

## Phoenix, *artist statement*

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*"Photography is a mystical experience.  
I see the soul of all who grant me the privilege  
of photographing them." ~Phoenix*

Every time I go out to photograph nature I really find myself being called to go within. Photography is my way of communing with the Universe, Source or God ...whatever one may call that divine essence. My love, my divine call to art, is to truthfully capture those moments when my soul is touched by the extraordinary wonder and beauty seen through my camera's inner lens -- from colorful bugs, smaller than a fingernail's tip, to ever changing magnificent paintings presented every morning and night for humanity's delight. South Florida's wetlands and the Everglades in particular are my primary photography studio and sanctuary.

My approach to photography and life is grounded in my spiritual belief that "we are all one, we are all interconnected." As a nature photographer, for me the importance of nature is more than a scientific necessity for creating air, clean water and producing food. It is a sacred necessity for healing and bringing peace to the human soul. And, perhaps I have been the greatest beneficiary of nature's healing therapy.



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## Phoenix, profile

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Internationally collected, award-winning conservation photographer Phoenix is called a “legendary photographer” by art gallery curators and “intrepid” by collectors. Her works are known for capturing the intersection of art and healing, transporting viewers to a place of peace and meditation. Phoenix’ photographic images reflect her devotion to protecting the natural environment, sense of oneness with the light and soul of the land and its inhabitants and a reverence for wild places.

For Phoenix, the extraordinary beauty of nature and wilderness are a wonder. Attempting to fix them in time is her passion; photography is her art. Known for her painterly approach to composition, light, color and texture, she is an internationally collected, award-winning conservation photographer whose works are in more than 100 private and corporate collections worldwide.

Phoenix is the recipient of two month-long Artist-In-Residence programs, Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Olive Stack Gallery in Ireland; the Virtual Artist-in-Residence for the Center for Great Apes Art4Apes Exhibition; the featured artist for the first Endangered Exhibit – United Kingdom; two public art grants, nine public art awards and many other prestigious awards, including Best Landscape and Seascape Series in the Julia Cameron International Photography Contest and Best Overall Winner in the South Florida Wildlife Center’s 2024 Photography Contest judged by Joel Sartore of the Photo Ark. She was appointed to the first Public Art and Placement Advisory Board, City of Fort Lauderdale and the Citizen Review Panel, Broward Cultural Division.

Her works have graced national magazine covers and been featured in newspapers, magazines and blog posts – print and online internationally. She was invited to be the first photographer to “takeover” the Instagram page for the Friends of Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Most recently, the Cleveland Clinic Hospital in Weston, Florida acquired 22 large works by Phoenix for their permanent collection in the Women’s Center. And, the City of Sunrise acquired five works for their new City Hall. Currently she is serving her fourth term as president of the National League of American Pen Women. A native Miamian, Phoenix lives and works in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

## Phoenix, *biography*

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**“Phoenix has a great sense of oneness with the natural world and understanding of composition, light and timing in photography. Very much in the manner of French humanist photographer Cartier-Bresson, she seems to capture the ‘it’ moment, the ‘decisive moment,’ that makes the photos worth the shot.”**

*~ Juliana Forero, Ph.D., Curator  
Bailey Contemporary Arts Center (BaCA), Pompano Beach*

Phoenix, who only goes by her first name, established a love of nature as a child during family vacations to national parks. Although, she taught film-making and photography early in her career she left them for some 20 year. Returning to photography in the digital age, she developed an exceptional talent and passion to help protect nature and wildlife. Today she is an internationally collected, award-winning conservation photographer who was recently awarded an Artist in Residence at America’s most visited national park, the Great Smoky Mountains.

**“Being a nature photographer is a mystical experience. Like a meditation of light – color, texture, structure, pattern, and composition – it awakens an inner peace and knowingness.” ~Phoenix**

For Phoenix the extraordinary beauty of nature and wilderness are a wonder. Attempting to fix them in time is her passion; photography is her art. Known for her painterly approach in her photography, her works have been honored in numerous juried exhibitions, showcased in 25 solo exhibitions, including Everglades National Park Gallery, featured in magazines and calendars worldwide and can be found in private collections internationally.

The featured artist for the ENDANGERED exhibition in England, Phoenix is also the recipient of numerous awards including an artist residency in Ireland at the Olive Stack Gallery; the Broward Cultural Council’s Creative Investment Program Grant two times and curator of eight exhibitions. Phoenix is in her eighth year serving as president of the National League of American Pen Women, Fort Lauderdale Branch. She is also a principal in the Innovative Public Art Group.

**“Every time I go out to photograph nature I really find myself going within. Photography is my way of communing with the Universe, Source or God ...whatever one may call that divine essence.” ~Phoenix**

The seeds of being a nature photographer were planted as a child on family vacations to national parks when Phoenix accompanied her father as he magically captured each vista with a Polaroid camera and years later with a 35 mm SLR camera. This love of nature and photography was nurtured with a steady diet of watching nature programs on television and reading National Geographic Magazine.

