



THE PRESERVE

Uniting Nature and Culture

Ailyn Hoey ■ Deborah M. Mitchell ■ Deedra Ludwig
Hannah Ineson ■ Karen Glaser ■ Mark Goodenough
Myrna Massey ■ Mollie Doctrow ■ Jacqueline Roch
Patricia Cummins ■ Tom Weinkle ■ Wendy Burk
Eric Magrane ■ Anne McCrary Sullivan ■ Laurel Egnew

THE PRESERVE is an exhibition which unites the minds of selected artists who have participated in the Big Cypress National Preserve's Artist in Residency Program. The works featured in this winter collection represent fifteen different approaches from artists working in a variety of disciplines, all originating from unique personal experiences. The residency program offers artists, with the help of rangers and volunteers, the opportunity to explore the abundance of botany, wildlife and the vast landscapes within the Preserve. The geographical location of Big Cypress, wedged between two highly populated urban environments, beckons those wishing to further understand the implications of local ecological responsibility. For example, is a photograph of a majestic eagle soaring over non-native species just an object of beauty, or is it a symbol of our ecological perils?

The exhibit features landscapes, layered photographs, woodcuts and poems by the Artists in Residence. Each artist voices concern for the philosophical and ecological implications of humans in nature, while concurrently raising awareness of the breathtaking natural resource situated between Naples and Miami. The art questions the viewer; how does our society utilize these resources, and what will be left for future generations? One cannot deny that, on the most basic level, the plants and animals of the Preserve have the right to exist. This exhibition unites the Artists in Residence in cultural interpretations of the Preserve and allows the audience to expand its view of the Floridian wilderness.

Deborah M. Mitchell
Curator and Artist in Residence, 2007

"Over time I have come to see that the essence of art rests not so much in the medium we use, as in the attention we give to it. That moment is an event. Something happens...an intention offers itself up to the world...and the world connects with the emotion of artistic expression. A bond is created between the art and the observer that creates a spiritual awakening. As Big Cypress National Preserve opens its doors to artists to give them the opportunity of expression, they are connecting with the community in a spiritual way that only can be achieved through the arts, opening eyes, ears and mind to the nature we are so fortunate to have around us."

Clyde Butcher

JANUARY 2 - MARCH 3, 2012
Oasis Visitor Center and Welcome Center



Echoes of a Lifetime by Deedra Ludwig



Left to right: *Floating Hearts* by Karen Glaser, *Frenzy* by Jacqueline Roch, and *Untitled* by Ailyn Hoey

Karen Glaser's powerful photographs represent the true enormity of the visceral places found in Big Cypress National Preserve and Everglades National Park. Chicago based Glaser studied the elements of both the wet and dry season to record fleeting moments within this complex ecosystem resulting in elaborately layered photographs. One can experience the moment of revelation that she felt when she took the fire and water images and almost smell the air heavy with smoke and moisture. The three pieces displayed are from the Springs and Swamps series, which traveled to several institutions including the Southeast Museum of Photography and The Bob Rauschenberg Gallery in Fort Myers.

The cultural filters which exist within our society are examined in this series of backcountry cabins photographed around Florida by **Deborah M. Mitchell**. This mixed media artist in Miami weaves the written word frequently into her photography based pieces, leaving the viewer to ponder, wonder and ask new questions about our role in nature. Mitchell mixes lessons with images, adventures with journals and ultimately people with land in frequent presentations about our wilderness. Her series Documenting our Contemporary Wetlands was accepted by the New York Foundation for the Arts. Her photographs are featured in Laura Ogden's SWAMPLIFE, Minnesota Press 2011.

Richly layered pastels spill forth from **Jacqueline Roch's** paper based works, drawing one deeper into the pristine landscapes of our own backyard. Although this busy mother of four works out of the Bakehouse Art Complex in Miami, she still finds time to explore the biodiversity offered in neighboring Big Cypress. Artists such as Roch can be found expanding their knowledge and evolving their technique as the seasons change along the Tamiami Trail.

The hypnotic charcoal scenes from **Ailyn Hoey** are widely viewed as a definitive interpretation of the variety landscapes one can experience in the preserve. Summer visits are depicted with a deft hand on paper, displaying the thunderous cloud formations hovering above bucolic sawgrass prairies. Hoey resides in Vermont where her northern visions continue to impress an audience who appreciates insight and simplicity.

Mollie Doctrow is a woodcut artist who sketches native habitats in the field, transfers and carves the sketch into woodblocks, and completes the final image by inking the woodcut for print making. These woodblocks reveal her evolved technique of "spontaneously letting go, following the movement or feeling the form." The resulting carved marks become a visual shorthand - a way of simplifying complex images, expressing rhythm, texture, form and space. Her cypress trees are a splendid repetition in line and balance, which nature seems to form so perfectly.

The gentle curving lines in the sculptures from **Mark Goodenough** suggest that the creatures in Big Cypress are all easily approachable. This talented sculptor works in multiple disciplines including bronze, and relays his subjects to the viewer with a sweet reverence, which has an oddly calming effect. Indeed one seems to feel that they know this man who creates all sorts of animals with various metals in a simple and direct method.

The observations of movement within the preserve are chronicled in the mixed media works by Louisiana resident **Deedra Ludwig**. These discoveries are beautifully haunting but created by vast destruction of an ecosystem. Hurricanes, fire, and human error have lead to an altered form of nature that the artist interprets on softly washed canvases filled with sublime visual secrets about the patterns found in the primordial swamp.

