

# Erica Fielder Studio



## ART RÉSUMÉ

### ARTIST'S STATEMENT:

The best and most interesting way I know how to contribute to a cultural shift toward a balanced relationship with the living systems of our planet is through my art. I call this work Ecological Art or EcoArt. EcoArt is designed to educate people about natural systems and to clarify cultural misunderstandings about ecology. In particular, I am interested in how my art can guide participants and viewers toward developing a sense of kinship with their home terrain, be it rural, small town or big city.

**BORN:** San Francisco, CA 1946

### EDUCATION:

MFA in Visual Art, Vermont College (1998)

Additional course work in biology, botany, dendrology, geology and ornithology, U.C. Berkeley and College of the Redwoods, Fort Bragg, CA (1971-Present)

*Phi Theta Kappa* in Graphic Design Studies, College of the Redwoods, CA (2003-2006)

Graduate: National Outdoor Leadership School, Lander, WY (1974)

Lifetime Elementary Teaching Credential (science & environment), California State University, Hayward, CA (1971)

BA, University Of Washington, Seattle, WA. Senior year studies at the École des Beaux Arts, Avignon, France (1968)

### AWARDS:

**Sustainable Small Business Award for Longevity and Success in Mendocino County**, 2008 from The West Company, a nonprofit economic development organization serving entrepreneurs and micro-business owners in Northern California.

**Threshold Foundation Award for Visionary Cultural Change**, 2002, for educating the public about watershed issues through art and The Bird Feeder Hat.

**Mendocino Coast Local Environmentalist Award**, 1999, "for making superb use of artwork, dialogue and writing to educate the public and local officials about the environmental value of the Ten Mile Dunes" of MacKerricher State Park.

### SELECTED INTERPRETIVE PROJECTS:

Produced art and text for interpretive panels identifying the natural and historical features at Sausalito's **Bay Model, Army Corps of Engineers**. (2007)

Collaborated on Coastal Trail plans with **City of Fort Bragg** and **National Park Service** as design team interpretive artist. (2006)

Produced art and text for interpretive panels identifying the natural and historical features of two new parks, **City of Petaluma**. (2005)

Collaborated with three non-profits to design bird identification panels for the **Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens**. (2005)

Designed a conceptual interpretive walk highlighting cultural and natural features of the site for the new wing of the **Oakland International Airport, Port Of Oakland**. (2003-04)

Sculpted *Steel Salmon Trail Markers*, created concrete/bronze *Migration Calendar* and designed wayside panels, **Department of Parks and Recreation**. (1995 to present)

Created interpretive panels telling the story of spawning salmon in the Noyo River, **Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**. (1993)

Constructed a site specific cast concrete, steel, wood and handmade tile bench that references local biology and human cultures.

Developed art and text for interpretive panels installed along California's 1,100 mile coastline, **California State Coastal Conservancy**. (1983 to 1995)

### SPECIAL INTERPRETIVE EVENTS:

Produced and implemented *The Bird Feeder Hat: Seeding Watershed Awareness*, a series of outdoor public events designed to inform visitors about their home watersheds. Funded by the Threshold Foundation, San Francisco. (2002-2003)

Produced and implemented *Life On The Edge: Preserving Our Coastal Wetlands*, a traveling art exhibit of the original interpretive art and bilingual text created for the **California State Coastal Conservancy's** public education project. The work toured such venues as the California Academy of Sciences, San Diego Museum of Natural History, Ventura County Maritime Museum and Montclair Foundation for Art and History. Funded by the Coastal Conservancy. (1992-1995)

Conducted *Nature Walks Through The Financial District*. A series of walks that interpreted both the wildlife living in the Financial District as well as the asphalt, construction materials and container gardens of the infrastructure. Sponsored by the San Francisco Ecology Center. (1973-1978)

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS AND ECOART EVENTS:

*Coming To Our Senses*, "Nature Guide" walk, Mendocino Coast Writers Conference, College of the Redwoods (2001)

*Ephemeral Art*: Video. Northern California Rural Challenge Network Conference at Yosemite National Park, CA (2001)

*The Shape Of Peace*, community-wide ephemeral EcoArt sand sculptures (2001)

