad Tracks, USA.
Photo, circa 1884.*



*A Pile of American Bison Skulls
Waiting to Be Ground for
Fertilizer. Photo, circa 1892.*



Rachel, Peter Eglington, 2015, Mixed media on canvas. Gift of the artist.

ARTIST BIOS

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

BOBBY ADAMS
(1946 —)

Bobby Adams was born in Dallas, Texas, but raised in Baltimore City. His father, a former boxer and strict—at times brutal—disciplinarian, operated a floor sanding business in Dundalk. His beloved and gentle mother taught school, but tragically committed suicide in 1976.

In 1964, Adams graduated from Sparrows Point High School, where he says that the only wisdom he learned came from an exercise in typing class that required him to repetitively type: “There once was a man, they called him mad. The more he gave, the more he had.”

During the draft of 1969, Adams was picked from the lottery to serve in the United States Army. However, upon his examination, Adams was designated 4-F (a candidate found to be unfit for military service) due to his impaired hearing and was able to avoid being sent to Vietnam.

A self-made pirate radio DJ, Adams began playing functions around Baltimore as “The Psychedelic Pig,” and spun records for a station he dubbed W.E.E.D..

In the early 1970s, John Waters filmed *Pink Flamingos* at the Baltimore County farm where Adams was living. Around that time, Adams befriended Waters and became the filmmaker’s unofficial documentarian, taking photographs on film sets and chronicling the exploits of Waters’ band of renegades known as the “Dreamlanders.” “I just point and shoot,” notes Adams. “My approach is simple: I start with love, and the camera sees it.”

Inspired in part by Waters’ own art, and an Edward Kienholz exhibition he chanced upon, Adams began creating his own works in 1996, after the devastating loss of his adored toy poodle, Odie. Since then, the artist has created more than 50 multimedia tribute pieces to Odie, and installed them throughout his waterfront cottage. Adams’s ongoing work ranges from his famous handmade holiday cards – each unique and made for his special friends – to life-size installations. The experiences of Bobby’s childhood continue to have the power to move him to tears, as does the state of our Earth.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

CHRIS ROBERTS-ANTIEAU
(1950—)

Chris Roberts-Antieau was born in 1950, in Brighton, Michigan, to a fashion model mother, Rosemary Lee, and Finch Lee Roberts, a home-builder. She still lives in the Michigan woods, surrounded by wild turkeys, and with a series of her beloved bulldogs.

She attended public schools in Brighton, Michigan, and won 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place the first time she entered her high school's art competition. The next year, Roberts-Antieau was awarded only a 2nd place prize because, as the teacher explained to her parents, "We just can't continue to give all the prizes to Chris." Her high school counselors did not recommend college, which, in hindsight, may have been a great blessing. "I like being self-taught because I don't ever want to have ideas of what not to do," she says. Roberts-Antieau later took an art class at a local college where the teacher told her: "You'll never be an artist."

After seven years together with boyfriend Darrell, Roberts-Antieau became pregnant with her only child, Noah Antieau. Upon becoming a mother, she stated: "I just knew I had to prepare a path for my son and me." Her first attempt to produce a work of art to sell was a 3D soft, stuffed sculpture that took her 18 hours to complete. At first, Roberts-Antieau was thrilled when it sold at a Michigan fair for \$20, then the reality of the hourly pay for her new enterprise set in.

By 1987, Roberts-Antieau had worked long hours to create a wearable art sample clothing line to pitch at craft fairs. The line consisted of just three vests and two jackets. Thankfully, the American Craft Council (ACC) juried her into their giant Baltimore ACC Fair. With only those five samples in hand, she had wholesale buyers lining up at her booth. A star was born!

Roberts-Antieau continues to enchant audiences with more and more diverse works. Her one-woman gallery is today one of New Orleans' most successful. She holds the distinction of being the most repeatedly exhibited artist included in group thematic exhibitions at the American Visionary Art Museum.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH



Bird and Bee, Chris Roberts Antieau, 2018, Fabric Appliqué and Embroidery.
Courtesy of the artist.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

PAT BERNSTEIN
(1942 —)

Born on Long Island, New York, Pat says her parents were “the guiding force in my life”. Her father and grandfather built a successful steel door frame business, enabling their family to have a comfortable lifestyle. But when Pat was 12, her father’s ill-fated investment with a Staten Island builder ended in bankruptcy and forced the family to move from New York to Florida, changing her life utterly. Suddenly everyone in the family had to work. Pat left her childhood behind abruptly, but soon discovered an innate initiative and creativity as she worked hard at a variety of jobs to help support her family.

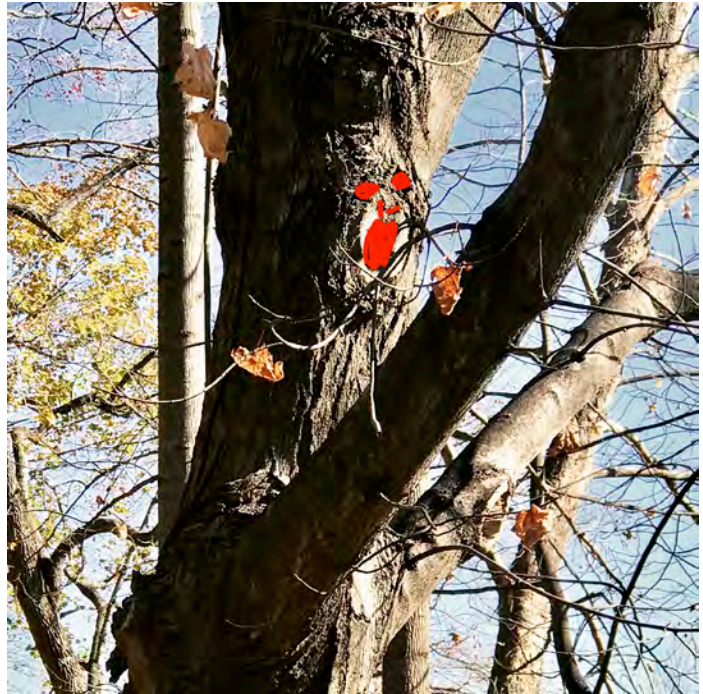
After marrying and raising her family, Pat devoted many years to creating outdoor bonding experiences and leading biking adventures across Maryland, in order to join the state’s prominent business leaders with at-risk teens. Over the years, this work built lasting, albeit unlikely and meaningful inter-generational friendships.

Years later, Pat discovered ‘pareidolia’ after another significant personal challenge occurred. After the removal of a large benign brain tumor, Pat began to see things differently: “All of a sudden, the trees and the rocks were alive, and communicating their secrets to me.” Long arm-like branches seemed to beckon her further into the woods. Faces with personalities hidden in tree bark and rocks peopled her walks - and she loved them! From that day forward, a devotion to wakeful perception of nature’s hidden spirit, became her life’s work.

Pareidolia is actually something we as little children naturally do. In our effort to make sense of all the visual information around us, as children we often delight in seeing faces and forms of people, letters, and animals in puffy clouds or figurative shapes in our morning cereal and in floor tiles. We perceive in these everyday surroundings, other presences that can look altogether different: little faces hide in the knotty patterns of wood paneling, or within the patterns of old linoleum.

From Pat’s enormous compassion for people, she has sought to share these surprising images that have brought her such a sense of discovery. Pat challenges us all to look deeper and loves nothing better than when we then see something else. More than mere psychological Rorschach set in nature, Pat’s work provides each of us with a primer in perceiving wonders in the everyday that so abundantly await our awakened attention.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH



*Pareidolia Photo Series, Pat Bernstein, 23
photographic prints. Courtesy of the artist. 6x8 in.*



THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

JOHANNA BURKE
(1972 —)

Johanna Burke was born in 1972, a “free-roaming flower child” in Williams, Oregon. Her mother swears that she was conceived under a redwood tree. Her parents later divorced when Johanna was only five. But both shared with their daughter a love of nature and the joy of working with their hands. Burke’s father was a carpenter and fishing guide, who later built a solar powered off-grid straw bale house. Johanna’s mother worked in the wine business and now studies Buddhism.

Johanna’s favorite nature-laden memory came after moving to “Round Mountain,” a guru-less, joyful commune nestled in the foothills outside of Fresno, California. There, she spent long idyllic days with her best friend Syelus, who too was an only child. “We inhabited a series of geodesic domes. There were extensive gardens for food - each home had its own vegetable garden, there were fragrant orange groves, elder fig trees, apple-pear and stone fruits. We played house under the orange trees - the interior creates a natural shelter – and one fig tree I recall was definitely a space ship. The fig trees had incredible shapes and possessed an extra level of magic to us kids.”

The reality of then going to school and having to integrate with straight society came as a shock to Johanna. She was good at school but found it socially confusing. “I knew we lived differently and I was told to not let people know how we lived, ‘don’t mention we use an outhouse, people won’t understand,’ or ‘don’t tell anyone adults smoke marijuana.’ My lunches were weird - organic food, vegetarian, no sugar.”

Johanna says that being a child of divorce, and the experience of knowing her parents’ partners, expanded her sense of what family can mean.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

After college, Burke moved to New York at age 22. Four years later, she started working as a fabricator for the famed holiday windows at/creative director/ Bergdorf Goodman, where she continues to work to this day. Bergdorf's Senior Director of Visual Presentation and Design, David Hoey, calls Johanna "the most brilliant person with whom I have ever collaborated." In addition, Burke is the founder of Burke & Pryde in Brooklyn, New York, a studio renowned for a fierce devotion to natural elements, pattern and obsessive handicraft.

