

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Contact: Chelle Koster Walton

[chellekwalton@gmail.com](mailto:chellekwalton@gmail.com)

239-699-4754

Caption Marilyn Whittaker: Fabric artist Marilyn Whittaker's "Engulfed in Dusk"

Caption springtide: Stone sculptor John Merchant's "Spring Tide"

[Attached: Water/Ways, Florida Humanities, and Smithsonian logos]

### ***Engulfed* art show to accompany Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit at 'Ding' Darling**

In conjunction with the visiting Smithsonian Water/Ways free exhibit at "Ding" Darling Visitor & Education Center Oct. 28 through Dec. 7, 2016, "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) will be co-hosting a free *Engulfed* art show with the Southwest Florida Fine Craft Guild.

Artists and fine crafters will show works inspired by the waterways and other natural areas of Southwest Florida. Throughout Water/Ways' engagement at "Ding" Darling, visitors can view the interactive exhibit and art show every day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"We are so happy to continue our partnership with the energetic Southwest Florida Fine Craft Guild in this very meaningful way," said Sarah Lathrop, associate director of DDWS, the nonprofit that is also funding Water/Ways' engagement. "We have worked with the guild in the past on our highly successful Upcycle! Art Fests, and we love how our relationship has evolved. This promises to be an outstanding gallery exhibition."

"The guild is thrilled to collaborate with 'Ding' Darling again," said Angela Aradia, Southwest Florida Fine Craft Guild spokesperson. "It is an exciting venue for our artists as 'Ding's' attendees come from all over America and beyond. The exhibit *Engulfed* will introduce this audience to our members' interpretations of the theme."

Other programming during the six-week exhibit includes a weekly Wednesday Film Festival, Friday speakers series, Saturday family activities, free Kids Fishing Derby, and cruise discounts at Tarpon Bay Explorers

“The remarkable, state-of the-art Smithsonian Water/Ways exhibit lies at the heart of an exciting, engaging six weeks of programming for kids and adults that we hope will ultimately send the message that we all need to work together to preserve our valuable, vanishing water resources,” said Supervisory Refuge Ranger Toni Westland. "We are honored to be among the select venues hosting the exhibit."

For a complete schedule of Water/Ways programming, visit [dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/waterways](http://dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/waterways). Call 239-472-1100 ext. 233 for more information.

#### ABOUT WATER/WAYS

Through a highly competitive bidding process, ‘Ding’ Darling was chosen as one of only six Florida locations to host the new Water/Ways. The exhibit, part of the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street (MoMS) program, examines water as an environmental necessity and important cultural element. Water covers more than 71 percent of Earth’s surface, having an impact on climate, health, economics, politics, agriculture, transportation, and industry. Water/Ways explores the endless motion of water on Earth’s surface, below ground, and in the atmosphere, and it illustrates its effect on landscape, settlement, migration, and even spirituality. For information about the exhibit, visit [www.sites.si.edu](http://www.sites.si.edu).

#### ABOUT DDWS

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, DDWS works to support J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge’s mission of conservation, wildlife and habitat protection, research, and public education through charitable donations and Refuge Nature Shop proceeds. To support DDWS and the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit [www.dingdarlingsociety.org](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org) or contact Birgie Miller at 239-292-0566 or [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org).

###