*Drawing Upon Music*, Cancer Resource Center, Mendocino, CA (2000)  
*In Celebration of Birds*, EcoArt project, Mendocino Unified School District, CA (2000)  
*Walking In Deeper*, a series of performative nature walks, Mendocino coastal State Parks, CA (1999)  
*Walking In Deeper*, Writers Conference, College Of The Redwoods, Fort Bragg, CA (1999)  
*The Salmon Skin Cape*, Sitka Center for Art and Ecology, Otis, OR (1999)  
*Circle of Salmon: Drawings & Sketches*, Ford Gallery, Mendocino, CA (1998)  
*Preserving Our Coastal Wetlands*, Santa Rosa College, Petaluma, CA (1998)  
*Walking In Deeper*, performative nature walks, Mendocino coastal State Parks, CA (1998)  
*Life On The Edge*, Baylands Interpretive Center, Hayward, CA (1996)  
*Wetland Preservation*, Coyote Point Museum, San Mateo, CA (1994)  
*Wetland Preservation*, Chevron Corporation Gallery, San Francisco, CA (1991)  
*Preserving Our Wetlands*, College Of The Redwoods, Fort Bragg, CA (1991)

### **SELECTED GROUP ECOART EXHIBITS AND EVENTS**

*E.P.A. (Environmental Performance Actions)* Exit Art, United Nations Headquarters, NY, NY (2008)  
*The Great Petaluma Marsh*, Harold Mahoney Gallery, Santa Rosa College, Santa Rosa, CA (2007)  
*Earthly Concerns*, Thatcher Gallery, University of San Francisco, CA (2006)  
*Ecological Art/Artists*, Taking Nature Seriously Conference, University of Oregon (2001)  
*ArtCultureNature Exhibition*, Coconino Center for the Arts, Flagstaff, AZ. (2001)  
*For The Seventh Generation*, Pajaro Valley Arts Council, Watsonville, CA (2001)  
*Expanded Visions*, B.K. Smith Gallery, Lake Erie College, Painesville, OH (1999)  
*Dear Mother Earth*, Women Environmental Artists, Olive Hyde Gallery, Fremont, CA (1999)  
*Watershed*, Euphrat Museum Of Art, De Anza College, Cupertino, CA (1998)  
*Dear Mother Earth*, Marin Arts Council, Marin County Civic Center, San Rafael, CA (1998)

### **WORKS PUBLISHED:**

*Interpretive Nature Guides*. Co-authored and illustrated for MacKerricher State Park and Van Damme State Park, Mendocino Coast, CA (1996-2000).  
*City Safaris: A Sierra Club Explorer's Guide to Urban Adventures for Grownups and Kids*. Co-authored, illustrated, Sierra Club Books (1987).  
*Ecology for City Kids*. Co-authored, illustrated, published and distributed through a grant from the San Francisco Foundation (1976).

### **LECTURES AND PANELS:**

Lecture/Slides: How To Make Beautiful, Effective Interpretive Panels, National Association for Interpreters Conference, Asilomar, Monterey, CA(2007)  
Panelist: *EcoArt*, Bioneers Conference, San Rafael, CA (2006)  
Panelist: *Ecofeminist Influence on Ecoart*, College Art Assoc. Conference, Chicago, IL (2002)

Lecture: *Eco-Art as Ephemeral Art*, Cabrillo College, Aptos, CA (2001)

Panelist: *Artist as Visionary, Artist as Environmentalist*, Taking Nature Seriously Conference, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR (2001)

Panelist: *Environmental Art: Multidisciplinary Pedagogical Models for Higher Education*, ArtCultureNature Conference, Northern Arizona University (2000)

Slide/Lecture: *EcoArt*, Miami-Dade Eco-Urban Program, Miami, FL (2000)

Panelist: *Out of the Mainstream, Into the Mainstream*, College Art Association National Conference, Los Angeles, CA (1999)

Slide/Lecture: *Introduction To EcoArt*, Sitka Center for Art and Nature (1999)

Slide/Lecture: *Restoring The Sacred Through Environmental Art*, Society For Ecological Restoration International Conference, San Francisco, CA (1999)

Slide/Lecture: *A New Sort Of Flowering: The Merging Of Art And Ecology*, Mendocino Art Center, Mendocino, CA (1998)

Slide/Lecture: *Changing Our Minds: Making Language Reflect A Relationship With The Wild*, Redwood Region Audubon Society, Arcata.