The green monkeys were commissioned by Bergdorf Goodman for their 2016 holiday window display in New York City, and were inspired by "1960s psychedelic art, the paintings of Louis Wain, Indian block prints, and all manner of decorative patterns" mined from Johanna's own historic treasure trove.

"Green is an incredible color to work with – uplifting and wonderful on the eyes. Highly recommended!"



Green Monkeys - Gorilla, Johanna Burke, 2016, Fiberglass figure adorned with dried natural plants, glass beads, wooden beads. Courtesy of Bergdorf Goodman. Photo: Dan McMahon.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

MACARIO MATIAS CARRILLO
(1952 —)

Born 1952, into a Huichol family in the western Sierra Madre mountains of Nayarit, Mexico, Macario Matias Carrillo, had one sister and five half-brothers. Until his parents separated when he was just eight, Macario lived with both his father, a respected shaman and a field hand, and his housewife mother. Farmed out to live with various relatives, Macario did heavy labor as a field hand and brickmaker. He resisted pressure to become a shaman like his father and uncle, knowing its arduous demands.

After a series of illnesses in his early twenties, a shaman uncle explained to Macario that he had only two choices, accept his destiny to become a shaman - or die. Choosing wisely, Macario began an intense apprenticeship to nature herself and to his ancestors and spirit guides, that filled his dreams and guided him in travels to spiritual power centers that deepened his own understanding of the invisible reality.

In 2003, Carrillo met Francisco Loza, and began collaborating and making his own art in Huichol pressed yarn and beaded traditions, infusing his works as a new venue for conveying his visions. A great ambassador for Huichol music, culture and art, Macario is devoted to humanity's comprehension of the great spiritual challenges of our time.

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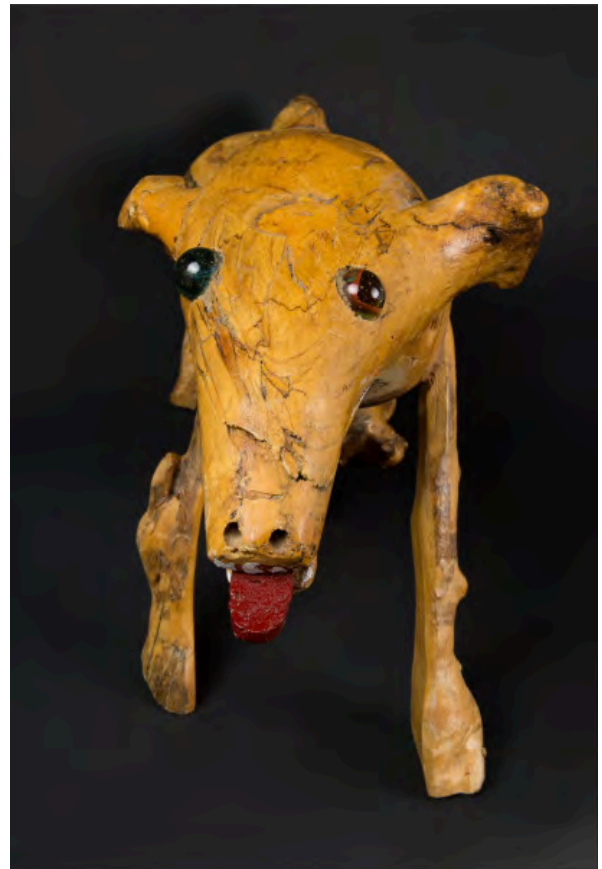
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THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

ABRAHAM LINCOLN CRISS (1914—2000)

Abraham “Abe” Lincoln Criss first worked as a janitor in Essex County, New Jersey, before becoming a furniture craftsman. Born in Cumberland, Virginia, he returned to his home state in the 1960’s, where he started his own antique and furniture repair business. Criss began disassembling various furniture pieces that were still intact and combining the parts to create new furniture. He soon began sculpting human and animal figures in 1976 using recovered tree parts. Criss would also often prepare his own special mixture containing sawdust, and other additives in order to strengthen the piece. Criss was naturally attracted to Paulownia trees, fashioning both this turtle and dog from “the root that always has a heart hidden in it.”

Criss began gaining recognition after he was discovered in 1985 by Folk Art Society of America founder, Ann Oppenheimer. Criss eventually moved back to a retirement home in New Jersey to be closer to his daughters before his death in 2000.



Paulownia Dog, Abraham Lincoln Criss, 1988,
Paulownia wood, glass, paint. Gift of the artist.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

PETER EGLINGTON
(1952 —)

Incarnated on April 5th, 1952, (The Chinese Year Of The Water Dragon), in New South Wales, Australia, Peter Eglington grew up in a ramshackle house, hand-built by his father, who was quite proud that he had used no human-made instrument of measure. “My birth was very unusual. My mother was given a cocktail of scopolamine and hyoscyamine to ease violent contractions. Mum always felt my lifelong fascination with the plant world came from this first intoxicating experience.”

Peter’s first memories are of “lying in my mother’s arms staring up at the ceiling full of holes and large cracks and seeing wondrous worlds.” The eldest of three children, Peter was raised close to nature and enjoyed a charmed childhood growing up in the shadow of Mount Warning (named by the legendary Captain Cook), the largest caldera of the Southern Hemisphere. Peter climbed trees, surfed with his Dad “and his mates” near the ocean only two miles from their village, and he learned to identify the birds of every one of the hundreds of species that inhabited this region of red soil.

Peter helped on their family farm, where he became sensitized to the slave-like work conditions experienced by their 50+ Aboriginal and Pacific Islander farm workers. All their elders were to be addressed as “Aunt this” or “Uncle that.” I was amazed by their very different approach to life from my Anglo background. They had a great sense of humor, and an honest, earthy approach to their sexuality.” Many became Peter’s cherished and life-long friends.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

Peter's family had no car and no television. When another family got the first TV in Peter's childhood town, the entire village would gather to watch. "I remember waiting with bated breath to see the next week's episode of *Lost in Space* and *The Twilight Zone*."

Peter adored Enid Blyton's Famous Five adventure books, and his mother gave him a Lopsang Rampa book, featuring an introduction to The Third Eye. "Soon, I was off astral traveling high above the village pines."

By 1970, Peter became swept up in the counter-culture movement. He landed work as ABC (Australian Broadcasting Company) network's youngest photographer. This job lasted three years, until Peter decided to travel like a nomad, for ten years — hiking, climbing and surfing throughout Asia, Bali, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan. While in Sri Lanka in 1983, Peter met a New Zealander, who became the mother of his three children. "We spent the next 10 years in New Zealand, where I created woodblock prints of local scenes for the tourist market. She then took off, leaving me to raise our 10, 4, and 2 year-olds, alone." Between changing nappies, Peter says, "I'd draw with colored pencils, as we could not afford paint."

Peter is an avid meditator, respecter of the world's great mystical traditions and practices, and an accomplished Vedic astrologer. The American Visionary Art Museum is especially proud to have hosted in 2017-18, the first museum exhibition of Peter Eglington's multi-decade life's work.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

ERIKA EZERSKIENE
(1982 —)

Née Erika Romancikova in 1982, in a small farming village in Lithuania, Erika Ezerskiene father's profession as a house builder took him away to Moscow ten months out of every year. Erika's mother worked as a secretary for a nearby water purification station and grew tomatoes for sale in a small backyard greenhouse. Erika credits her mother for nurturing a gentle love for living things.

Going to the forest to cut their own Christmas tree, her mother insisted her girls hang carrots and treats on a tree left behind to feed the forest creatures. When Erika was twelve, her mother had a stroke that paralyzed her on one side and robbed her of speech. Erika took over complete care of her younger sister, her mother, and of the small farm - rising early to milk cows, gather eggs, feed pigs and rabbits - all before school.

Kids cruelly teased Erika that she smelled like pigs, despite her showering before class. With great effort, her mother recovered in 18 months. Erika rescued an injured raven and a bluebird, nursing both back to health. Erika's natural creative gifts enabled her to take the US and German used clothes, donated for low-income Lithuanian families, and transform them into striking fashion statements. The results caused one envious neighbor to accuse the family of secretly being rich! One of Erika's fondest memories was going fishing with her father. He taught her to make bait from lipstick, flour and water – that worked like a charm.

In 2003, Erika married her high school sweetheart. Joining his family here in America, Erika, her husband, and young son, arrived in Maryland in 2014. Seeking to start a business with very modest startup costs, Erika and her mother-in-law created Candy Tree, a paper flower and wedding decor business. While here, a psychic came up to Erika and told her that her grandmother had also been a gifted paper flower maker. Only later did Erika confirm that this was indeed true. Erika's love of nature, people, family, and beauty is evident both in her creative work and in her life.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

DR. TEMPLE GRANDIN (1947 —)

Born August 29, 1947 in Boston, Massachusetts, Dr. Temple Grandin is today an author, activist, inventor and a professor of animal science at Colorado State University.

Temple Grandin developed her profound insights into animal welfare and their needs through her own first-person, sensory experience with autism. Grandin was diagnosed with brain damage and autism at an early age, delaying her ability to communicate through words until she was three years old. Grandin credits the early mentoring and attention of her private school teachers, with the development of her visual thought process, explaining: “Visual thinking has enabled me to build entire systems in my imagination.”

