

Martha Bird

Visual Artist—Sculptural Basketry

Contact: marthabirdart@gmail.com

Website: marthabirdart.com

Born in Newark, New York

Studio: F. O. K. Studios in St. Paul, MN

SELECTED GRANTS, AWARDS and HONORS

- 2025 McKnight Fellowship for Fiber Artists, *Semi-finalist*
Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, *Arts Impact for Individuals Grant*
Minnesota State Arts Board, *Creative Individuals Grant*
- 2024 Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, *Arts Impact for Individuals Grant*
- 2023 Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, *Arts Impact for Individuals Grant*
Minnesota State Arts Board, *Creative Support for Individuals Grant*
- 2022 Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, *Arts Impact for Individuals Grant*
Minnesota State Arts Board, *Creative Support for Individuals Grant*
Art Ability, Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, Malvern, PA, *Third Place Award—Jewelry and Fine Craft, “Creel Purse”* (international)
- 2021 McKnight Visual Artist Fellowship, *Finalist*
Minnesota State Arts Board, *Creative Support for Individuals Grant*
- 2019 Minnesota State Arts Board, *Artist Initiative Grant*
- 2017 Artability, St. Paul, MN, *Best Social Commentary Award, “Medicine Basket with Safety Net”*

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

- 2022 Lanesboro Arts & Jerome Foundation Artist Residency, Lanesboro, MN
- 2019 Anderson Center at Tower View, Red Wing, MN
- 2018 Hinge Arts Career Development Residency, Springboard for the Arts, Fergus Falls, MN

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *Weaving Ancestry: Exploring Norwegian, Swedish, and French cultural connections in sculptural basketry by Martha Bird*, Nordic Center, Duluth, MN
- 2024 *Weaving Wholeness*, F-O-K Studios Gallery, St. Paul, MN
- 2023-24 *In Sight; Sight In*, Susan Hensel Gallery, artsy.net (invitational)
- 2023 *in, out, Through*, Kaddatz Galleries, Fergus Falls, MN
A World Beyond, First Universalist Church, Minneapolis, MN (invitational)
- 2021-22 *Body Fragmented*, Phipps Center for the Arts, Hudson, WI
Body Work, Susan Hensel Gallery, artsy.net, (catalog, invitational)
- 2021 *Rooted Reckonings*, Kaddatz Galleries, Fergus Falls, MN (invitational)
- 2019-20 *Basketry To Enhance Health*, Hennepin County Library—East Lake, Minneapolis, MN
- 2019 *The Forest Breathes*, Otter Tail County Historical Museum, Fergus Falls, MN
Listen, Kaddatz Galleries, Fergus Falls, MN
Holistic Practice: A Nurse and Her Art, University of MN, Minneapolis, MN
- 2018 *Weaving Wellness: Art, Community and Mental Health Resilience*, MN History Center, St. Paul, MN
- 2016 *Connections: A Solo Show from Martha Bird*, Avivo, Minneapolis, MN

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 *BYOB 25: Bring Your Own Basket*, National Basketry Organization, Kittredge Gallery, Tacoma, WA (invitational)
Upwards, History Theater, St. Paul, MN (invitational)
Mental Health, Finding Creative Solace (touring), ArtReach St. Croix, MN (juried)

- 2024 *Common Thread at the Carnegie*, Carnegie Art Center, Mankato, MN
 2024 *Women Take the Walls*, Garrett Museum of Art, Garrett, IN (invitational)
Constellation: Womens invitational Small Works Show, SLA Gallery, New York, New York (invitational, international)
What Fierce Looks Like: Artists of the Women's Art Institute, Form + Content, Minneapolis, MN (juried)
 2023-24 *Art Ability Exhibition and Sale*, Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, Malvern, PA (juried, international)
 2023 *From Fiber...*, Springfield Art Association Visual Art Center, Springfield, IL (juried)
Fine Arts Exhibition, MN State Fair, Fine Arts Center, St. Paul, MN (juried)
From the Earth, Kavanagh Gallery, Fine Line Creative Arts Center, St. Charles, IL (juried)
KINETIC, The Cultural Center of Cape Cod, Yarmouth, MA (juried, international)
Fibers of Nature, Hayloft Gallery, Floyd Center for the Arts, Floyd, VA (national, juried)
Tenuous Threads, Atlantic Gallery, New York City, NY (national, juried) (catalog).
 2022-23 *Art Ability*, Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, Malvern, PA (international, juried)
 2022 *Uncommon Threads*, San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, Encino, CA (international, juried)
Two Hundred Six, Art at the Bridgewater, Minneapolis, MN (invitational)
 2021 *Woven*, Inez Greenberg Gallery, Artistry, Bloomington, MN (three person exhibit, juried)
Art of Possibilities, Courage Kenny Foundation, Minneapolis, MN (international, juried)
 2020 *Fine Arts Exhibition*, MN State Fair, St. Paul, MN (juried)
 2019 *inVISIBLE*, UCare Health Plan & CIRCA Gallery, Minneapolis, MN (juried)
What Is Forbidden, Catherine G. Murphy Gallery, St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN (juried)
More Basketry, Celebrating Our Community, Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center, Bowling Green, KY
 2018 *Art in Bloom*, Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Minneapolis, MN
 2017-18 *All Things Considered 9: Basketry in the 21st Century*, Tacoma, WA (touring, catalog, juried)
 2017 *Forever Home*, Duluth Art Institute, Duluth, MN (juried)
More to Consider 2, National Basketry Organization, Kittridge Gallery, Tacoma, WA

