

About Ecological Reflections

The Ecological Reflections network brings together scientists, artists, and writers to explore places of long-term inquiry. The network grew from the NSF funded Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) program.

Ecological Reflections sites range from the old growth forests of the Oregon Cascades to the mangrove swamps of the Everglades; from urban Baltimore streets to Kansas prairies and the floodplains of interior Alaska.

The outcomes of these collaborations educate and inspire broad audiences to build a deeper understanding of the natural world and to provide for wise, farsighted decisions in a time of significant ecological challenge and change.

About the Exhibit

We all have favorite places. How do we respond as change comes to places we know and love?

The reflections featured in this exhibit showcase art-science collaborations at 11 LTER sites in the continental US, Alaska, and French Polynesia. Work by 39 artists and writers reflects the diverse ecology and culture of the sites they represent.

Learn More

The Ecological Reflections network:
www.ecologicalreflections.com

The LTER network: www.lternet.edu

Featured Artists

Andrews Forest

Alison Hawthorne Deming
Robin Wall Kimmerer
Jerry Martien
Robert Michael Pyle
Scott Russell Sanders

Baltimore Ecosystem Study

Lynn Cazabon

Bonanza Creek

Shannon Brunette
Sarah DeGennaro
Amanda Ellis
Susan Grace
Margo Klass
Carolyn Kremers
Jennifer Moss*
Ree Nancarrow

Central Area-Phoenix

Edgar Cardenas

Cedar Creek

Linda Buturian
Glenn Terry

Florida Coastal Everglades

Xavier Cortada

**brochure cover artist*

Harvard Forest

David Bryant
Regan Golden
John Hirsch
Debby Kaspari
Brooks Mathewson
Roberto Mighty

Konza Prairie

Elizabeth Dodd
Edward Sturr

Moorea Coral Reef

Joseph Rossano

North Temperate Lakes

John Bates
Mary Burns
Terry Daulton
Bonnie Peterson
John Richter
Mindy Schnell
Ann Singaas

Virginia Coast Reserve

Donna Dixon Aliff
Pat Hampton
Alice McEnerney Cook
Laura McGowan
Sarah Morgan



The Art of Science (AoS) Project was conceived and implemented in 1989 by a cross-directorate committee of NSF staff. Its purpose is to bring to NSF original works of art that visually explore the connections between artistic and scientific expression.

Art of Science exhibits are displayed in designated public space and are scheduled to rotate quarterly. The AoS committee endeavors to showcase work across the scientific and engineering disciplines from different artists/scientists using a variety of mediums. For additional information on the Art of Science Project please contact a current member of the AoS committee via email at AoS@nsf.gov.

Visitors are asked to pre-register by sending an email to sdwilkin@nsf.gov.
The National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard,
Arlington, VA 22230, www.nsf.gov

Ecological Reflections

Sense of Place in Changing Places



Andrews Forest LTER

Initiated in 2003 and planned for 200 years of inquiry, the Andrews Forest Long-Term Ecological Reflections Program hosts creative writer residencies and interdisciplinary gatherings in the Oregon Cascades. By weaving science, ethics, and expression, the program aspires to give a fuller range of voices to long-term processes on the land.

Baltimore Ecosystem Study LTER

In 2012, the BES LTER hosted its first artist-in-residence, a photographer whose subject was wild plants that thrive in urban environments. The resulting photos and interactive QR codes have gained wide exposure in the city, on billboards and even transit shelters.



Lynn Cazabon, BES, "Uncultivated_11/05/22"

Bonanza Creek LTER

An art-science consortium, "In a Time of Change," at the BNZ LTER offers field-based workshops for artists and scientists to engage in observation, education and two-way exchanges of perspectives on the boreal forest ecosystem.

Central Area-Phoenix LTER

The CAP LTER program focuses on an arid land ecosystem profoundly influenced by human activities. The site's current arts and humanities efforts include photography, interpretative dance, and urban environmental history.

Cedar Creek LTER

The University of Minnesota's Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, just 35 minutes north of Minneapolis-St. Paul, includes 23 plant communities in three major biomes. Artists explore Cedar Creek ecology through essay, sculpture, and painting.

Florida Coastal Everglades LTER

Researchers and students at the FCE LTER focus on a unique "ecotone" where fresh- and saltwater vegetation mix. Arts initiatives reach out to the rapidly growing human population of over 6 million people who live in close proximity to - and in dependence upon - the Florida Everglades.

*The data may change our minds,
but we need poetry to change our hearts.*

Robin Wall Kimmerer

Harvard Forest LTER

Artists at the Harvard Forest LTER work alongside scientists and students to integrate literature, history, photography, and fine art with scientific research. Their work characterizes past landscapes, depicts future scenarios, and brings climate research into the public eye.

Konza Prairie LTER

The Konza Prairie LTER encompasses the largest remaining tracts of native tallgrass prairie in North America. A growing number of artists and writers have been granted research status for ongoing participation in Long-Term Ecological Reflections.



Edward Shurr, KNZ, "Last Exit"

Moorea Coral Reef LTER

The MCR LTER is a complex of coral reefs and lagoons surrounding the island of Moorea, French Polynesia. A master artist collaborates with MCR scientists to highlight the important but often subtle role mutualisms play in the functioning of coral reef ecosystems.

North Temperate Lakes LTER

Scientists at the NTL LTER study the lake ecosystems in Wisconsin's forested and agricultural/urban landscapes. They collaborate with artists to communicate the complexity, beauty, and future of these important and dynamic ecosystems.



Ann Singaas, NTL, "C Note"

Virginia Coast Reserve LTER

Research at the VCR LTER examines the response of coastal barrier systems to climate change, sea-level rise and intensified human use. In addition to hosting artist-in-residence programs, the site offers plein aire painting workshops for K-12 teachers, with a focus on salt marsh ecology.