

2024 CREATURE  
CONSERVE

CURATORIAL  
FELLOWSHIP  
- VIRTUAL



CALL FOR APPLICANTS

CREATURE  
CONSERVE

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COVER IMAGE: Eunhyung Chung & Shiqi Wu, "Footprints", 2022, site specific installation of clay bricks

@creatureconserve  
www.creatureconserve.com

# OUR MISSION

Creature Conserve is a Rhode Island-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) conservation outreach organization. Wildlife populations are declining around the world because of human impacts. We are all part of this problem, yet too few of us are part of the solution. Now is the time for a more inviting and inclusive approach to wildlife conservation, open to diverse perspectives from the arts, humanities, sciences, traditional ecological knowledge, and beyond. Our mission is to grow a creative community that combines art with science to cultivate new pathways for wildlife conservation. We bring together artists, designers, writers, and scientists in a supportive, welcoming space to learn about threats to wildlife, share empathy for animals, exchange ideas, and find opportunities for growth at the intersection of art, science, and conservation. Our programs include curatorial programs, mentorship, scholarships, and workshops. They take place in person and online. We welcome people at all skill levels, from all backgrounds, and in all countries.

Read more about us at [www.creatureconserve.com](http://www.creatureconserve.com).

# OUR CURATORIAL PROGRAMS

We curate juried exhibits & events for artists, designers, and writers who are combining the arts with science to showcase and engage viewers in art-sci conservation projects. We also host Curatorial Fellows and Scholars who are exploring new ways to create exhibitions and public programs.

Our curatorial programs strive to support artists from around the world, provide more space for the voices of marginalized creatives, and bring science-informed works of art and writing to ever-wider audiences.

To this end, our Curatorial Programs contain of three projects:

1. Creature Conserve Juried Exhibitions
2. Creature Conserve Curatorial Scholars
3. Exhibition-Related Artists in Residence

# WHAT IS THE CC CURATORIAL FELLOWSHIP?

The Curatorial Fellowship is a rigorous program designed for creatives to explore innovative ideas around creating exhibitions and public programs that showcase and engage viewers in art-sci wildlife conservation projects. At Creature Conserve, we recognize that many artists, designers, and writers (especially those in underserved communities) have limited access to scientific information, scientists, or traditional ecological knowledge and knowledge holders, and few if any opportunities to get involved in on-the-ground conservation. Similarly, few scientists, knowledge holders, and other experts working to restore species and their habitats have established connections with artists and writers. Our programs bring together artists, designers, writers, and scientists in a supportive, welcoming space to learn about threats to wildlife, share empathy for animals, exchange ideas, and find opportunities for growth at the intersection of art, science, and conservation.

The Curatorial Fellowship is an opportunity for an emerging creative or curator to work on a self-directed project about a conservation issue relevant to their community. This is an opportunity for creatives to expand their curatorial and project management skills, pursue a topic they are passionate about, and create innovative curatorial practices.

# ... AND WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE IN 2024?

In 2024, Creature Conserve will select TWO Curatorial Fellows to work on a project for a duration of six months.

- The RHODE ISLAND fellow will be selected from Providence, RI, US to work on creating a physical exhibition.
- The VIRTUAL fellow will be selected from anywhere in the world to work on a virtual exhibition or publication.

The Fellow will receive expert guidance from Creature Conserve Arts Curator, Heather McMordie; a stipend provided by Creature Conserve for the duration (6 months); free access to all online Creature Conserve skill-based and professional development workshops and networking events for the next year; access to the wider Creature Conserve art/sci conservation community; and a material fund. This is an opportunity for Fellow and Arts Curator to work alongside and learn from one another in a supportive partnership. The Curatorial Fellow is expected to be self-sufficient and work well independently.

# WHO SHOULD APPLY?

## The ideal Curatorial Fellow:

- Is a creative with an interest in developing curation as a part of their artistic/professional practice.
- Has a personal and/or artistic interest in themes related to animal extinction, nature protection, and connections between the arts and science
- Has previously worked on projects related to conservation in either the arts OR the sciences AND is interested in exploring art/science collaborations
- Has a passion for creating community around art, especially in the virtual setting.
- Is self-motivated and has a strong vision for their proposed curatorial project.
- Has experience working on complex projects with a remote team.
- Has access to reliable internet and a computer.
- Is NOT currently enrolled in a degree-granting program.

