

Cumberland Island-Inspired Foraged Art Installation By

Dorothy O'Connor

Dorothy's constructed, fantastical works often combine elements of photography, installation, and public art. A native Atlantan, she graduated with degrees in Literature and Studio Arts and a certificate in photography. As a fabricator, she is largely self-taught. Inspired by the natural world, and shaped predominantly by events in her life, her themes explore various personally meaningful subjects both broad, such as animal welfare and environmental concerns, to the more intimate: friends, family and community.

www.dorothyoconnor.com

Meet Our VIPs

Betsy Harris

Betsy is a native Floridian and naturalist who grew up along the waterways and woods of Northeast Florida. She is passionate about promoting and preserving the remaining fragments of native flora and natural communities that provide the Coastal Plain its unique ecological character, which she describes as our "botanical heritage."



Betsy's hand-foraged coastal ingredients created the syrups featured in your beverage!

Check out her work on Instagram @betzharris

Emily Greene

Emily is a Senior Aquarist at the Georgia Aquarium, working to care for whale sharks, manta rays, and its resident green sea turtle, "Tank".

Hermina Glass-Hill

Hermina is Oceana's Georgia field representative. She has served as a research historian for the National Center for Civil and Human Rights and a climate justice activist at Georgia Interfaith Power and Light. She also founded the Susie King Taylor Women's Institute and Ecology Center (Savannah).

Sally Bethea

Sally is the retired founding director of Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, an environmental advocacy organization established in 1994 to protect and restore the Chattahoochee River, its tributaries and watershed. She has an undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's degree in city and regional planning from Georgia Tech — as well as more than 40 years of experience in environmental issues and nonprofit management.

Kathryn Dudeck

Kathryn graduated from UGA with a BS in zoology and a MS in Marine Sciences. She is also a master herpetologist who has taught biology, anatomy, and German. Kathryn currently serves as Wildlife Director for the Chattahoochee Nature Center, where she is responsible for more than 750+ animal rehabilitation cases annually.

Carmen Halagahu

Carmen co-founded Turtle Island Trading, which provides jewelry, arts, and crafts handmade by Indigenous people from across the Americas, as well as the First Voices Festival. Carmen is involved with land-back initiatives and saving the Weelaunee Forest. She is also an avid forager, a member of the Georgia Mushroom Club and a part of the Ancestral skills community, and is a member of the Atlanta Flute Circle.

G Webber

G is an experienced political campaigner and fundraiser who brings a decade of experience to the role of Executive Director for the Sierra Club's Georgia Chapter. G is a bridge-builder who is passionate about bringing people together to protect our shared environment and planet.

Dr. Jacqueline Echols

Dr. Echols is the Board President of the South River Watershed Alliance (SRWA). She attended Tuskegee Institute (University), Atlanta University, and Clark Atlanta University. Dr Echols previously served on the Atlanta Tree Conservation Commission

Margaret Spalding

With a background in anthropology and southeastern American archeology, Margaret is Executive Director of South River Watershed Alliance and co-leads programming focused on collective advocacy, recreation, and water quality.

Eboni Preston Goddard, Ph. D.

Eboni is the Southeast Regional Director and National Park Service Diversity Lead for the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA). She has spent the last decade working with public land management agencies on youth programs, DEI programming and facilitation, community engagement, inclusive hiring practices, and volunteer engagement. Outside of work, Eboni is a board member for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Next 100 Coalition, Association for Outdoor Recreation and Education, and Georgia Conservation Voters Education Fund.

Dani Purvis

Dani serves as a Wild Cumberland board member. She is an environmental and social scientist conducting research on human behavior and sustainability. Dani has a Master of Public Health from Emory University and a Master of Arts in Climate Change & Global Sustainability from the School for International Training.



www.wildcumberland.org
www.7stages.org
www.atlantasciencefestival.org

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March 15-31, 2024 at **7 STAGES**

Written by Lee Nowell - Dir. by Heidi S Howard



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This immersive performance combines the latest scientific research with ancient practices which enable each of us to ground ourselves in the midst of uncertainty.



A special offer just for ASF attendees: use code **ASF2024** at 7stages.org for Buy One - Get One Free tickets!

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Wild Cumberland is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization staffed entirely by volunteers.

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ART OF ACTIVISM:

“Stewards Of The Wild”

An Experience Celebrating Empowerment & Advocacy in Nature

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From the Artist

*Cumberland Island-Inspired Foraged Art Installation
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When Wild Cumberland approached me about creating a piece for their **Art of Activism: "Stewards Of The Wild"** experience for the Atlanta Science Festival, I went for a walk in the woods. My favorite concepts always come from walking in the woods. With the knowledge that this year's festival coincided with International Women's Day and WC's desire to create an immersive experience for their discussion, the idea to build another Talisman created with natural materials collected from areas around Cumberland came rather easily. Then the venue ended up being 7 Stages and all that glorious head room enabled me to extend her size, bring her aloft and give her movement. I am very happy with the way she came together.

I am not sure if I can convey how much this commission has meant to me. Born and raised in Atlanta - I had always heard about Cumberland Island but somehow had never been. This past January, with borrowed camping gear from WC - off I went. Adventure and time in the woods, a giant night sky, the ocean, the beach, ruins, live Oaks, palms, spanish moss, the richest greens and browns, wind, bird and frog songs, visits with deer and other creatures, cooking with fire and then just time to myself in quiet to listen to all the life happening around me. It was a gift that lasted long after coming home.

I have always been fascinated with different creation myths and the idea that this world began with something from the natural world; a raven, a turtle, deer, a snake etc. That the natural world is so sacred, it is responsible for creating all life. Feeling the way I do about nature, these stories (rather than my traditional Christian upbringing) always felt closer to me and the way that I feel about the Divine.

For this project and since many of these species (deer, turtles, snakes) live on Cumberland, I decided to include them and build from there. Each of the parts that make up this female form will change in color, shape and weight and they will all eventually die. What remains is the life and beauty that they brought to everything else around them, all that they sustained with their own lives - which is the life-giving legacy and generosity of the natural world. If we don't respect, protect and save it, we are essentially and simply not respecting, protecting and saving ourselves.

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