



Artists in Residence in Everglades EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

KRISTA ELRICK

What a beautiful mystery, birds— their living patterns, their migrations, the places that sustain them. For ten years, these creatures have captivated Krista Elrick, as she photographs them from one coast to another. It is the wetlands, the watersheds, which serve predominantly as her backdrop. In tandem, migratory birds and the ecosystems that sustain them are the focus of her current body of work.

Currently Krista is working on *Episodes and Interesting Unknowns: Journeys with Audubon*, a book and exhibition that weave the journals of Audubon with her photographs. With his writings as her guide, she is photographing the same Mississippi River Basin and Eastern seashores where he hunted, wrote about, and painted birds. As she photographs where Audubon roamed, the presence of water seems to be the only constant to his past landscapes. The birds are harder to find. In searching out the oldest habitats that might best reflect Audubon's time, she finds now most are managed wildlife refuges or state parks. Sometimes they are golf courses or theme parks. Inevitably, these places are surrounded by the effects of modern day life: parking lots, coal mines, and oil refineries. What is clear is that these preserved habitats offer sanctuary to a dwindling avian population. The focus in this work is to stay close to Audubon's journey while juxtaposing my images of where these birds should be. While many of her photographs reflect a lack of birds and sound a note of eulogy, she also sees resiliency. Adaptations even on the smallest level are knitted throughout her work. Because of this, she photographs the land in fragments, and then constructs collages to create newly pieced dynamics.

NMPress published her latest co-cuated publication, *Through the Lens: Creating Santa Fe*. Recent exhibitions include the Center for Contemporary Arts' *NM Committee for Women in the Arts* and *Grasslands/Separating Species* published by Radius Books in conjunction with the exhibition at 516 ARTS in Albuquerque. Prior to that, she completed several public art commissions with the Phoenix Arts Commission and the Seattle Arts Commission.

Krista received an MFA from Arizona State University in 1990 and holds over a decade of arts management experience with the Arizona Commission on the Arts, National Endowment for the Arts and the Western States Arts Federation. She offers private workshops in and around Santa Fe, New Mexico.