Phoenix's approach to photography and life is grounded in her philosophical belief that we are all one, we are all interconnected. In protecting the world's nature and wildlife, the environment, we are really protecting the family of humanity. For Phoenix, the importance of nature is more than a scientific necessity for creating air, clean water and producing food. It is a sacred necessity for healing and bringing peace to the human soul.

A native Miamian and Broward County resident, Phoenix has enjoyed a varied career that ranges from public and media relations to business coach to English, journalism, film-making educator, professional speaker and published author. All disciplines have converged to form who she is today: an award-winning, celebrated nature photographer with a mission to touch people’s hearts through art.

A University of Miami graduate and native Miamian, Phoenix lives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. When not photographing around the world, she calls South Florida’s wetland, The Everglades in particular, her studio.

## Phoenix, *artist resume*

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### **RESIDENCIES**

2021 Virtual Artist-in-Residence, Endangered Art4Apes  
2019 Artist-In-Residence, Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
2016 Artist-In-Residence, Olive Stack Gallery, Listowel, Ireland

### **COLLECTIONS**

Cleveland Clinic Hospital-Women's Center, Weston, FL - 22 large works  
City of Sunrise, City Hall, Sunrise, FL - 5 large works  
St. Thomas University, Miami, FL  
Currently in 100+ personal collections worldwide

### **PUBLIC ART and GRANTS**

2017 & 2019, Awarded, Four (4) Utility Box Wraps, City of Oakland Park, FL  
2017 President, Curate and Manage, Project COAT, International Mural Project, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
2016 & 2012 Grant Recipient, Creative Incentive Program (CIP), Broward Cultural Council, Broward County, FL  
2015 Inside Out - Broward 100, Project Photographer, Broward County Cultural Division, Fort Lauderdale, FL

### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS (Partial list)**

2025 "The Spaces In-Between," Archbishop John C. Favalora Museum, St. Thomas University, Miami, FL  
"The Spirit of This Place," Miramar Cultural Center, Miramar, FL  
2024 "The Spirit of This Place," Pompano Beach Cultural Center, Pompano Beach, FL  
2023 "The Spirit of This Place," Sunrise Gallery, City of Sunrise, Sunrise, FL  
2022 "Oceans Away," GALLERYone-Doubletree Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
"America the Beautiful," Cleveland Clinic Hospital, Coral Springs, FL  
2021 "Plunge Into the Arts with Phoenix," Plunge Beach Resort, Lauderdale-by-The-Sea, FL  
2020 "FloridaScapes," Collector's Gallery, Venice, FL  
2019 "Small Worlds," Books & Books, Coral Gables, FL  
"NatureScapes," Cleveland Clinic Hospital, Weston, FL  
2018 "Photographs By Phoenix," SB Architects, Coral Gables, FL  
"The Everglades: Spirit of the Land," BaCA, Pompano Beach, FL  
"Photographs By Phoenix," Las Olas Capital Arts, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
2017 "Sacred Trees Exhibit," Cleveland Clinic Hospital, Weston, FL  
2016 "Wild Atlantic Way," Olive Stack Gallery, Listowel, County Kerry, Ireland  
"23: Celebrating Everglades National Park", City of Sunrise Gallery, Sunrise, FL  
2014 "One Year in the Life of The Everglades," Ft Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce  
2013 "Wetland Wonders Exhibition," Broward Art Guild, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
2012 "Wild Florida," Everglades National Park Gallery, Homestead, FL

### **JURIED EXHIBITIONS (Partial list)**

2024 "Art Show," Funding Arts Broward, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
2023 "Reunion Show," Las Olas Capital Arts, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
"Environmental Resilience," ArtServe, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
2023-2015 "Art and Soul," Business for the Arts of Broward, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
2022-2023, 2021-2019 "Art+Stroll", Business for the Arts of Broward, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
2022 Fine Art Exhibit at Anne Kolb Nature Center, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
"Landscapes and Seascapes," Las Laguna Art Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA  
2021 "State of Florida Pen Women Biennial," Sarasota, FL  
"Starry Starry Night Exhibit," Tubac Art Center, Tubac, AZ  
2021-2013 "ENDANGERED Exhibition," Art Basel Miami, Miami, FL  
2020 Space Between Us, BaCA, Pompano Beach, FL  
"Elementum" and "Tell Me a Story" Exhibits, Studio 18 Gallery, Pembroke Pines, FL  
2019-2016, 2014, 2012 "Making New Impressions," Bonnet House Museum & Gardens, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
2019-2016 "Annual Fine Art Fair," Lauderdale Yacht Club, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
2019 "Month of Photography Denver," Center for Fine Art Photography, Denver, CO  
2018 "Refresh," Doubletree-GALLERYone Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
"Wonder Exhibition," Center for Fine Art Photography, Fort Collins, CO  
2017 "Dali and Me," MAC Art Galleries, Fort Lauderdale and Delray Beach, FL  
"Chrysalis: A Time for Change DBA 2017," ArtServe, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
"Endangered Exhibit," Featured Artist, London, UK