The timeless environment of Coastal Maine and Southwest Florida are the primary focus of New England painter **Hannah Ineson**. Ancient wilderness and extreme diversity in landscapes inspire this widely shown artist to return to Big Cypress every winter for the past nine years. Her gentle brushwork reflects her response to the fragile environment seen in iconic everglades imagery including cypress forests and wading birds resting in calm waters.

The first artist in residence in the preserve was **Myrna Massey**, who worked closely with Clyde and Niki Butcher to develop and help implement the program. Massey drew upon her experience as a park ranger at Zion and Grand Teton National Parks to bring perspective to the planning process. She quickly adapted to the vast natural resources in the preserve, intrigued by the variety of ornithology in the area. Her work respects the historical nature and natural history of this unusual region, leaving the viewer to imagine their own version of the past. Objects found on daily hikes convey the essence of place in these mixed media assemblage pieces which evoke a sense of lost time.

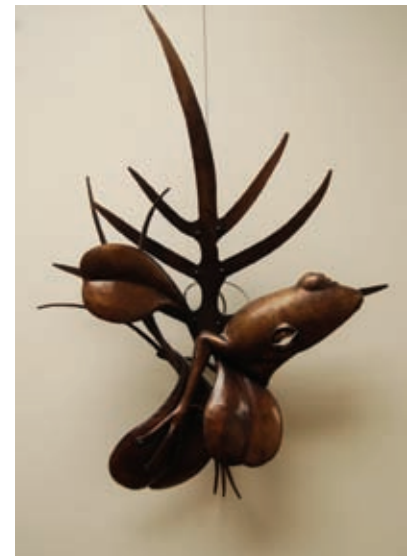
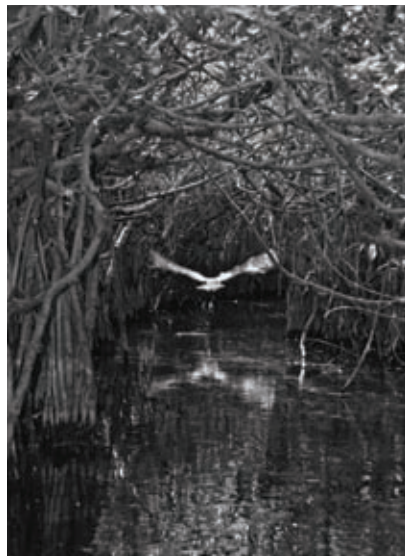
Arizona residents **Wendy Burk and Eric Magrane** sensed many stories here at the hinge between wet and dry seasons in May 2008. Both water and fire embedded within the ecology of Big Cypress play a role in the poetry of this eloquent team. Their effortless and dreamlike prose emerge from a swamp teeming with alligators, anhingas and cypress domes. The full manuscript of their triple artist in residencies is titled *Lake//River// Swamp*, and was recently a finalist for the Marsh Hawk Press Poetry Prize.

Native New Yorker **Patricia Cummins** will reside here this winter to capture the motion of nature by painting seemingly simple scenes. During her thirty-four year career as a fine arts instructor for Miami-Dade public schools she has communicated the sensations felt during her seven residencies with her audiences and also won numerous prestigious grants. Her goal is to involve viewers as deeply as possible as she creates artwork leaving behind traces of feelings associated with each scene evoked by color, form and grace.

The newest addition to the Artists-in-Residence program is **Tom Weinkle**, who senses the natural world through a metaphorical portal. This soft pastel artist manipulates pigments with various liquid mediums to achieve a painterly effect on his landscapes which explore the intersection of place with time and memory. Weinkle's work has a unique sense of motion and hue within perceived boundaries, which appeals to one's traditional values as well as speaking to our contemporary visual expectations.

The poems of **Anne Mccrary Sullivan** are vehicles which help one understand the relationships of flora, fauna, geology and ecology in a visceral, emotional and intellectual way. Although she writes for herself, ultimately the poems wish to be urgently shared, born with the hope that others, too, will find glimmers of recognition in the relationships of birds and alligators, the functions of fire and wind and a sense of connectedness to a larger whole. The interweaving of lives and processes is more thoroughly understood as she interprets her studies on nature. Poetry is how she studies.

Left to right: *Blue Scavenger* by Myrna Massey, *Turner Tunnel* by Deborah Mitchell, and *Bronze Frog* by Mark Goodenough



“All around you plants drip like rain. They reach for you. You feel your legs giving away; you cannot tell where one plant ends & another begins. You know if you go deeper, bromeliads will sprout from arms & the rain will slowly dissolve any memory of what it means to be human...”

Burk & Magrane

Contact the Artists

Ailyn Hoey
Deborah M. Mitchell
Deedra Ludwig
Hannah Ineson
Karen Glaser
Mark Goodenough
Myrna Massey
Mollie Doctrow
Jacqueline Roch
Patricia Cummins
Tom Weinkle
Wendy Burk
Eric Magrane
Anne Sullivan
Laurel Egnew

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The freshwaters of the Big Cypress Swamp, essential to the health of the neighboring Everglades, support the rich marine estuaries along Florida’s southwest coast. Protecting over 729,000 acres of this vast swamp, Big Cypress National Preserve contains a mixture of tropical and temperate plant communities that are home to a diversity of wildlife, including the elusive Florida panther.

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52105 Tamiami Trail East
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For information: 239-695-1201

Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center
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239-695-4758

Website: www.nps.gov/bicy
Special request programs: (239) 695-1164

