

	National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior	Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks	40001 State Road 9336 Homestead, Florida 33034 305-242-7700 phone 305-242-7711 fax

Everglades News Release

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

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Fresh AIRIE Exhibition Highlights Artists' Experiences at a World Heritage Site

Homestead/Miami, Florida: Everglades National Park will kick off **Fresh AIRIE: Artists' Experiences in a World Heritage Site**, at the Miami Dade College's (MDC) Homestead Campus. This traveling exhibition features works by more than 30 artists as part of the Everglades National Park's AIRIE Collection, including painting, photography, video, audio composition and poetry. An opening reception and panel discussion will take place on Thursday, Nov 14. The art work will remain on display at the Homestead Art Space through Dec. 13.

"It is important to expose the campus and local community to the unique destination landscape, located within our reach, and known worldwide as the River of Grass. Art education is a critical part of the academic equation and creates an atmosphere that inspires learning and innovation," said MDC Homestead Campus President **Dr. Jeanne Jacobs**.

Free and open to the public, the opening reception begins at 5 p.m. followed by a panel discussion from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The panel discussion will open with a welcome by Dan Kimball, Everglades National Park Superintendent. Panelists include writer Bill Maxwell, composer Gustavo Matamoros and Linda Friar, Everglades National Park's Chief of Public Affairs, who will share their experiences living and working in a World Heritage Site.

“Everglades National Park is proud of our World Heritage designation,” said Superintendent **Dan Kimball**. “This recognition highlights the international importance of this unique resource as one of the globe’s most significant cultural and natural areas. Aspects of this very special place have been captured by talented artists and I hope that all will take time to experience this unusually engaging and creative depiction of the World Heritage values of the park.”

The exhibition is made possible through a generous grant from Robin Tauck, of Tauck Romano Innovative Philanthropy, and AIRIE programs are supported by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation through the Knight Arts Challenge.

The Fresh AIRIE exhibit will travel to four South Florida universities, including a special showing at the park’s Ernest Coe Visitor Center Gallery.

WHAT: MDC Homestead Campus to host Everglades National Park’s Fresh AIRIE: Artists’ Experiences in a World Heritage Site

WHEN: Thursday, Nov. 14
Opening reception: 5 to 6 p.m.
Panel: 6 to 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Exhibition: Homestead Art Space, Building D (adjacent to the library)
Panel: Building F, Room F222
500 College Terrace, Homestead

This is the first in a series of ***Fresh AIRIE: Artists’ Experiences in World Heritage Site exhibitions.***

Current Schedule for *Fresh AIRIE: Artists’ Experiences in a World Heritage Site*

- **Miami Dade College** in Homestead, FL - opens to the public on November 11, VIP Reception and Panelists on November 14. Closes on December 13, 2013.
- **Florida Atlantic University-** September 14 to October 14, 2014.
- **The Earnest Coe Visitors Center**, Everglades National Park, Homestead FL- April/May, 2014
- **Museum of Florida Art and Culture** at South Florida Community College, Avon Park, FL- November and December 2014, or January and February 2015.

ABOUT AIRIE

South Florida is home to the only subtropical wilderness area in the country, and Artists in Residence in Everglades (AIRIE) is the only program bringing artists to the Everglades. Since 2001, AIRIE has brought over 100 artists, composers, writers and dancers to Everglades National Park for month-long residencies. AIRIE Fellows have the unique opportunity to get to know the ecology of the Everglades by being immersed in it, and then share their perspective through creative public programs. For more information please visit <http://airie.org/>

ABOUT WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Everglades National Park was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979. It was among the first of 21 sites in the United States that received this international designation, given to important natural and cultural resources around the world. World Heritage sites demonstrate the importance, for all the peoples of the world, to safeguard a unique and irreplaceable property. For more information about World Heritage sites, please visit <http://whc.unesco.org/en/about/>

ABOUT MIAMI DADE COLLEGE (MDC)

MDC is a higher education institution with the largest undergraduate enrollment in America, with more than 175,000 students. It is also the nation's top producer of Associate in Arts and Science degrees and awards more degrees to minorities than any other college or university in the country. MDC is renowned for its rich cultural programming. It is home of the Miami Book Fair International, Miami International Film Festival, the MDC Live Arts Performing Arts Series, the National Historic Landmark Miami Freedom Tower, a major sculpture park and large art gallery and theater systems. For more information, please visit www.mdc.edu.

For more information on this event at MDC please contact Sue Arrowsmith, 305-237-3710, sue.arrowsmith@mdc.edu.

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About the National Park Service: More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 401 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.