SELECTED INSTALLATIONS

- 2024 *Constellations of Connections: Willow Work by Martha Bird*, Vail Communities, St. Paul, MN (13 pieces)
 2017 *The Sculptural Form*, recycled materials installation, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA (group)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS, ARTIST TALKS and PANELS

- 2025 Artist Talk, *Arts Roseville*, Ramsey County Library, Roseville, MN, November 8.
 Presentation, *Ancestry, Disability, and Mental Health: Connecting the Knutkorg Basket to Duluth and the Art Practice of Martha Bird*, Nordic Center, Duluth, MN, October 4.
 Artist Talk, St. Paul Art Crawl, F-O-K Studios, St. Paul
 2024 Artist Talk, *Weaving for Wellbeing*, Vail Communities, Minneapolis, MN, August 15.
 2023 Artist Talk, *"Art & Soul" Davu Seru & Martha Bird*, First Universalist Church, Minneapolis, MN, July 16.
 Artist Talk, *in, out, Through*, Kaddatz Galleries, Fergus Falls, MN, March 18.
 2022 Artist Talk, *Uncommon Threads*, San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, December 3.
 Presentation & Discussion, *Basketry and Wellness*, St. Mane Theater, Lanesboro, MN, August 20.
 2021 Artist Talk, *Rooted Reckonings*, Kaddatz Galleries, Fergus Falls, MN, June 19.
 Presentation, *Addressing Stigma: Reclaiming Basketry*, Avivo, Minneapolis, MN, May 4.
 Artist Talk, *Woven*, Artistry, Bloomington, MN, February 9.
 2019 Presentation, *Basket Weaving for Healing PTSD in Veterans*, VA Hospital, Minneapolis, MN, May 14.
 2018-19 Presentation, *Reclaiming Basketry: Working Through Stigma to Reach Creative Potential* (various locations including Society of Arts + Crafts, Fuller Craft Museum, MN Historical Society)
 2018 Artist Talk, Minnesota History Center, St. Paul, MN, September 25.
 Artist Talk, Minnesota Orchestra, Minneapolis, MN, January 14.
 2017 Panel, *To Really See*, Hennepin County Library—Central, Minneapolis, MN, September 27.

SELECTED TEACHING and MENTORING

- 2025 *Making a Willow Brigid's Cross*, Duluth Public Library, Duluth, MN, October 4.
 Basketry and Celebrating Community, Vail Communities, St. Paul, MN, June, July, August.
- 2024 *Design Your Own Square Basket*, F-O-K Studios, St. Paul, MN, November 2, 9.
 Weaving for Wellbeing, Vail Place, Minneapolis, MN June, July, August.
- 2023 *Farmers Market Basket*, Kaddatz Galleries, Fergus Falls, MN, October 21, 22.
 Weaving Wellness: Farmers Market Basket, Vail Place, Minneapolis, MN, June 8, 22; July 6, 20.
 Winter Wellness: Basketry, Hennepin County Library—East Lake, Minneapolis, MN, February 4.
- 2022 *Willow Preparation/Gathering*, Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center, Lanesboro, MN, August 27.
 Brigid's Cross, Sylvan Park, Lanesboro, MN, August 23.
- 2019 *Winter Wellness: Basketry*, Hennepin County Library—East Lake, Minneapolis, MN, December 29.
 Brigid's Cross, Nature-Based Therapeutic Services, University of MN, Chaska, MN, November 6.
- 2017-present Mentoring, Basketry/Artist Career Support, 24 individuals, Minneapolis, MN.

SELECTED ART DEMONSTRATIONS

- 2025 *St. Paul Art Crawl*, F-O-K Studios, St. Paul, MN
- 2023 *Art Ability Dinner Celebration*, Main Line Health, Phoenixville Foundry, Phoenixville, PA
- 2022 Lanesboro Arts Artist-in-Residence, Lanesboro Farmers Market, Lanesboro, MN
- 2017 *Fiber Festival*, North Star Farm Tour, Windswept Hill Farm & Studio, Farmington, MN

SELECTED COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

- 2025 *Basketry & Community Celebration* (9 baskets), Collaborators: Vail Community Members (19)
- 2024 *Weaving for Wellbeing* (7), Collaborators: Vail Community Members (7) Minneapolis, MN
- 2023 *Weaving Wellness: Farmers Market Basket* (11), Collaborators: Vail Place Members (14), MN
- 2022 *Community Engagement & Collaborative Baskets* (10) (touring), Collaborators: Vail Place Members (25)
 Swirls Cathead Basket, Flat Weaving Swirls, Forest Swirls, Swirls Collage (multidisciplinary, touring),
 Collaborator: Danielle Day
- 2021 *Dancing Willow* (multidisciplinary, touring), Collaborator: Shannon Hartle
 Harmonious Pathway: Embracing the Unexpected (multidisciplinary, international), WIT eXchange,
 Collaborators: Sally Ault, Tina O'Brien
 RBG: One Step at a Time (multidisciplinary, touring), Collaborators: Natalia Pederson, Angélica Morales
- 2018 *Wayward* (multidisciplinary), Collaborators: Chris Mueller, Craig Gilbert, exhibited at Mia