Slide/Lecture: *Stepping Into The Biosphere*, J.F.K. University, Orinda, CA. (1998)

Panelist: *Art And Environment*, Women's Caucus for Art Conference, San Francisco Art Institute, San Francisco, CA. (1998)

Slide/Lecture: *Preserving Our Coastal Wetlands*. Petaluma Community College, Santa Rosa, CA. (1998)

Slide/Lecture: *What Is EcoArt?* College Of The Redwoods, Fort Bragg, CA. (1997)

Slide/Lecture: *The Nature Of Art And The Environment*. College Of The Redwoods, Fort Bragg, CA. (1997)

Slide/Lecture: *Environmental Art*. College Of The Redwoods, Fort Bragg, CA. (1996)

Slide/Lecture: *Environmental Sculpture*, College Of The Redwoods, Fort Bragg, CA. (1995)

### **TEACHING AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT:**

Environmental Ethics Professor, College of the Redwoods, Fort Bragg, CA (2001-2002)

Ecological Art Professor, College of the Redwoods, Fort Bragg, CA (1999-2003)

Ecological Art Instructor, Mendocino Middle School, Grass Birds, Migration Marker (2000)

Visiting Ecological Art and Environmental Ethics Professor, Miami-Dade Community College, Miami, FL (2000)

Art Instructor, California Academy Of Sciences, San Francisco, CA (1995-1998)

Art Instructor, The Ink People, Eureka, CA (1995-1998)

Art Instructor, Anza Borrego Art Guild, Borrego Springs, CA (1991-1996)

Art Instructor, Mendocino Art Center, Mendocino, CA (1984-1997)

Mendocino Unified School District Artist/Naturalist instructor, CA. (1982-1990)

Co-director, Ecology For City Kids, San Francisco Ecology Center (1973-1982)

Environmental Education Instructor, California Institute Of Man In Nature, Berkeley, CA (1972-1982)

## RESIDENCIES:

Exploratorium, *Irvine Fellow*, for interpretation of light, wind and sound, San Francisco (2007)  
Mendocino High School, *Sonar Program*, (marine biology & fine arts) (2002)  
Gloria R. Davis Middle School, *Kids in Parks*, San Francisco, CA (2001)  
Inside Passages, Nature/Culture Guide, Petersburg, AK (2001)  
M.H. de Young Memorial Museum, *The San Francisco Watershed*, San Francisco, CA (2000)  
Miami-Dade Community College, EcoArt & Ethics, Miami FL (2000)  
College Of The Atlantic, *Nature/Culture Walking*, Bar Harbor, ME (2000)  
Inside Passages, Nature/Culture Guide, Petersburg, AK (2000)  
Luther Burbank Middle School, *Kids In Parks*, San Francisco, CA (2000)  
Sitka Center for Art and Ecology, Otis, OR (1999)  
*48 hours of Art Making*, Smith Gallery, Lake Erie College, Painesville, OH (1999)  
AT&T Employee Retreat, Visiting Artist, *Living Life As A Work Of Art*, Bodega, CA (1996)  
Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT (1995)  
Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT (1989)  
Riverbend Nature Center, Art and Environmental Education, Chattanooga, TN (1988)

## MEDIA EXPOSURE:

"Cause and Effect" an interview by Sam Edsil, <http://www.mentalcontagion.com/cause-andeffect.html>

"Ecoartists: Engaging Communities in a New Metaphor," by Patricia Watts, *Community Arts Network Reading Room*. [www.communityarts.net/readingroom/archivefiles/2005/01/ecoartists\\_enga.php](http://www.communityarts.net/readingroom/archivefiles/2005/01/ecoartists_enga.php)

"A Bird on the Head: Artist and Avians Share Sense of Style," by Jill Koenigsdorf, *MetroActive: Bay Area Arts and Entertainment Service*. <http://www.metroactive.com/papers/sonoma/05.04.05/birds-0518.html>

"Case Studies: Toolbox for Educators," by Ann T. Rosenthal. *GreenMuseum.org*

"Going with the Flow: The Artworks of 'Watersheds, Waterwebs' Raise Questions About Our Relationship to Liquid Life," by Ann Elliott Sherman. *MetroActive: Bay Area Arts and Entertainment*

## BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES:

*Artists of the Mendocino Coast*, Larry R. Wagner, Larry Wagner Publications, 2008.