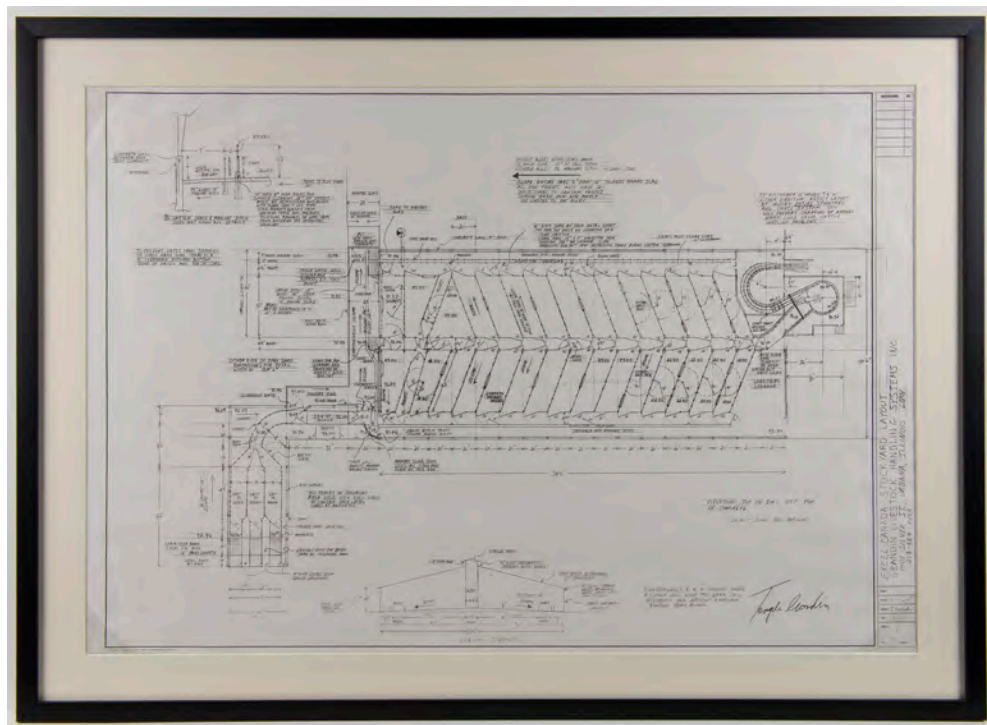
Growing up, young Temple would visit her aunt’s ranch and livestock business. There, she observed how cattle responded calmly to being branded after being placed into a squeeze shoot. Grandin immediately related to that calm from her own practice to soothe herself, by burrowing deep inside heavy blankets and squeezing herself into a tight space.

As Grandin worked to obtain a bachelor’s degree in Psychology in 1970, she designed and built a “Hug Box” for human use - an invention consisting of two padded boards that exert an equal pressure on both sides of a human body that was quickly adopted and now highly-prized as a therapeutic tool for autism.

Grandin went on to complete a PhD in Animal Science, intensifying her focus on lessening the suffering and panic of livestock raised for slaughter. Today, more than half the meat industry facilities in the US use Grandin’s design. As part of the American Visionary Art Museum’s Home & Beast Exhibition, Temple Grandin gave her original humane slaughter drawings to the Museum for its permanent collection.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

A much beloved professor at Colorado State University, Grandin continues her work in humane animal handling methods both in practice and theory, outlined in the 2002 essay, “Animals are Not Things: A View on Animal Welfare Based on Neurological Complexity.” Grandin was also the subject of an award-winning biographical film, *Temple Grandin*, and in 2010, she was listed in *Time Magazine*’s list of the 100 most influential people in the world in the “Heroes” category. The BBC recently produced a special, “The Woman Who Thinks Like A Cow,” in her honor, and when asked if a cure for autism was discovered would she take it, she replied “No, I like the really logical way that I think. It kind of blows my mind how irrational human beings are... if you totally got rid of autism, you’d have nobody to fix your computer in the future.”



Large Layout of a Beef Stockyard and Handling System at a Meat Plant, Temple Grandin, photocopy of blueprint. Gift of the artist.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

DR. GARY GREENBERG

Dr. Gary L. Greenberg is a true polymath - scientist, photographer, teacher, lecturer, author and inventor of revolutionary 3-dimensional light microscopes, for which he holds 19 patents.

Dr. Greenberg is the author of two books filled with his arrestingly beautiful images of individual grains of beach sand, made possible by his own invention. His work underscores how each beach around our planet has its own signature sand every bit as unique and characteristic as a human fingerprint. NASA requested Greenberg photograph lunar sand retrieved by the Apollo 11 Mission.

Greenberg explains, "The magnificence of nature lies in its consciousness. When we commune with nature, we become conscious of our connection with the universe."

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

ALEX GREY
(1953 —)

Born in 1953, in Columbus, Ohio, Alex Grey grew up in a Methodist household until the age of nine, when his parents became disenchanted with religion due to the apparent hypocrisy and overt racism of their church during the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Alex's father was a graphic artist who energized his young son's natural abilities. Alex would collect neighborhood dead animals and insects and bury them reverentially in the back yard.

At 21, Alex's first LSD trip and meeting his wife Allyson became one of two synchronous events that occurred on a single night, transforming his agnostic existentialism into radical transcendentalism. Alex's investigations into the nature of consciousness through shamanic performances in the 1970s and 80s, led him to practice Tibetan Buddhism and to study the human body in minute detail.

Employed at a medical school morgue, tasked with preparing cadavers, Alex also continued his psychedelic voyages with Allyson. This unusual chapter of his career led to the unique series of paintings entitled *The Sacred Mirrors*, and other works that "X-ray" multiple dimensions of reality, interweaving physical and biological anatomy with psychic and spiritual energies. Alex applied this multidimensional perspective to all the natural elements of human existence including: kissing, pregnancy, birth and death, providing a glimpse into the luminous awareness described by healers, clairvoyants and saints.

By referencing multiple wisdom traditions in his work, Alex Grey's paintings point toward an inclusive vision, and a universal sacredness, that extends to his great reverence for nature. In 2004, Alex and Allyson Grey founded the Chapel of Sacred Mirrors in New York City, a cultural center and refuge for contemplation, celebrating a new alliance of divinity and creativity. In February 2009, the Chapel of Sacred Mirrors moved to its permanent home in the town of Wappingers Falls, New York. From rock stars to scientists, Grey's work has now become iconic of the contemporary spiritual movement – embraced to help inspire, inform and illuminate the inexplicable.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

WILLIAM A. HALL
(1943—2019)

Born in 1943, the youngest of three boys in northeast Los Angeles, William's father worked for the city. Both parents and all their children took on additional work as extras in movies to make ends meet. William's mother can be briefly seen screaming and fleeing as a UFO flies overhead in the original 'The Day The Earth Stood Still' - 1951.

William lived with his mother in the same area of LA most of his life, occasionally holding part-time gardening jobs. This affinity for nature would later figure prominently in his drawings.

After his mother died in 1998, William's home became his 1974 Dodge Dart. He spent nearly two decades of his life homeless, and more than half of the time he both lived and drew obsessively in his car. Despite these harsh living conditions, William created a voluminous body of original drawings, using only colored pencil, and working on 9 x 12 inch paper. From these, William produced complex single and multiple panel images, including highly-detailed images of retro-futuristic cars and fantastical architecture, set within idyllic and fantastical landscapes.

In 2015, William was befriended and welcomed into their home by British artist Stephen Holman, his wife Josephine, and their young son Phineus. Sharing with them a deep love of art and nature, William spent the last four years of his life, cherished and much admired by his adopted family.

In May 2019, William died peacefully at age 75.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

DR. ROBERT R. HIERONIMUS
(1943 —)

Born Richard Stanley Gill on September 16, 1943 in Shamokin, PA, Bob's youth was turbulent. Twice abandoned, he found solace in his childhood love of nature and caring for animals. Adopted at age 15, Bob took his stepfather's name and became Robert Richard Hieronimus, and today is best known as "Dr. Bob." Bob's formal schooling includes a Bachelor in Science from Towson State University and a PhD in Humanistic Psychology from Saybrook University, but he believes his intuitive knowing, fostered by meditation, prayer, service to others and the presence of "unseen master teachers" has most informed his work and life.

In 1969, Hieronimus founded the first American state-approved school of esoteric studies, AUM — the Aquarian University of Maryland. AUM served as a center for a creative community that helped attract mystic Rudolph Steiner's system of Waldorf teaching to Baltimore — a school that continues to flourish today — as well as a holistic medical center, championed by Zohara Meyerhoff Hieronimus, Bob's adored wife of 34 years.

Bob and Zoh co-host and direct content for *21st Century Radio*, the longest-running paranormal-themed radio program anywhere. Both have served on the Negro League Baseball Players Association Board of Directors as tireless advocates to win African-American players due recognition and benefits. Both are environmental activists.

In the early 1970s, Bob created Earth Day posters and suggested its original spring equinox date. He has traveled to Egypt and Israel to help establish new Baltimore "Sister Cities," to meet with peacemaker Anwar Sadat and to support The Akhenaten Project. Long fascinated by the impact of rock 'n' roll on popular culture, his original Woodstock VW Art Bus, "Light," has become a popular international cultural icon.

A voluminous writer, author and media consultant on the historic and spiritual lives of America's revolutionary founders and the US Great Seal, Bob has made frequent appearances on national television. His most famous mural is the prophetic *Apocalypse*, located at Johns Hopkins University. After thirty-plus major art commissions, Bob is counted among America's most respected symbolic muralists. He is the loving parent of three adult children and lives with Zohara and their three dogs, in Owings Mills, Maryland.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

JULIA BUTTERFLY HILL (1974 —)

Born Julia Hill in Mount Vernon, Missouri, Julia's family was deeply religious. Headed by her father who was a traveling evangelical minister, the family finally settled down in Arkansas. As a young child close to nature, Julia chose the name, Butterfly.

