

OFFBEAT

<http://artstreet.udayton.edu/offbeat>

PREVIEW
ISSUE
Sept 2009

Betsy Damon: Eco-Artist and Keeper of the Waters

By Michael Kane

Sustainability; you've probably seen this word spread all across campus and by now, you've probably realized that the UD campus is "going green" this year. From emphasizing recycling at campus residences to the dining halls using more biodegradable take-out containers, everyone is doing their part to make UD a more eco-friendly environment.

With this new focus in mind, the University of Dayton Arts Series has invited a very unique artist to visit our community and share her perspective on an undeniably valuable, but often exploited, natural resource: water.

Betsy Damon, an active environmentalist and eco-artist, first became interested in water issues in 1984. During a seven-week camping trip in the Southwest, Betsy discovered that countless river beds had dried up due to excessive, wasteful water use.

This experience changed the way she saw water as a natural resource. "I deliberately made water central to my life, both as an issue and as a metaphor. I realized that keeping the ecosystem alive and myself alive were one and the same activity."

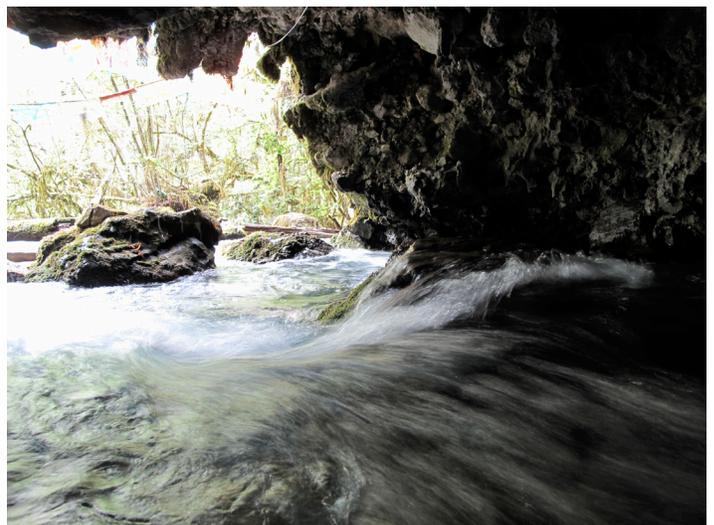
In 1991, Betsy founded a group called Keepers of the Waters, whose mission is "to inspire and promote projects that combine art, science and community involvement to restore, preserve and remediate water sources." Through a combination of landscape design, sculptures, and community participation, Keepers of the Waters hopes to spread their message on water issues all across the world.

One of their most famous projects was the Olympic Forest Park constructed in Beijing, China, for the 2008 Olympic Games. The wetlands of the Olympic Forest Park served as a natural water treatment system, as well as a flora and fauna species conservation area. An education center was also built so that future generations could continue the environmental work Damon started.

Betsy Damon will be visiting UD and meeting with students through classroom lectures and workshops from September 14th-18th. An installation of her most recent work will be on display in the ArtStreet Gallery (Studio D), with a reception for the artist on Friday, September 18th from 12-1 PM in the gallery. A public lecture will also be offered on Wednesday, September 16th, at 8 PM in the Sears Recital Hall to allow Betsy the opportunity to share her message with the entire UD community.

Betsy Damon has always maintained that "water is the foundation of life; the connective might of the universe. Therefore, sustaining the water systems must be the foundation of planning and development." With these inspirational words as a guide for her life's work, Betsy hopes to use to shed light on water issues and the UD community looks forward to hearing her unique perspective during her visit.

For more information on Keepers of the Waters and Betsy Damon's projects, go to <http://www.keepersofthewaters.org>.



ArtStreet's Art Picks for the Fall

CREATIVE SOUL OF DAYTON

October 2 - November 6, 2009

Location: Armory Building, 201 E. 6th St

Opening Reception & Award Ceremony:

October 2, 5-10pm

Exhibition Closing Event:

November 6, 5-10pm

Gallery Hours:

Saturdays from noon-4pm

(10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/23)

<http://www.creativesouldayton.com>

6th Annual

ARTBEAT FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS & ALUMNI FOOD COURT

Saturday, September 19, 5-8 pm

ArtStreet Plaza and Amphitheatre

(Rainsite: Kennedy Union Ballroom)

FREE FOOD • MUSIC • ART • DANCE • MORE!

Connect with UD alums from chapters around the country eager to serve you some of their regional best!

Enjoy performances by UD and Dayton performers, plus art for sale from student and community artists!

FEATURING: Dayton Contemporary Dance Company

- Rhythm in Shoes
- Julie Roth
- Kelly Fine and Company
- The Jaywalkers

Shelf: Department of Visual Arts Faculty and Staff Exploration

September 1 - 24, Rike Center Gallery

Closing reception: September 24, 5-7 pm

Gallery hours: 10 am to 4 pm Tues & Wed;

10 am to 7 pm Thurs; 10 am to 2 pm Fri;

closed Sat and Sun.

For more information: 937-229-3261

Music Department Presents:

Dayton Jazz Ensemble

September 25, 9 pm, KU PUB

Dalcroze Eurhythmics Workshop

9am - noon, Saturday October 3, ArtStreet

Dalcroze Eurhythmics is a powerful route toward developing deeper musicality and creative expression through whole body movement. This remarkable approach offers teachers, musicians and performers of any age and stage the opportunity to enhance and enrich their skills.

Presented by the Department of Music

For more information: (937)229-3936

ARTSTREET'S FRIDAY NIGHT FILM SERIES

9/18: Harold and Maude

9/25: The Curious Case of Benjamin
Button

10/2: Wendy and Lucy

10/16: Murderball

All films start at 9pm in ArtStreet Studio B

FREE and open to the public.

For more information: <http://artstreet.udayton.edu/film>

ArtStreet Wednesday Workshops

9/16: Jewelry with Mallory Burke

9/23: Monotype Printmaking with Aaron Ardell
(DVAC)

9/30: Ceramics with Dave Chesar

10/14: Decoupage with Beth Kamhi (DVAC)

Workshops are FREE for UD students, faculty and staff.
\$10 Fee for UDLLI students and community members.

All workshops are from 7-9pm in ArtStreet Studio E.

Register online at <http://artstreet.udayton.edu/Wednesday>

For more information:

artstreet@udayton.edu or (937) 229-5101

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