

Visiting Artist Proposal: Programming Possibilities

For the Art Department

While my environmental artwork will be on view at the Block Gallery in Raleigh, NC and At Coined in the South: 2024 Biennial at the Mint Museum from December 14, 2024 - April 25, 2025, I would love to provide one or more of these programs to your university community.

- **Recycled Materials Workshop:** This popular workshop teaches techniques for making fiber art with recycled materials. **3 hour workshop - \$1,000**
- **Recycled Artwork Around the World:** This slideshow offers an inspiring overview of artists who are using recycled materials to make paintings, sculpture and public art. **2 hour Talk - \$750**
- **Gallery Talk about my Environmental Artwork:** My artwork focuses on how habitat fragmentation, climate change and consumption impact species, especially vulnerable birds and also indigenous culture. **2 hour Talk - \$750**

For Regional Artists

After four decades of international artistry and running an international artist and writers residency, I offer workshops and public talks of interest to the regional artist community.

- **Professional Development Workshop Series: 2 hour Talk - \$750**
 1. Goal Setting & Plan Making for Your Art Career
 2. Writing an Artist Statement
 3. Social Media for Artists & Creatives
 4. How to Build your Professional Resume
 5. Bookkeeping and Taxes for Artists and Creatives
 6. Pricing and Selling your Artwork
 7. Time Management for Artists and Creatives
 8. Identifying and Overcoming Creative RoadBlocks
 9. Evaluating the Intersection of Content and Form in Political/Social/Personal Narrative Art
- **Private Sessions: 50 min - \$125** (scheduled in advance; 5 per day)
- **Recycled Artwork Around the World:** This slideshow offers an inspiring overview of artists who are using recycled materials to make paintings, sculpture and public art. **2 hour Talk - \$750**

For Ecological Focus

I can present programming about my environmental art relevant to your ecological community.

- **ECO Keynote:** The importance of finding ways to reduce your footprint and increase your impact on the world in a way that stays true to your talents and vision. **\$1,500 for 60 min Keynote**
 - **ECO Workshop:** Using recycled materials to make household objects like bowls, planters, seed bombs and bird feeders. **3 hour workshop - \$1,000**
 - **Public Talk about my Environmental Artwork:** My artwork focuses on how habitat fragmentation, climate change and consumption impact species, especially vulnerable birds and also indigenous culture. **2 hour Talk - \$750**
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Artist Statement

My latest environmental artwork focuses on the tragic losses of the 21st century, specifically the impacts of human-induced climate change and habitat fragmentation on bird extinction locally and globally. All my artwork is made with recycled materials and encourages dialogue about how we can preserve wild spaces, animals, especially vulnerable birds, and protect habitat for all species including humans.

The feathers in my textile paintings, sculptures and installations are fabricated from recycled plastic and hand silk-screened with images distilled from my drawings of endangered birds. These feathers are overprinted with text in endangered languages whose last living speakers are in steep decline. Using plastic feathers embeds a layered narrative that addresses the relentless consumption driving the loss of bird and human habitat.

Although my work focuses on loss of birds, they are an emblem of all the species that are now at risk, including humans. Loss of habitat and habitat fragmentation are the main culprits in the steep loss of one billion birds over the last fifty years. Bird migration is interrupted when nesting, resting and feeding lands are lost to construction and farming. Climate change also impacts the availability of food and land that are essential for successful migration.

The most egregious example of habitat loss is rainforest clearcuts. Over the last fifty years, we have lost 20% of the Amazon rainforests, which contain 80% of the world's

biodiversity. Deforestation contributes to the release of carbon dioxide, one of the major factors in climate change.

For thousands of years, indigenous tribes have lived in the rainforest. Like most first nation people, their culture revolves around stewardship of the forest, which is the heartbeat of their lives. Once again, the implacable appetite for colonization threatens indigenous traditions including their languages, history, wisdom, healing arts, ceremonial artifacts and future.

I grew up learning about Tikkun Olam, the Jewish concept of repairing the world. Shining a light on the plight of birds and indigenous culture is not only the focus of my artwork, it is a cultural imperative.

Making art from recycled materials reminds us that we can all do something to reduce our footprint. Incorporating images of endangered birds and languages in my artwork prompts viewers to remember how art, nature and culture all have the power to inspire new thoughts, perspectives and hopefully action.

Climate change is informing so many conversations, especially among students who are trying to position themselves, their futures, and their artwork in light of a precarious future. My programming provides an opportunity for your art/fiber/materials department to learn how to make art with recycled materials, to discuss the elements of making compelling artwork that combines media with message and to inspire your campus with the story of how I became a successful full-time artist who exhibits internationally.

I am confident that this proposed programming will enhance your learning community including art and design students, ecology and futurism students and women's studies students.

Artist Biography

Surface design and patterning have influenced Deborah Kruger's work since her textile design training at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. She has taught, lectured and exhibited throughout the US, Mexico, Canada, Europe and Australia since the 1980s.

Kruger's art practice balances making objects of beauty that convey layered meaning about habitat fragmentation, bird migration, species extinction and loss of indigenous languages. Her artwork is made with recycled plastic screen printed with images of endangered birds and languages.

North Carolina career highlights: Coined in the South: 2024 Biennial at the Mint Museum in Charlotte (Dec 2024 - April 2025); Solo exhibition at the Block Gallery in Raleigh (Dec 2024 - April 2025); North Carolina Artist Support Grant (2022); North Carolina Artists Exhibition, Contemporary Art Museum, Raleigh (2020).

Current career highlights include winning the Grand Prize of the Keller Prize and the First Prize for the Wynnewood Juried Art Show in Miami; selection of artwork for the Art in Embassies program; exhibiting in Venice, Italy in the finalist exhibition for the Arte Laguna Prize and currently in the International Fiber Art Biennial at the Museum of Textiles in Valtopina, Italy. The Museum of Art and Design (MAD) in New York City recently acquired two large environmental pieces; and solo and group exhibitions in Mexico City, New York, San Diego and Oregon City, OR.

Kruger has attended residencies at the Millay Colony for the Arts, Austerlitz, NY, (1991); La Porte Peinte Centre, Noyers-sur-Serein, France, (2016); Hypatia-in-the-Woods, Shelton, WA, (2022) and the Icelandic Textile Center in Blondus, Iceland, (2024).

Kruger has studios in the lively arts community in Durham, North Carolina and in the lakeside village of Chapala, Mexico where she has a team-based production studio that provides jobs and empowerment to local Mexican women.