Her rebellious teen years were marked by a period of alcoholism and drug experimentation. In 1996, Julia suffered severe injuries in an auto accident. Enduring nearly a year of very painful medical treatment and recovery, Hill took time to reassess her purpose in life. Two weeks after being released by her doctors, Julia headed west on a journey of self-discovery with no particular destination in mind. Her first sight of the ancient redwoods proved life changing. "When I entered the majestic cathedral of the redwood forest for the first time, my spirit knew it had found what it was searching for. I dropped to my knees and began to cry because I was so overwhelmed by the wisdom, energy and spirituality housed in this holiest of temples."

On meeting activists committed to keeping these ancient trees from being felled by commercial loggers, Julia agreed to take a turn to "tree sit" in protest. A prior tree sitter had already been killed by the intentional actions of the harvesting company. Julia's weekend up at the equivalent of an 18-story tall building, turned into 738 consecutive days and nights, never once leaving to return to the ground. Volunteers helped send her food up, and waste down. Once the logging company helicopters tried to use the blades to literally "suck" Julia off her small tree platform, but she knew to strap herself steadfast to her host tree whom she called, "Luna."

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

Julia's courageous and dramatic act of civil disobedience brought international attention to the plight of the ancient forests. Singer Bonnie Raitt dedicated her Grammy to Julia. Through all the seasonal changes and storms, Julia kept a diary of love and lessons imparted by her arboreal host. With the help of steelworkers and environmentalists, Julia successfully negotiated permanently to protect both her 1,000+-year old tree, Luna, and a nearly three-acre buffer zone to include other ancient giant redwoods. Only then did she agree to descend from Luna, touching ground on December 18, 1999. Now 26, Julia had to teach her atrophied legs to relearn to walk normally.

"For millennia, the two million-acre redwood ecosystem thrived and sheltered myriad species of life. In the last 150 years, 97% of the original redwood forests have been destroyed by timber corporations...Big business cut-and-run logging operations have created a false dichotomy of jobs versus the environment." Hill further explains, the "Headwaters Forest Agreement," brokered by state and federal agencies and lumber corporations, will not adequately protect forests and species.

Julia Butterfly Hill continues to be an internationally recognized environmental champion and activist. Her message of hope, empowerment, love and respect for all life, continues to inspire millions of people worldwide. Her book, *One Makes the Difference*, is a love letter and an empowering plea to each one of us.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

STEPHEN HOLMAN
(1962 —)

Born the eldest of three boys in Hastings, England, Holman's father worked at the local bank. The family lived in a succession of small English towns and villages, as his father's job moved them from place to place in the lush countryside of County Sussex. The boys spent half their lives happily making camps in neighboring woods and fishing for newts and sticklebacks in local streams.

In the village of Henfield, Holman remembers a brambled wood, which he named 'The Wild Place,' a secret spot so overgrown, no adults ever went there. Stephen says there he once dug a hole and buried a piece of paper on which was written the names of two boys at school that he hated. The Wild Place and its memory influence him still.

After such an idyllic childhood, Holman left school at 16, and found himself in the chaos of punk-era London in the late '70s. This was followed by another move in the early '80s, to the US, where he started and directed the notorious cabaret/theater troupe, Theatre Carnivale, in Los Angeles. Stephen also worked as a production artist on Pee Wee's Playhouse, created surreal stop-motion animation shorts for Nickelodeon (Life With Loopy/Kablam!), Warner Bros (Phantom Investigators), and Disney (The Bite-Sized Adventures of Sam Sandwich), with his artistic wife Josephine T. Huang. Holman's live performances combined eco-science with madcap comedy, using props he designed, including giant rabbits, dancing toilets and cheese-slice propulsion machines.

Stephen Holman's paintings are inspired by the magical visions of his childhood in the countryside, and his love of mythology and play. In 2015, Holman discovered and befriended 71 year-old outsider artist, William A. Hall, welcomed him warmly into his home, and helped to manage Hall's introduction into the outsider art world, until William's death in May, 2019. Stephen lives with Josephine and their 11 year-old son Phineus, in Alhambra, California.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH



In the Heart of the Woods, Stephen Holman, 2016, Acrylic on canvas. Courtesy of the artist.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

TRAMS HOLLINGSWORTH (1953—)

Née Patricia Trams in post-war Washington DC, Trams Hollingsworth's parents were an American Quaker mother and a former German Luftwaffe fighter pilot, turned neuroscientist, father. Trams jokes, "They had four children together before they could speak the same language." Trams' oldest sister was severely disabled by cerebral palsy. "We siblings learned early on we weren't the center of anybody's universe. Our mother was our rock. Our father was our rock star."

"My father took me all over the world as his 'research assistant.' Every spring break we would go to the Mote Marine Lab in Sarasota Florida. This is where my father implanted electrodes into the brains of porpoises. One day something went wrong. One porpoise with implants could no longer keep its equilibrium in the laboratory pool and sent out distress calls. My father watched helplessly as two other lab dolphins placed themselves, one on each side, and swam at its sides to keep its blowhole above water. All three swam in circles and sent out distress calls. I watched my father watch them. More and more porpoises gathered in the Gulf and called back. My father lowered the net that separated his holding tank from the Gulf. Together we watched as these three conjoined porpoises with electrodes in their brains leapt the net and were guided by their others toward the horizon. My father continued to do research that led to some wonderful medicines for humans. But he never again used mammals as subjects in his experiments."

Trams adopted a son from the Caribbean, and they grew up together on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Trams has been a professional gardener, wildlife rehabilitator and dumpster diver (passing herself off as an antiques dealer). She writes funny stories about her interracial, multi-species family. Today, Trams lives happily in an enchanted 600-sq. ft., old log smokehouse, transported more than a century ago to downtown Chestertown, Maryland.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

TIM LAMAN

- Contributing Photographer - *National Geographic* Magazine
- Research Associate in Ornithology - Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology
- Fellow - International League of Conservation Photographers

Tim Laman is a field biologist and wildlife photojournalist. He credits his childhood in Japan, where he had ready access to the mountains and oceans, for his strong interest in exploring nature, both above and below water.

Tim first went to the rain forests of Borneo in 1987 and the Asia-Pacific region has been the major focus for both his scientific research and photography ever since. His pioneering research in the rain forest canopy in Borneo led to a PhD from Harvard and his first *National Geographic* article in 1997. Since then, he has pursued his passion for exploring wild places and documenting little-known and endangered wildlife by becoming a regular contributor to *National Geographic*. He has 21 articles to his credit to date, all of which have had a conservation message. Some have focused on endangered species such as orangutans, proboscis monkeys, or hornbills, while others, such as a series of articles on Conservation International's Biodiversity Hotspots, have highlighted regions under intense pressure. Tim has also published more than a dozen scientific articles related to rain forest ecology and birdlife.

Tim has developed somewhat of a reputation for being able to come back with shots of nearly impossible subjects like gliding animals in Borneo, displaying birds of paradise, and some of the most critically endangered birds in the world such as the Nuku Hiva pigeon and the Visayan wrinkled hornbill of the Philippines. He continues to relish such challenges, and firmly believes that promoting awareness through photography can make a difference for conservation.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

JUDITH LANG & RICHARD LANG
(1950 — & 1947 —)

Born 1950, in Portland, Oregon, Judith Selby was raised by her parents, Don and Loren Selby, “to be a kind and hard-working person and to abide by The Golden Rule”. Her father, an architect for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and her housewife mother, both had strong artistic inclinations. As a child, Judith aspired to be a paleontologist, joining every day with friends after school to mine the nearby white limestone cliffs, in the hope of uncovering dinosaur bones.

Born 1947, in Kankakee, Illinois, Richard Lang was one of two brothers, whose parents, Leon and Shirlee Lang, were Jewish émigrés. For more than 20 years, Richard’s parents hosted exchange students from India, Japan, Italy, Iran, France, and beyond. Richard’s mother, a prize-winning student at the Art Institute of Chicago, held art classes in the family basement.

Judith and Richard first met in 1999, and quickly forged both a love and an artistic partnership. Both artists share a like passion for the environment, its care, and the creative work found in transforming plastic reclaimed from their devotional clean-up of nearby California’s Kehoe Beach in the Point Reyes National Seashore. This focused attention they call *One Beach Plastic*, through which they have mounted and traveled powerful environmental exhibitions.

The Lang’s large collection of global plastic detritus gives powerful testimony to how all of earth’s oceans are interconnected. “What started out as an act of planetary housekeeping has turned into an immediate and compelling source of free art supplies. We live in a disposable culture where we use it, then toss it away. Unfortunately, there is no ‘away’. Every piece of plastic produced is still with us. As the plastic breaks down, not only is it a visual blight and a grave danger to wildlife, it releases chemicals known to cause many health problems.”

Every piece of plastic in the Lang’s installation at the American Visionary Art Museum, was lovingly hand-picked by Judy and Richard, and comes from Kehoe Beach – which we all hope will one day again become a pristine shore.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

KERSTIN LANGENBERGER

Kerstin Langenberger is deeply in love with the Polar regions. Originally from Germany, she spent most of her adult life in Iceland, where she graduated with a degree in environmental science, and later became a certified Arctic Nature Guide in Svalbard, Norway.

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world,” attributed to Mahatma Gandhi, sums up Kerstin’s drive to live a life centered around nature and conservation. As a professional nature photographer and lecturer, her best-known photograph of an emaciated polar bear made millions of people reflect on climate change. She has written and photographed several books, given a TEDx talk, and continues to tour German-speaking countries with a very successful photo presentation on the European Arctic and climate change.



