

Media contact:

David Vaina
Pat Williams & Associates
772.224.4166
david@pwapr.com

Nine Local Artists Selected for EcoArt Treasure Coast Apprentice Program

Stuart, FL., November 9, 2009--EcoArt Treasure Coast, an ongoing effort to create opportunities for the community to interact with art to solve environmental problems, has selected nine local artists for a year-long apprentice program to be led by internationally-recognized eco-artist Betsy Damon.

"We're so fortunate to be working with such a talented group of citizen-artists," said Nancy Turrell, executive director of the Arts Council Inc., which launched EcoArt Treasure Coast in collaboration with the South Florida Environmental Arts Project. "The artists' dedication to such an innovative, artistic medium--and their contributions towards making our community an even more sustainable, beautiful place to live--will strengthen the Treasure Coast's reputation as an emerging cultural corridor. "

The eight apprentices, and the medium in which they work, are:

- Danielle Baron (Photography, Technology)
- Gail Kosowski (Clay/Sculpture/Plants)
- Brenda Leigh (Murals)
- Vada Mossavat (Video/Photo/Words)
- Jamie Powell (Bamboo, Natural Landscape)
- Mary Segal (Paint/ Education)
- Jennifer Sylvia (Photo/Research/Paint/Dirt)
- Cristina de la Vega (Paint)

Ecoart Treasure Coast is the first ever community eco-art education and apprenticeship in Florida. In April 2009, it sponsored the state's first symposium on eco-art at Indian River State College. The symposium was then followed by an exhibit and three days of films and panel discussions at the Elliott Museum and the Blake Library.

In January 2010, the group will begin working with local community groups and individuals--including educators, government officials, gardening clubs, businesses, scientists and engineers--on a range of projects that have been designed to illustrate how artists and citizens from a broad spectrum of disciplines can work together and address, from a creative yet pragmatic perspective, the most critical threats to our ecosystem.

"There is a conventional way of thinking about the environment that too often results in confrontation and leaves no role for community engagement and participation," said Damon, who has spearheaded

seminal eco-art projects throughout the United States and China. "We believe eco-art transcends the old way of doing things and creates a bridge between science and the public."

EcoArt Treasure Coast is funded by the State of Florida (Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs) and the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin counties. Additional funding for the project is still needed. For information about sponsoring an apprentice, please contact 772.287.6676.

About the Arts Council

The Arts Council is the designated local arts agency for Martin County. The Arts Council provides services to visual and performing artists, arts organizations, students and the public and strives to instill a passion for and participation in the arts. For more information, please call 772.287.6676 or visit www.martinarts.org. The Arts Council is sponsored in part by the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, the City of Stuart, Martin County Board of County Commissioners, and private contributions.

About the South Florida Environmental Art Project

The South Florida Environmental Art Project's primary role is to educate the general public, and leaders of key environmental and cultural stakeholder organizations, in South Florida, regarding the significant role eco-art can play to enhance responsible stewardship of environmental resources in the region. To learn more, contact Mary Jo Agerstoun, President, at 202.255.8769 or visit www.sfeap.org.

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