PUBLIC ART

- 2023-24 *Body Spiral*, Bus Shelter Beautification, Metro Transit, Metropolitan Council, Minneapolis, MN
- 2022 *Process of Wholeness*, Sylvan Park, Lanesboro, MN (single piece display, outdoor)

SELECTED CURATORIAL PROJECTS

- 2018 *Weaving Wellness: Art, Community, and Mental Health Resilience*, MN History Center, St. Paul, MN
- 2017 *Water's Edge*, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska, MN

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

Art Partners (Project Collaborator with large national healthcare providers), CA, IN, FL, MN, WV
Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, Main Line Health, Malvern, PA
Farmboy Fine Arts (Project Collaborator), Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Garrett Museum of Art, Garret, IN
Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN
Newark-Arcadia Historical Society, Newark, NY
Romulus Historical Society, Romulus, MI

SELECTED GALLERY AFFILIATION

ArtForce, Minneapolis, MN
Lanesboro Arts Gallery, Lanesboro, MN

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2025 "Best Bets: Martha Bird," *Duluth News Tribune*, Duluth, MN, September 3.
- 2023 Jonathon M. Clark, "In Sight; Sight In: Walking the Cosmic with Others," Susan Hensel Gallery, artsy.net
"When you know, you know: pursuing a creative career: Meet Martha Bird," CanvasRebel. August 23.
Frederick Melo, "It's Like A Second Home," *Pioneer Press*, St. Paul, MN, July 8-9, 2023. 1, 3.
- 2022 Andrea Specht, "Craft as a powerful force for healing, connection and social change," *MinnPost*, December 21.
"Lanesboro Arts hosts willow sculptor this fall," Winonapost, July 27.
- 2021 Jonathan M. Clark, "Body Work: Martha Bird and the Art of Mortality," Susan Hensel Gallery, Artsy.net, November 15.
- 2020 Laine Bergeson, "The wonders of weaving," *Star Tribune*, Minneapolis, MN, March 22 (invitational).
- 2019 Ruth Nerhaugen, "Weaving Toward Wholeness," *Republican Eagle*, Red Wing, MN, August 17. B6.
- 2018 Kristin Goosen, "Baskets and Books," *Daily Journal*, Fergus Falls, MN, April 4.
Members in Print: Vessels (Juror: Jane Sauer), *National Basketry Organization*, (71), Summer. 5.
- 2017 Kelly Savage, "Business Spotlight—Martha Bird: Artist," *Corcoran Newspaper*, Minneapolis MN.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AS AUTHOR

- 2025 "Sweetgrass: Member to Member Connection," *The Vail Variety*, Vail Communities, MN, February.
- 2024 "It's time to start our Basketweaving Projects," *Vail Voices*, Vail Communities, MN, May.
- 2022 "Community Engagement and Basketry!" *Uptown Updates*, Vail Place, Minneapolis, MN, May. 5.
- 2017-18 Published writer on basketry, Irish Basketmakers Association, Association of MI Basketmakers, MN Basket Weaver's Guild (6 articles).

SELECTED RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- 2024 "F-O-K Studios Featured Artist: Martha Bird and Her Woven Willow Sculptures," Farwell On Water. December 18.
- 2023 Meg Hanson, "Basket Weaving Class," Yarns from the Lake. October 23.
Interview, Margaret Humphrey, interviewer. "Interview with Martha Bird," *Behind the Vail: The Podcast —Episode 007*, Vail Place, May 4.
- 2020-24 Grant Panelist, Flexible Support (Rounds 1,2, 3), Metro Regional Arts Council, Minneapolis, MN
- 2019 Grant Panelist, Artist Initiative, Minnesota State Arts Board, St. Paul, MN
Volunteer, *YouBetcha*, Patrick Dougherty Sculpture (5 days), MN Landscape Arboretum, Chaska, MN
Instructional Support Staff, Occupational Therapy Program, University of MN
- 2018 Client Instructor, Occupational Therapy Program, University of MN, Minneapolis, MN; Rochester, MN
- 2018-24 Subject Matter Expert and Curriculum Review (Basketry), Scouts BSA
- 2003-07 Member, 26th Street Artists: Pre-vocational Creative Arts Program, Avivo, Minneapolis, MN

EDUCATION

- 2002 MA in Human Development, St. Mary's University, Minneapolis, MN (Focus: Holistic Health)
- 1987 BS with Distinction in Nursing, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
- 2018 Women's Art Institute, St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN
- 2017 Month-long Individual Study: 4 master basketmakers, 1 fiber artist, Ireland (various locations)