Emaciated Polar Bear by Kerstin Langenberger. Photo, 2015.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

GARY LARSON
(1950—)

Born in 1950 on the outskirts of Tacoma, Washington, Gary Larson was blessed to become part of a family “with a morbid sense of humor.” The son of a car salesman and a mother who worked as a secretary, Larson’s older brother, Dan, was a master of pranks. Growing up, it was Dan who helped nurture his little brother’s love of science and adventure. Together, they collected live creatures from Puget Sound and orchestrated their captives’ new habitats in hand-built terrariums. They also collaborated on building a small desert ecosystem.

During high school and college, Gary played jazz guitar and banjo. At Washington State University in Pullman, Larson earned his degree in communications. Hating his job working in a music store, Larson decided to try cartooning. In 1976, he hand-drew just six cartoons and submitted them to Seattle’s *Pacific Search* (afterwards *Pacific Northwest Magazine*.) After contributing to another local Seattle paper, in 1979 Larson submitted his work to *The Seattle Times*, where under the title, *Nature’s Way*, Larson’s work was published weekly next to the *Junior Jumble*. To supplement his income, Larson worked for the *Humane Society* as a cruelty investigator. Larson decided that he could increase his income from cartooning by selling his *Nature’s Way* strip to yet another newspaper. While on vacation in San Francisco, Larson pitched his work to the *San Francisco Chronicle*. To his great surprise, the *Chronicle* not only bought the strip, but promoted it for syndication, renaming it, *The Far Side*, that debuted on January 1, 1980. By Larson’s retirement in 1995, *The Far Side* was a much beloved feature in 1900 daily and Sunday newspapers worldwide.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

“You know those little snow globes that you shake up? I always thought my brain was sort of like that. You know, where you just give it a shake and watch what comes out and shake it again. It’s like that.”

A keen observer of both nature and human nature, Larson says, “A long time ago, I became aware that many of us have a tendency to lump nature into simplistic categories, such as what we consider beautiful or ugly, important or unimportant. As human a thing as that is to do, I think it often leads us to misunderstand the respective roles of life forms and their interconnectedness.”

Larson also has the distinct honor and delight of having a louse named after him - *Strigiphilus garylarsoni* – a species only found on owls. Married since 1987 to his partner and co-conspirator in fun, Toni Carmichael, Larson concludes, “The message is not so much that the worms will inherit the Earth, but that all things play a role in nature, even the lowly worm.”

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

HUBERT LE GALL
(1960—)

Born in 1960 in Lyon, France, Hubert Le Gall is a playful, curious and inventive troublemaker. He is also an exhibition designer and creator of furniture and decorative objects.

Mr. Le Gall was in his early 20s and working in insurance when he started painting and making sculpture. “My old life,” he said. “My first life.” Le Gall bought a studio in Montmartre where Pierre Bonnard and other celebrated artists once worked. There, he began to make elaborate bronze pieces in limited editions, the work always teetering between art and furniture.

Inspired by Salvador Dali, Jean Cocteau, the Surrealists and Max Ernst, Le Gall introduces humor and beauty into everyday life. A self-taught artist and sculptor before delving into design, he uses classic materials to create pieces that inspire laughter and enchantment.

Apart from a stint in the Murano glass workshops in Venice, Hubert Le Gall produces his work in Paris and elsewhere in France, where he has established creative relationships with local craftsmen he admires.

In explaining his inspirations and why, in particular, he counts Pinocchio among his muses: “Pinocchio is a designer because he’s a liar like me,” said Mr. le Gall. “He just gives you dreams and illusions.”

Pinocchio was chosen to be part of the American Visionary Art Museum’s *Secret Life of Earth* show as a nod to and recognition of all the many climate science deniers, who steadfastly continue to deny fact.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

**DAVID LIITTSCHWAGER &
SUSAN MIDDLETON**

David Liittschwager and Susan Middleton have established reputations as the foremost chroniclers of the endangered natural world, combining rigorous methodology with aesthetic genius. Their work gives us a vivid appreciation of rare animals and plants, many of which are threatened with extinction. Susan's photograph (of the plastic contents of the albatross's belly) has been chosen by *National Geographic* as one of the best 50 photographs of their 125 years. David too is a contributing photographer to *National Geographic*, *Scientific American*, *Audubon* and many others.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

FRANCISCO LOZA (1960—)

Loza was born in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico. His mother was primarily a homemaker, and looked after a household and her seven children: Eduardo Antonio, Maria del Consuelo, Maria de los Angeles, Ana Maris Otilia, Jose de Jesus, Guillermo, and Juan Francisco Loza Santovo. Loza's father worked as banker to support his large family. Loza remembers spending his childhood summer vacations in Mexico, at family reunions. These reunions always included even the extended family of cousins, aunts, uncles, and family-friends. Loza was the comedian of the family, always telling jokes and entertaining the masses. Piñatas, tamales, *pozole birria*, *dulces tradicionales*, haciendas, and visits to see the *abuelas* (grandmothers) are all treasured memories of Loza's childhood days. For three years, before committing to the life of a full-time artist, Loza worked in a candy factory that was owned and managed by his favorite uncle. Together, Loza and his uncle traveled all over Mexico selling candy.

Loza began working in the medium of *Arte en Estambre*, pressed yarn technique, in the mid-1980s when he first journeyed to the indigenous Mexican Huichol communities, located in the mountainous regions of Central Mexico. Loza recalls the Huichol explaining to him that the pieces of beaded and yarn art are *espejos del alma*—mirrors of the soul. This motivated the artist to create his own work, and later use it a vehicle to show how he saw different people, cultures, and communities around the world.

As a self-taught artist, Loza practiced his craft for over 20 years. His first works mainly focused on themes of family tradition and Mexican culture. Today, Loza focuses on more contemporary topics such as the protection of the environment, immigration policies, and the human spirit. Loza continues to work closely with the Huichol people to produce joint pieces. In particular, Loza attributes a 15-plus year collaboration with a Huichol shaman and artist, Macario Matias. Together, the men share their dreams and create expressions of the mirrors of their souls. Loza moved to Baltimore when he landed a 4-year residency at the Creative Alliance and continues to work in the city. The artist believes that traveling is an important part of personal and creative growth. Loza believes that parents should “give the best opportunities to children to do what they want, and who they want to be. Give them chance to travel—which is the best way to learn more about ourselves and life.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

MARK CASEY MILESTONE
(1958—)

Mark Casey Milestone was born in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1958, and says he never had any doubt that he would be an artist, even when he was working at a series of “crappy jobs.”

He first painted in oil at the age of 8, when his family moved to a new house and he found a huge, badly damaged, paint-by-number set and a large piece of plywood in the basement.

After his parents divorced and moved to different states, Mark divided his time between them, but his talent wasn’t encouraged by either. He dropped out of high school and went to work as a printer and airbrush artist, creating decorations on trucks and vans.

His specialties were Conan the Barbarian and wizards shooting lightning rods out of their fingers, though he occasionally also painted a ski scene on a white van, or an ocean scene on a green one.

Today, Mark lives in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, with his wife and son, and paints in his home studio.



Dryad, Mark Casey Milestone, 2018, Oil on canvas. Courtesy of the artist.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH



Untitled, Mark Casey Milestone, 1995, Oil on canvas. Courtesy of Holly Sadeghian.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

CHRISTOPHER MOSES
(1950—)

Born in 1950, in Los Angeles, Christopher Moses spent his first eighteen years there. His father worked as a commercial artist and later became an advertising account executive. Both his parents were hobbyist painters. As a young child, Moses had eye surgery to correct a severe case of amblyopia, a vision disorder, and for several years he was required to wear a patch over one eye. Despite the operation, he continued to see double—a condition that has persisted throughout his life.

His vision was further damaged when, at age ten, he was hit hard between the eyes with a baseball. Despite his vision impairment, Moses has been drawing and painting since early childhood. As a result of this vision problem, he has never been able to trust that what he sees corresponds to reality. Or as he puts it, “Every reality is a choice, a decision.”

From Los Angeles, Moses moved to Eugene, Oregon, where he attended the University of Oregon, and lived until he was in his late thirties, eventually earning a degree in psychology. Moses also experimented with hallucinatory drugs, and credits mescaline with a series of changing visual “mental pictures” that continue to influence his work today.

In 1987, he moved to Yelapa, a remote fishing village on Mexico’s northern Pacific Coast. Later that same year he married fellow artist and art dealer Anton Haardt, and since then he has divided his time between Yelapa and two cities in the American South—Montgomery, Alabama, and New Orleans, where he now spends most of each year. He and Haardt have a son, Haardt Moses, born in 1990.

His early influences included Van Gogh, Dali, Pop Art, and the lavishly illustrated 14th-century illuminated manuscripts and Bibles that he handled while working part-time at the Huntington Library and Art Gallery, during his high school years. Jan Vermeer, Edward Hopper, and the contrasting colors he saw while traveling overland from Istanbul to Kathmandu in 1971 and ‘72 also had an impact. More recently Christopher has been inspired by the beaded masks of Mexico’s peyote-eating Huichol Indians and the work of self-taught artists he has encountered in the American South.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

SANTIAGO NAVILA

Santiago Navila is devoted to his spiritual practice of Raja Yoga, creativity, and conflict resolution. Navila has co-authored two value-based books for children, *Loki Creates Mayhem*, *At The Zen Zoo*, and *Right Where You Are*. He lived for two and half years with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Navila has been a prolific creative consultant to film, museums, and non-profit philanthropic foundations around the world. He is an alumni of The University of California, Berkeley.