*EnvironMentalities: Twenty-Two Approaches to Eco-Art*, Linda Weintraub, Artnow Publications, 2007.

"What Is Ecofeminist Art?" Deborah Mathew, *Women & Environments*, New College, University Of Toronto, Canada, Fall, 2001, p. 10.

"A Monument to Migration," *Mendocino Beacon*, June 16, 2001.

"Fielder At M.H. Memorial de Young Museum—Teaching Watershed," Lee Nichols, *Mendocino Beacon*, Thursday, March 30, 2000.

"Garden Helps Students To Grow: MDCC Project Stirs Interest In Environment." Lila Arzua, *Miami-Herald*, Saturday, October 28, 2000.

- "The Standing Still Project." *Utne Reader*, June-July, 2000, p. 79.
- "Ephemeral Art Captures Fleeting Bird Migrations." Lisa Norman, *Mendocino Beacon*, Thursday, May 4, 2000.
- "Local Artist Wins Environmentalist Award." *Advocate-News*, May 13, 1999: Fort Bragg, CA
- "Environmental Art In Marin." Claudia Chapline, *Artists Dialogue: A Publication of the Marin Arts Council*, Autumn 1998: Vol. XI Number III.
- "Artist Shares Connection With Nature." Andrew Jowers, *The Press Democrat*, February 11, 1998: Santa Rosa, CA.
- "Erica Fielder: A Life As A Work Of Art." David Graves, *The Mendonesian*, August, 1997: Mendocino, CA.
- "Saving Coho Salmon: Human History Changed To Aid Salmon's Future." Neil Boyle, *The Beacon*, July 25, 1996: Mendocino, CA.
- "Erica Fielder: Artist As Naturalist." Gerry Huckaby, *A&E*, January, 1995: Mendocino, CA
- "On The Edge." *San Francisco Focus*, March, 1995.
- "Artist Inspires Feeling Of Connection To Natural World." Beverly Hanly, *The Union*. August 18, 1994: Arcata, CA.
- "Life On The Edge." *Alta Vista Magazine of the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History*. February 6, 1994: Pacific Grove, CA.
- "Fielder's Traveling Show at Academy of Sciences." *Mendocino Beacon*, December 22: Mendocino, CA.
- "California Artist Looks With 'Beginner's Mind.'" Stephen Brede, *Petosky News-Review*, October 5: Petosky, MI.
- "Fielder's Bench Design Chosen For Town Area." Rebecca Bush, *Advocate-News*, July 7, 1988: Fort Bragg, CA.
- "'Riverbend' Is Good Time To Celebrate." Patricia Lea, *Chattanooga Times*, June 24, 1988: Chattanooga, TN.
- "Marsh Displays Dedicated." *The Union*, October 11, 1984: Arcata, CA.
- "Art At Heart's Desire Beach." *Independent Journal*, September 29, 1984: Marin County, CA.

### **MEMBERSHIPS:**

Founding member of EcoArt Dialog, a 75-member, international group of artists and scientists who discuss EcoArt on a daily basis via the internet.

National Association for Interpretation

The Natural Sound Society

### **SELECTED COMMUNITY SERVICE: ART & ENVIRONMENT**

Mentor to Mendocino High School student for Senior Project. (2006 to present)

Member Steering Committee, CELL (Coast Economic Localization Links). (2005-Present)

Mentor to Fort Bragg High School student for Senior Project. (2001)

Conservation Chair: Mendocino Coast Audubon Society. (2000-2001)

Vice President, Friends of the Ten Mile Watershed Alliance, Fort Bragg, CA. (1993-2005)

EcoTeam Coach: "Teaching sustainability, household by household." (1993-1996)

Cofounder/Codirector: Art & Nature Summer Camp, Caspar, CA. (1982-1990)

Codirector: San Francisco Ecology Center, CA. (1979-1982)

Vice President: California Institute Of Man In Nature, Berkeley, CA. (1978-1982)

Cofounder Codirector, Women In The Wilderness: teaching self esteem through survival skills. San Francisco, CA. (1975-1980)

**REFERENCES:**

Susan Libovitz Steinman, EcoArtist, 510-653-6380.

Marc Kasky, former Executive Director of the Fort Mason Foundation, 415-885-5038.

Renée Pasquinelli, State Park Ecologist, Western Region, 707-937-5721.