Please note, you do NOT need to be an artist or work in an arts-related field to apply for this fellowship

# WHO SHOULD APPLY?

## The ideal Curatorial Project:

- Can be completed within a timeframe of 6 months.
- Takes a final format that can be easily shared with global audiences.
- Examines a specific aspect of wildlife conservation
  - A strong topic: climate change impacts on aquatic creature migrations
  - A weak topic: climate change
- Includes works from multiple creatives (This is NOT an opportunity to curate a solo-exhibition.)

See work from 2023 Creature Conserve Curatorial Fellow, Haley Peters, at [www.creatureconserve.com/haley-peters](http://www.creatureconserve.com/haley-peters)



Artwork by Ani Cassion, "Connected" (Detail), 2021, acrylic on canvas, 24"x36"



# PROGRAM COMMITMENT

## Curatorial Fellows commit to:

- *Commit to six months of Fellowship and attend monthly meetings*
- *Provide a clear project proposal outlining the timeline and support needs for their curatorial project.*
  - *This timeline is non-binding, we are aware that projects will shift and grow. Mainly, this is an opportunity for the fellow to map out and concretize the next steps of their project work.*
- *Completion of the proposed project culminating in an art exhibit, performance, public event, reading etc. that engages community members in critical thinking around a topic within conservation.*
- *Commit to regular and timely communication via email and Asana (Creature Conserve's project management platform).*
- *Project Reports consisting of text and visuals (photos, videos, graphics, etc.):*
  - *3 Month Progress Report:*
    - *200 - 400 word update information CC where you stand on your fellowship.*
    - *5 Visuals (photos, videos, promotional graphics, etc.)*
  - *Fellowship Closing Report:*
    - *400 - 600 word summary of project and experience*
    - *10 visuals (photos, videos, promotional graphics, etc.)*

# PROGRAM BENEFITS

## Creature Conserve provides Curatorial Fellows with:

- *Professional support from the Creature Conserve Art Curator: Depending on the Fellow's experience, the support provided may include (but is not limited to):*
  - Email templates for outreach to exhibition venues
  - Guidance on setting up a local call for art
  - Graphic design input for the creation of wall labels, promotional materials, etc.
  - Frameworks for planning exhibition layouts and selecting artworks
- *Financial support in the form of a modest stipend and materials budget for the completion of the project.*
  - Stipend: \$250/mo for 6 months, paid every 3 months
  - Materials Budget: \$800
    - The materials budget must be put towards program costs (e.g. gallery fees, printing costs, installation hardware, website, etc.)
- *Connection with an international cohort Creature Conserve Fellows*
- *Access to the community of Creature Conserve scholars, mentors, and leaders through our Slack Channels*
- *Free access to Creature Conserve Workshops & Leadership Trainings*
  - The 2024 Workshop Schedule can be found here:

# WHY PARTICIPATE?

## **As a Curatorial Fellow, you will walk away with:**

### *A digital publication or exhibition curated by you!*

From the promotional materials to the platform design to connections between artists, the content you create for this project is yours to brag about. Use it in your resume, your portfolio, and to secure your next curatorial gig!

### *An opportunity to explore art-science collaborations... with funding!*

Exploring a new idea is much less scary when you have the funds and manpower to support you. We're excited about the questions people are asking at the intersections of the arts and sciences and want to support those questions.

### *An expanded creative community.*

This fellowship is an opportunity to build connections with other artists, writers, designers, and creatives in your community. It's on you to do the outreach BUT this virtual publication is a great reason to bring people together!

### *Lasting connections with an international community of conservation-minded artist, writers, and scientists.*

At Creature Conserve, we're interested in building long-term relationships with our network. Your fellowship may end on March 31, 2025, but your relationship with us doesn't have to! As a fellow, you'll get access to our slack platform where you can connect with over 250 community members.

# TIMELINE

## 2024

April 1	Application for Curatorial Fellows Opens
April 30	Applications Due
May	Interviews with Semi-Finalists
June 15	Curatorial Fellow Announced
October 1	Fellowship Program Begins
October 31	Final Exhibition Plan Due
December 31	3 Month Progress Report Due

## 2025

March 31	Fellowship Program Ends
April 15	Fellowship Closing Report and Exit Interview Due

# HOW TO APPLY

Complete the application form found at [www.creatureconserve.com](http://www.creatureconserve.com) by Tuesday, April 30 at 11:59pm EST.

## Questions?

Email Heather McMordie, Creature Conserve Arts Curator, at [artscurator@creatureconserve.com](mailto:artscurator@creatureconserve.com).

# APPLY BY TUESDAY, APRIL 30