Navila's favorite nature-based memory was being carried as a child, high on the shoulders of his Grandfather through beautiful sunlit fields.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

BRIAN PARDINI
(1946 —)

Born 1946 in Erie, Pennsylvania, Brian Pardini's parents were Marian and Ozzie Pardini. Marian ran two businesses from home – handmade felt baby shoes and specially constructed hoops for wedding dresses. Brian's Dad Ozzie was a builder who built several unique houses and managed the sewing machine department at Kaufmann's Department Store in Pittsburgh.

As a boy, Brian spent lots of time thinking about the Erie Native Americans, the original inhabitants of Lake Erie's shores, trying to imagine what their lives must have been like as they walked the same ground.

As an adult, Brian still walks daily on the shores of Lake Erie as a meditative practice, always attentive to the figurative bits of small weathered treasures that wash ashore, and have now become the basis of his sculpture. "Perhaps all this life and movement is not so much created as discovered," admitting that he sees upraised arms in every tree.

"One chilly morning as I looked for driftwood, I saw a Mourning Cloak butterfly with its wings tightly closed, clinging to a piece of driftwood. I picked up the 20" stick where it perched and continued walking. It was a beautiful and calm early morning, the sun up, but not yet shining on the beach. Over the next 45 minutes I picked up over 40 Mourning Cloak and a few Monarch butterflies and added them to the original stick. Returning home around 7:30 AM, I went up to the bedroom with the butterfly-covered stick to show my partner of 26 years, artist and photographer, Patty Baldwin, the small miracle I held. Amazed and excited, she got up, still in her PJs, and put on a down coat and went out in the yard with the stick to sit on a chair in the sun. As the butterflies warmed by the sun, they began to open and close their wings and crawl around on Patty's light blue down coat. One by one they began to fly - some fluttering away, others shooting straight up to great heights and disappearing."

This shared experience epitomizes the ancient magic Brian so wishes were part of everyone's daily intimacy with nature. It endures as a most priceless memory of dawn for both Patty and Brian.

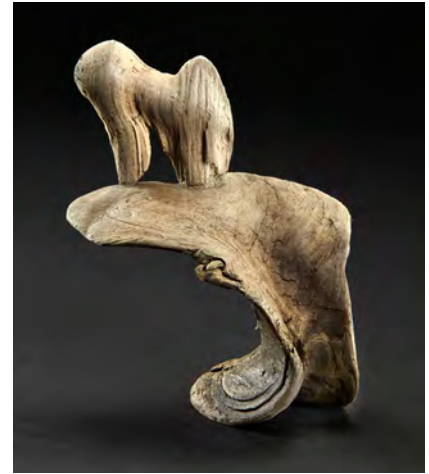
THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH



Looking Back, Brian Pardini,
2010-2019, Driftwood.
Courtesy of the artist.
3" H x 5" W x 2" D



North Wind, Brian Pardini,
2010-2019, Driftwood.
Courtesy of the artist.
4" H x 2" W x 2" D



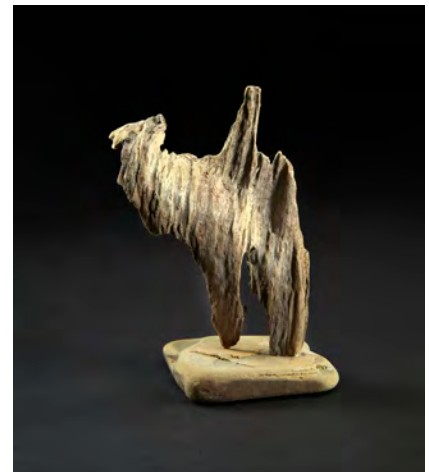
Missing, Brian Pardini,
2010-2019, Driftwood.
Courtesy of the artist.
5" H x 4" W x 3" D



Custom Made, Brian Pardini,
2010-2019, Driftwood.
Courtesy of the artist.
4" H x 2" W x 1.5" D



Vigil, Brian Pardini,
2010-2019, Driftwood.
Courtesy of the artist.
5" H x 3" W x 1.5" D



Sahara, Brian Pardini,
2010-2019, Driftwood.
Courtesy of the artist.
4" H x 4" W x 1" D

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

RICK SKOGSBERG
(1948 —)

In 1948, Rick Skogsberg, was one of two brothers born in Louisville, Kentucky, to a family that moved ten times before Rick was 13. His father had been an Army officer, but became a school teacher after his military service, and his mother was a registered nurse. Small and smart, and perpetually the new kid, Rick was bullied in school as a child.

Hours spent wandering about the Maine woods began a deep affinity for the natural world, which surfaces in his unusual creations. “The woods were filled with birch trees and vast granite boulders, all broken up and crushed together. The rocks flashed with millions of flecks of mica, each reflecting an entire day in microscopic aspect. The boulders seemed to have faces – with some rude characters among them. Everywhere were holes and cracks in the rocks, leading into unknown darkness. This was a startling and empowering metaphor for me, with every reach into darkness, into the unknown.”

“The more I wandered in those years, the more I felt increasingly integrated with Nature and its chief characteristic: balance, which separated it from all other experience.”

Skogsberg earned an MFA in poetry, studied Aikido, and lived in one of the most anarchic communes in the US — in Vermont.

Influences behind his work include: the underground comics of the 60s, and artists R. Crumb, Rick Griffin, Robert Williams, Aubrey Beardsley, Jackson Pollock and Wassily Kandinsky.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH



Mercader Map,
Rick Skogsberg, Painted shoe.
Courtesy of BigTown Gallery.



Emergent Asia Minor,
Rick Skogsberg, Painted shoe.
Courtesy of BigTown Gallery.



Into the Muck,
Rick Skogsberg, Painted shoe.
Courtesy of BigTown Gallery.



Untitled,
Rick Skogsberg, Painted shoe.
Courtesy of BigTown Gallery.



Gardens of Plenty,
Rick Skogsberg, Painted shoe.
Courtesy of BigTown Gallery.



Sedentary Sluice,
Rick Skogsberg, Painted shoe.
Courtesy of BigTown Gallery.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

LOUIE SCHWARTZBERG
(1950—)

Born 1950, in Brooklyn, New York, Louie Schwartzberg is the only son of parents who were survivors of the Holocaust. In the 1970s, Louie moved to California and graduated UCLA Film School, later inventing and perfecting high end, time-lapse, cinematography depicting the connections between humans and nature that has since been an award-winning astonishment. A loving father, Louie is also an ardent activist for protecting both our voting rights and our environment.

Schwartzberg participated in the 2015 Paris Climate COP 21 Conference. He was then invited by Pope Francis to project his breathtaking images onto the large white exterior facade of The Vatican. Throngs of holiday visitors to St. Peter's Square were moved to tears in utter amazement by his grand-scale display of nature's wonders.

As the only filmmaker in the world who has been shooting time-lapse 24/7 continuously for over four decades, Schwartzberg is a singular and much-beloved, visual artist. His personal belief in the power of thankfulness has led him to create a series of inspirational films under the banner, "Gratitude."

Louie's theatrical releases include the 3D IMAX film "Mysteries of the Unseen World" with National Geographic, and "Wings of Life," a feature-length documentary for Disney Nature, narrated by Meryl Streep. His documentary on endangered pollinators provides an unprecedented, high-definition glimpse into the hidden world of butterflies, hummingbirds, bats and bees, on which a full-third of the world's food supply depends.

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Schwartzberg's imagery has transformed films made by such top directors as Steven Spielberg, Oliver Stone, Francis Ford Coppola, Paul Haggis and Ridley Scott, including, "American Beauty," "The Bourne Ultimatum," "Crash," "Erin Brockovich," "E.T.," "Independence Day," "Jerry Maguire," "Koyaanisqatsi," "Men in Black," "Twister" and countless others.

For Louie Schwartzberg, the greatest satisfaction is in creating works that can have a positive effect on the future and greater care of the planet. "I hope my films inspire and open people's hearts. Beauty is nature's tool for survival – you protect what you love. If I can move enough people on an emotional level, I hope we can achieve the shift in consciousness we need to sustain and celebrate life."

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

JUDY TALLWING
(1945—)

Née Judy Browning in Glendale, Arizona, Apache elder Judy Tallwing was the daughter of Ruby Browning and Archer Donoho. Judy has vivid early childhood memories of living in the desert with her parents and seven half brothers and sisters, helping to hunt rattlesnakes and making art. “We didn’t call it art, we called it making things to sell along the road to help the family survive. I used to watch my Grandmother, Grandfather, and my Mother all doing various forms of what I now know is art, to sell, and I wanted to help.” Judy’s first creation was a bee sitting on a flower, painted on a rock. It sold for 25 cents.

As a young woman, Judy did a little bit of everything from running her own construction and leather production companies, to serving as executive director of a domestic violence program. She and a partner ran an animal rescue center for 13 years. “I think an ‘aha moment’ for me was realizing I could go to college, even without much other schooling.” Judy started college at age 32, earning both an AA and BA degree and was later asked to run for elected office.

A masterful chef of indigenous American cuisine, Judy was always creative. “I love trying to bring the stories I’ve heard to life. Each thing that lives on the earth has its own energy, and I try to put those energies together to create a healing.” Judy travels to power places on the earth to collect tiny fragments to energize every painting and sculpture with the power radiated by copper, silver, turquoise, garnet, prayer and peace pipe ashes, diamond dust, and minute crystal prayer beads.

