



*We Inherit the Earth:*  
Site and Memory in South Florida  
*Christina Pettersson*

The Eye Has to Travel Gallery | Concourse D | near Gate D29 | On view through April 15, 2021

The Cutler Fossil Site, a sinkhole on the land of what is now the Deering Estate - a 21st Century house museum, cultural and ecological field station, and a historic landmark located south of Miami - is a portal deep into the past. Over millennia, this 13 feet deep and 23 feet wide sinkhole has been a den for dire wolves, a watering hole, a shelter, and a burial place. The karstic limestone solution hole discovered in 1979 was filled with thousands of bones of Pleistocene animals, as well as human bones and artifacts of Paleo-Indians and people of the Archaic period.

Artist Christina Pettersson, a current Artist in Residence at the Deering Estate, has spent her career focusing on the history and environment of her native South Florida. Her multi-media works reveal a deep allegiance to the wilderness of a bygone era, the

sorcery of the night, and the experience of a world in decline. It is a stage materialized from the Everglades of her hometown, which she has spent a lifetime exploring. She chose to explore this solution hole with the ancient natural materials of charcoal and ink on wood panels so that viewers can begin to imagine the experience of being inside its high craggy limestone walls, warmed with ferns and sun-dappled by trees above.

*We Inherit the Earth: Site and Memory in South Florida* aims at envisioning (for a moment) the glorious land of Florida ten thousand years ago, a land which was hundreds of miles wider and hundreds of feet higher than today; and a vast savannah filled with Ice Age mammals and some of America's first indigenous people.









Untitled (Triptych, work in progress)  
Charcoal and ink on wooden panel  
48 x 216 in., overall  
48 x 72 in., each panel

Left & Cover:  
The artist as Amelia Earhart at Cutler Fossil Site.  
Photo by Eli Peck, 2018.

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