

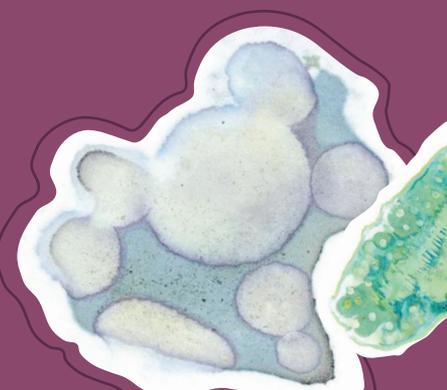


## GALLERY GUIDE

Art Exhibition by Melinda & Joe Ostraff

# Weed, Seed, & Wonder:

An installation of Botanical Inks  
& Dyes on Paper





**AVERITT  
CENTER  
FOR THE ARTS**

## **ROSENGART FINE ART GALLERY**

***WEED, SEEDS, & WONDER ON DISPLAY***

*FROM MARCH 5TH - MAY 1ST - 2026*

### **ABOUT**

Statesboro, the most populous city in Bulloch County, Georgia, is nestled within the vast geological wonder of the coastal plains. This unique landscape is home to a remarkable diversity of plant life, shaped by natural forces and human hands alike.

Weed, Seeds, and Wonder is a celebration of this rich botanical heritage, exploring the relationships between people and plants through the lens of art. This installation employs botanical inks and dyes on paper—materials derived from the very flora that have long intertwined with human history. These pigments hold the stories of the land, revealing the intricate connections between ecology and culture.

The work examines how humans cultivate, gather, and use plants, blurring the boundaries between what is considered a weed and what is cherished as a resource.

Seeds, as symbols of potential and resilience, serve as a metaphor for both the wild and the cultivated. Through layers of color, form, and texture, this installation invites viewers to reconsider their relationship with the natural world and the overlooked wonders that surround them.

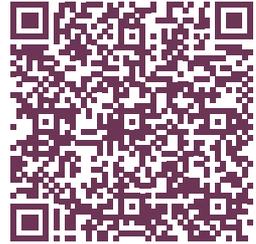
At its core, this project is rooted in community collaboration. Through workshops and participatory events, we will gather local stories, techniques, and contributions that will become integral to the final installation. By incorporating community voices and hands into the work, Weed, Seeds, and Wonder fosters a shared exploration of place, memory, and the enduring ties between people and plants. This ongoing dialogue between nature and human experience not only enriches the artwork but also strengthens our collective connection to the land and each other.

## BIO

Melinda and Joseph Ostraff share a collaborative studio practice that seamlessly integrates their expertise and complementary ways of thinking. Melinda earned her PhD in Environmental Science and Human Geography, with a focus on Ethnobotany, from the University of Victoria, British Columbia. Joseph holds an MFA from the University of Washington, Seattle. Together, their work explores the intersection of human geography and nature, resulting in a unique and multifaceted artistic practice. Their studio work is further enriched by strong community partnerships and collaborations.

Recently, Melinda and Joseph were featured in Season One of the KBYU Artful Series. Joseph is a three-time recipient of the Utah Artist Fellowship and has also been awarded the Ballinglen Artist Fellowship in Ballycastle, County Mayo, Ireland. He is represented by NuArt Gallery in Santa Fe, NM/Santa Monica, CA, and both Melinda and Joseph have work at Phillips Art Gallery in Salt Lake City, UT.

**WATCH THEIR FEATURE  
ON ARTFUL.**



## **ARTWORK CONTRIBUTIONS FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS LIKE YOU INCLUDING:**

Georgia Southern Botany Department  
Georgia Southern Department of Arts & Humanities  
Brigham Young Students  
Georgia Southern Public History Department  
Averitt Center Art Adventures  
Statesboro Regional Art Association  
Trinity Episcopal Church  
& *MANY MORE*



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**COLLABORATE WITH THE ARTISTS!**  
*Melinda & Joseph Ostraff*

***Botanical Ink Workshop at the  
Averitt Center for the Arts***

***Days: March 14th***

***Time: 10 am - 3 pm***

***Cost: FREE***