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An accomplished storyteller, Judy remembers her grandmother's warning that destruction of the Canadian Spirit Bear habitat would signal the end of humankind. In 2011, Judy created her Spirit Bear painting for exhibition at the American Visionary Art Museum (AVAM). This work helped to inspire a protest poem, done in collaboration with 22 environmentally conscious international poets, in response to the proposed oil pipeline intended to cut through the Spirit Bears' Princess Royal Island - our hemisphere's most pristine and northern rainforest. Many native people fasted in protest to the pipeline, which was mercifully abandoned until July 2019, when Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada recommitted to the pipeline's installation. This makes the return of Judy's Spirit Bear painting to AVAM at this time representative of an even more imminent threat.

The mother of 6 children, Judy is also grandparent to 23 grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and parent to an extended family by choice. "I know I am to do as my Grandfather said: 'Make the world a bit better because Creator let you be here for a while.'"

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

MARS TOKYO (SALLY MERICLE) (1952 —)

Sally Diane Mericle was born in 1952, in Baltimore, Maryland, to William Mericle, an Italian American metallurgical engineer, and Virginia Mericle, a housewife. Raised primarily in Peoria, Illinois, Sally was a child savant at drawing precise figures as early as age two. Her art making was much encouraged by her mother and many others in her early life. She has since produced her work under her preferred art name, Mars Tokyo, which she says came to her in a dream.

Some of Sally's best memories from childhood include exploring the woods behind her house, drawing rolls and rolls of tiny figures on adding machine tape, and sewing miniature fashions for her Barbie dolls. Later at Bradley University, Sally concentrated on general studies while pursuing her art on her own. "I am 100 percent self-taught as an artist" she proclaims. Sally was able to make a living also as a self-taught graphic designer and college teacher for nine years. In 1995, she traveled to China to attend and present at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women.

Sally was diagnosed with major depression following a suicide attempt at age 21 and has battled depression for decades. She says she keeps diaries, in part, as a way to express herself, especially after undergoing electroconvulsive therapy treatments in 2007. Sally wishes viewers of her work to know, "My stories presented in my 'theaters' are ones of personal rejection, alienation, and pain. They often reflect a life dealing with major depression. But throughout them, there is also a great beauty and hope, because there is that in life." She has been happily married to a local reporter for 26 years, and together they have one son. Sally's best advice is, "Even if everyone tells you to give up, you should keep doing what you love — especially making art. Don't ever stop."

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

SHAWN WARE

Jade is the daughter of photographer Shawn Ware and his wife, Clare. Jade is both Shoshone and Kiowa, and through her Shoshone tradition, Jade was given the sacred honor as the woman chosen to make the first cut of the buffalo, when its heart is harvested. Through her Kiowa ancestry, Jade wears the war bonnet of an honorable war veteran, who is remembered through her participation in the dance, which honors both the life of the buffalo and the war veteran. Through the breeding efforts of the Native Americans, the buffalo, is now returning. Shawn explains, “We continue to live in harmony with all living things. They (our Native ancestors and the spirit being of the buffalo) have made it so.”



Jade & Heart of The Buffalo by Shawn Ware. Photo, 2019.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

KYLE YEARWOOD
(1991 —)

Born 1991, in Baltimore, MD, Kyle Yearwood was the youngest of three children. Kyle's mother taught elementary school in Baltimore City for more than 40 years, and his father owned and operated multiple businesses - auto parts, a body shop, tow truck, and a junk yard.

Kyle's most beautiful memory of childhood was, "the way my mom would read to me and to her students with such feeling and intelligence - inspiring me to use my words and imagination carefully to create my own reality." A shy kid and an "old soul", Kyle especially loved all the Harry Potter books, "I realized early on that interpretation of life was up to me."

Growing up on Baltimore's city/county line, Kyle's family big backyard led down to a creek. "I loved that creek and would walk it alone, as it led off to the next neighborhood and then back home. I was thrilled when I'd come across a deer - pure magic."

After High School, Kyle attended Morgan State University, changing his major four times until focusing on film school, learning much there, but also by watching YouTube. Kyle's powerful images were quickly embraced, exhibiting at the National Black Theatre in Harlem, Library Street Collective in Detroit, and San Francisco's Museum of the African Diaspora.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

In 2018, Yearwood received the Light City Neighborhood Lights Award, and exhibited in the heart of his own hometown. Kyle says his work first began in his journey to overcome depression and to find purpose. Now best known for his Instagram posts of surrealistic self-portraits, coupled with inspirational captions about self-love and empowerment, one such post drew millions of viewers and landed Yearwood coverage on ABC2News, The Baltimore Sun, Afropunk, and in Essence magazine.








“The most rewarding thing in my life is my family - a big extended family including half-siblings - and now my own, happily lived with my beloved singer/songwriter partner, MovaKween, and young daughter, Isis, the star of my film, *True Nature*.” Kyle filmed *True Nature* right in the same backyard he so loved exploring as a child. He wants everyone to know, “All the magic you seek can be found in nature.”

A current resident of downtown Baltimore, Kyle regularly makes much-needed pilgrimages to Sherwood Gardens or Druid Hill Park, to take off his shoes, stand barefoot, and “ground myself” - a process Kyle Yearwood highly recommends for us all.

Instagram: @Kyle.Yearwood








THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

CHECKLIST

IMAGE	ARTIST	TITLE	MEDIUM	YEAR	LENDER
	Adams, Bobby	What's Cooking	Site specific installation including floor tiles, 60s stove, stretched photo, caution tape	2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Bernstein, Pat	Pareidolia photo series	23 photographic prints		Courtesy of the artist
	Burke, Johanna	Green Monkeys - Orangutan	Fiberglass figure adorned with dried natural plants, glass beads, wooden beads	2016	Courtesy of Bergdorf Goodman
	Burke, Johanna	Green Monkeys - Gorilla	Fiberglass figure adorned with dried natural plants, glass beads, wooden beads	2016	Courtesy of Bergdorf Goodman
	Burke, Johanna	Green Monkeys - Mandrill	Fiberglass figure adorned with dried natural plants, glass beads, wooden beads	2016	Courtesy of Bergdorf Goodman
	Burke, Johanna	Green Monkeys - Small monkey climbing	Fiberglass figure adorned with dried natural plants, glass beads, wooden beads	2016	Courtesy of Bergdorf Goodman
	Burke, Johanna	Green Monkeys - Small monkey standing flat	Fiberglass figure adorned with dried natural plants, glass beads, wooden beads	2016	Courtesy of Bergdorf Goodman






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CHECKLIST

IMAGE	ARTIST	TITLE	MEDIUM	YEAR	LENDER
	Burke, Johanna	Green Monkeys - Chico	Fiberglass figure adorned with dried natural plants, glass beads, wooden beads	2016	Courtesy of the artist
	Criss, Abraham Lincoln	Paulownia Dog	Paulownia wood, glass, paint	1988	Gift of the artist
	Criss, Abraham Lincoln	Paulownia Turtle	Paulownia wood, gum wood, glass, paint	1988	Gift of the artist
	Criss, Abraham Lincoln	Indian	Pine wood, turkey feathers, metal, glass, chicken bone, wire, paint	1990	Gift of the artist
	Eglington, Peter	Polli-Nation Mandala	Mixed media on canvas	2017	Courtesy of the artist
	Eglington, Peter	Princess Guarani of Iguazu	Mixed media on canvas	2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Eglington, Peter	Rachel	Mixed media on canvas	2015	Gift of the artist








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CHECKLIST

IMAGE	ARTIST	TITLE	MEDIUM	YEAR	LENDER
	Eglington, Peter	Ammaw	Mixed media on canvas	2017	Courtesy of Bill Linton
N/A	Eglington, Peter	The Bee Goddess	Mixed media on canvas	2019	Courtesy of the artist
N/A	Eglington, Peter	Rainbow Warriors Return from The Heart of The Sun	Mixed media on canvas	2019	Courtesy of Anonymous
	Grandin, Temple	Details of Single File Chute	Photocopy of blueprint	1985	Gift of the artist
	Grandin, Temple	Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge Bison Handling System	Photocopy of blueprint	1989	Gift of the artist
	Grandin, Temple	Large Layout of a Beef Stockyard and Handling System at a Meat Plant	Photocopy of blueprint		Gift of the artist
	Grey, Alex	Planetary Prayers	Acrylic on canvas	2010	Courtesy of the artist

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

CHECKLIST

IMAGE	ARTIST	TITLE	MEDIUM	YEAR	LENDER
	Grey, Alex	Gaia	Digital print on canvas	1989	Rights to reproduce original artwork from the artist
	Hall, William A.	Ponz-Extravakarta on Hugatree Thoroughfare	Pencil and crayon on paper	2019	Courtesy of Henry Boxer Gallery
	Hall, William A.	Pumpkinfund Trail	Pencil and crayon on paper	2019	Courtesy of Henry Boxer Gallery
	Hall, William A.	Untitled Landscape	Pencil and crayon on paper	2011	Courtesy of the Collection of Stephen Homan and Josephine T. Huang
	Hall, William A.	Untitled Landscape	Pencil and crayon on paper	2016	Courtesy of the Collection of Stephen Homan and Josephine T. Huang
	Hall, William A.	Pinecurving	Pencil and crayon on paper	2017	Courtesy of Ray Benson
	Hieronimus, Robert Richard	Earth Day Poster	Pen and ink	1972	Courtesy of the artist

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CHECKLIST

IMAGE	ARTIST	TITLE	MEDIUM	YEAR	LENDER
	Hill, Julia Butterfly	Journal entries (4 framed works)	Pen and ink		Courtesy of the artist
	Holman, Stephen	In the Heart of the Woods	Acrylic on canvas	2016	Courtesy of the artist
	Holman, Stephen	In the Silence of the Sea	Acrylic on canvas	2017	Courtesy of the artist
	Holman, Stephen	Orpheus in Elysian Park	Acrylic on canvas	2018	Courtesy of the artist
	Lang, Richard and Judith Selby	TBD	Found plastic objects		Courtesy of the artists
	Mars Tokyo	Teatro dell'Estinzione	Mixed media	2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Milestone, Mark Casey	Untitled	Oil on canvas	1995	Courtesy of Holly Sadeghian





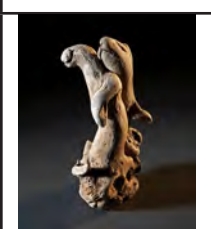

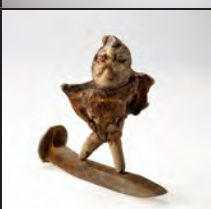
THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

CHECKLIST

IMAGE	ARTIST	TITLE	MEDIUM	YEAR	LENDER
	Milestone, Mark Casey	Dryad	Oil on canvas	2018	Courtesy of the artist
	Milestone, Mark Casey	Night Flight	Oil on canvas	2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Moses, Christopher	In the Woodwork	Acrylic on paper	2000	Courtesy of the artist
	Moses, Christopher	Katrina	Oil on canvas	2005	Courtesy of the artist
	Moses, Christopher	Valley of the Flame	Acrylic on paper	2003	Courtesy of the artist
Site Specific Installation	Navila, Santiago			2019	
	Pardini, Brian	Forte	Driftwood	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist


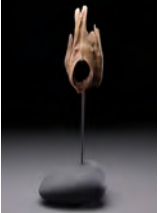





THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

CHECKLIST

IMAGE	ARTIST	TITLE	MEDIUM	YEAR	LENDER
	Pardini, Brian	Ice Age	Driftwood	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Pardini, Brian	Solo	Driftwood, stone	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Pardini, Brian	Lost	Driftwood	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Pardini, Brian	Heart	Driftwood	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Pardini, Brian	Soulmates	Driftwood	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Pardini, Brian	Buddy	Driftwood, can lid	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Pardini, Brian	Samurai	Driftwood, railroad spike	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist



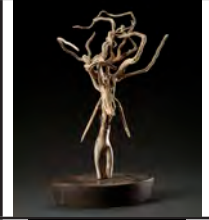

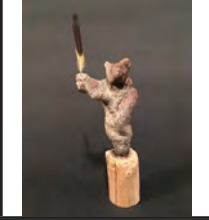


THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

CHECKLIST

IMAGE	ARTIST	TITLE	MEDIUM	YEAR	LENDER
	Pardini, Brian	Crescent	Driftwood, steel ball	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Pardini, Brian	Abyss	Driftwood, stone	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Pardini, Brian	Little King	Driftwood, stone	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Pardini, Brian	Looking Back	Driftwood	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Pardini, Brian	North Wind	Driftwood	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Pardini, Brian	Missing	Driftwood	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Pardini, Brian	Custom Made	Driftwood	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

CHECKLIST

IMAGE	ARTIST	TITLE	MEDIUM	YEAR	LENDER
	Pardini, Brian	Vigil	Driftwood	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Pardini, Brian	Sahara	Driftwood	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Pardini, Brian	The Body Electric	Driftwood, sad iron	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Pardini, Brian	Moonlight	Driftwood, rubber ball	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Pardini, Brian	Emissary	Driftwood, feather	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Pardini, Brian	On the Tundra	Driftwood	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Pardini, Brian	Close to Home	Driftwood	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist

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CHECKLIST

IMAGE	ARTIST	TITLE	MEDIUM	YEAR	LENDER
	Pardini, Brian	Best in Show	Driftwood, scrap lumber	2010-2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Roberts-Antieau, Chris	Birds of Prey	Embroidery on silk	2016	Courtesy of the artist
	Roberts-Antieau, Chris	Turkey Vulture	Fabric Appliqué and Embroidery	2018	Courtesy of the artist
	Roberts-Antieau, Chris	Bird and Bee	Fabric Appliqué and Embroidery	2018	Courtesy of the artist
	Roberts-Antieau, Chris	The Science of Fireflies	Fabric Appliqué and Embroidery	2015	Courtesy of the artist
	Skogsberg, Rick	Mercaderes Map	Painted shoe		Courtesy of BigTown Gallery
	Skogsberg, Rick	Emergent Asia Minor	Painted shoe		Courtesy of BigTown Gallery

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CHECKLIST

IMAGE	ARTIST	TITLE	MEDIUM	YEAR	LENDER
	Skogsberg, Rick	Into the Muck	Painted shoe		Courtesy of BigTown Gallery
	Skogsberg, Rick	Untitled	Painted shoe		Courtesy of BigTown Gallery
	Skogsberg, Rick	Gardens of Plenty	Painted shoe		Courtesy of BigTown Gallery
	Skogsberg, Rick	Sedentary Sluice	Painted shoe		Courtesy of BigTown Gallery
	Skogsberg, Rick	Face of the Deep	Painted shoe		Courtesy of BigTown Gallery
	Skogsberg, Rick	Ice Age	Painted shoe		Courtesy of BigTown Gallery
	Skogsberg, Rick	Crystal Palaces	Painted shoe		Courtesy of BigTown Gallery




THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

CHECKLIST

IMAGE	ARTIST	TITLE	MEDIUM	YEAR	LENDER
	Skogsberg, Rick	PI	Painted shoe		Courtesy of BigTown Gallery
	Skogsberg, Rick	Trade Winds	Painted shoe		Courtesy of BigTown Gallery
	Skogsberg, Rick	Arctic Melting	Painted shoe		Courtesy of BigTown Gallery
	Skogsberg, Rick	String Theory	Painted shoe		Courtesy of BigTown Gallery
	Skogsberg, Rick	Rivertowns	Painted shoe		Courtesy of BigTown Gallery
	Skogsberg, Rick	Man Power - Pre-Industrial	Painted shoe		Courtesy of BigTown Gallery
	Skogsberg, Rick	Wagon Train - Donner Pass	Painted shoe		Courtesy of BigTown Gallery

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

CHECKLIST

IMAGE	ARTIST	TITLE	MEDIUM	YEAR	LENDER
	Skogsberg, Rick	Ice Palaces	Painted shoe		Courtesy of BigTown Gallery
	Skogsberg, Rick	Maryland, My Maryland	Painted shoe		Courtesy of BigTown Gallery
N/A	Tallwing, Judy	Honoring the Buffalo	Adorned buffalo skull	2019	Courtesy of the artist
	Tallwing, Judy	White Spirit Bears	Resin, silver, garnet, sterling, acrylic, copper, diamonds	2012	Courtesy of Holly Stone



THE AMERICAN VISIONARY ART MUSEUM is America's official national museum and education center for self-taught, intuitive artistry (deemed so by a unanimous vote of the U.S. Congress). **SINCE ITS OPENING IN 1995**, the museum has sought to promote the recognition of intuitive, self-reliant, creative contribution as both an important historic and essential living piece of treasured human legacy. The **ONE-OF-A-KIND** American Visionary Art Museum is located on a **1.1 ACRE WONDERLAND CAMPUS** at 800 Key Highway, Baltimore Inner Harbor. Three renovated historic industrial buildings house wonders created by farmers, housewives, mechanics, retired folk, the disabled, the homeless, as well as the occasional neurosurgeon – all **INSPIRED BY THE FIRE WITHIN**. From carved roots to embroidered rags, tattoos to toothpicks, 'the visionary' transforms dreams, loss, hopes, and ideals into **POWERFUL WORKS OF ART**.

WHAT IS A VISIONARY?

Visionaries perceive potential and creative relationships where most of us don't. English writer Jonathan Swift put it simply, "Vision is the art of seeing things invisible." Such vision lies at the heart of all true invention, whether that special vision manifests as an astonishing work of art like those created by the intuitive artists featured at the American Visionary Art Museum or as a medical breakthrough, a melody never before sung, some deeper understanding of the cosmos, or as a way in which life could be better, more justly lived. Visionaries have always constituted human-kind's greatest "evolutionaries."

Without visionaries' willingness to be called fools, to make mistakes, to be wrong, few new "right" things would ever be birthed. Visionaries are brave scouts at the frontier of the unknown. They explore their visions with a passionate single-mindedness. Albert Einstein rightly observed, "Imagination is more important than knowledge."

Creative acts intended to uplift, defend, and enlighten fulfill every function that can be asked of a work of art. They inspire us, make us think in new ways, and birth new beauty and dignity into our world.

WHAT IS ART?

The ancients—the Greeks, Egyptians, Hopis, and New Guinea tribesmen—were among earth's most prolific art-making peoples. Yet, none had any word for "art" in their respective languages. Rather, they each had a word that meant "well-made" or "beautifully performed."

Our American Visionary Art Museum believes that this view of what art really means is as perfect an understanding of art as ever was. It speaks to an art incumbent upon all its citizens, pervasive throughout all the acts of our daily life. Its emphasis is on process and consciousness, not mere artifact.

Martin Luther King, Jr. expressed his profound respect for the true artistry each member of a society can uniquely evidence to bless our communities, "If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the Hosts of Heaven and earth would pause to say, Here lived a great streetsweeper who did his job well."