- 2016 "At Home with Art," Fort Lauderdale Home Show, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- 2015 "State Competition," National League of American Pen Women, Orlando, FL
- 2013 "Everglades Forever Project," Museum of Discover and Science, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- "National Photography Exhibition," Palm Beach State College, Palm Beach Gardens, FL
- "Photo Now," Lighthouse Art Center Museum & Gallery, Tequesta, FL

***DISTINCTIONS (Partial list)***

- 2024 South Florida Wildlife Center, Best Overall Photograph and Bird Photograph, Judge Joel Sartore, Photo Ark
- 2023 Julia Cameron Women's International Photography, Best Series, Landscape and Seascape
- 2022 South Florida Wildlife Center, Winner-Reptile Category, Wildlife Photography Contest, Judge Clyde Butcher
- Fine Art Exhibit at Anne Kolb Nature Center, Fort Lauderdale, FL-1<sup>st</sup> Place
- Women Rocking the Web Awards 2022 Honoree
- 2021 "State of Florida Pen Women Biennial," Sarasota, FL, 1<sup>st</sup> Place
- Speaker, "How to Build and Grow Your Business Intensive for Artists," Florida SBDC at FAU
- Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, First artist selected to "takeover" Instagram page
- Photograph selected as gift to Great Smoky Mountains National Park's 300+ volunteers
- 2021-2018 Speaker, John Knox Village, Pompano Beach, FL
- Fidelity Investments, photographs featured in annual calendar
- 2019 Speaker, Broward & Beyond Business Conference, Art & Culture Track, Davie FL
- Speaker, "The Everglades: Spirit of the Land," ENDANGERED Exhibit, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- 2018 July, Light, Space & Time Exhibit, 9th Place out 1,558 entries from 39 countries worldwide
- 2017 Featured Artist, Fort Lauderdale Home Show, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- Featured Artist, Endangered Exhibit-Europe, London, UK
- "Chrysalis: A Time for Change DBA 2017," ArtServe, Fort Lauderdale, FL (*Curator*)
- 2015 Co-organizer and Curator, "Celebration of Florida Wildlife & Nature Photography" Exhibit, 80 works by 31 photographers, raising \$4000+ for Green Cay Nature Center, Delray Beach, FL

***PUBLICATIONS (Partial list)***

- 2024 "Portraits of Miami: Check Out Phoenix SpiritDiva's Story," VoyageMIA
- "Eye on the Arts: Nature photographer's exhibit captures the spirit of this place beyond the lens," New Pelican Newspaper, Pompano Beach, FL
- 2023 "Meet Phoenix SpiritDiva," Bold Journey
- Calendar Cover Photograph, Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, Boynton Beach, FL
- 2022 "Stories & Insights: Meet Phoenix SpiritDiva," Canvas Rebel
- "Bird Tales," Birds & Blooms Magazine
- "The Intersection of Art and Healing," The Pen Women National Magazine
- 2021 "Plunge into the Arts Exhibit: An Interview with Phoenix," Living in Oakland Park Magazine
- "GSMNP volunteers receive lens cloth with special photograph," Friends of the Smokies Blog
- "Program that saved more than 300,000 trees," The Mountain Press, Sevierville, TN
- "Phoenix's Photography Captures Beauty of GSMNP," Friends of the Smokies Blog
- 2020 "Talk With Phoenix," ENDANGERED Art 4 Apes, Video Interview with Founder
- "Don't get too close to wild animals," New Pelican News, Pompano Beach, FL
- "Shoutout Series Interview with Phoenix SpiritDiva," Shoutout Miami
- "Meet Phoenix SpiritDiva," VoyageMIA
- "Art & Chat – ArtServe Live" Video Interview with Curator Sophie Bonet, ArtServe, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- "A Mystical Experience," Cover Photo and Featured Article, The Pen Women National Magazine
- 2019 "'See Yourself in This Picture' by way of Phoenix," The Mountain Press, Sevierville, TN
- "Her photos captured a rare Everglades moment," The Miami Herald, Miami, FL
- "Acclaimed conservation photographer, Phoenix, captures beauty of nature," Miami's Community Newspapers
- 2018 "Art & Life with Phoenix SpiritDiva," Thought Provokers Series, VoyageMIA.com
- "Spirit of the Everglades in Photography Exhibit Coming to BaCA," Pelican Newspaper, Pompano Beach, FL
- 2017 Featured artist in international advertising campaign for ENDANGERED Art & Photography Contest
- 2016 "Phoenix Rises at Listowel Gallery," Kerry's Eye, Listowel, County Kerry, Ireland
- "23: Celebrating Everglades National Park," Sun-Sentinel, Broward County, FL

***PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS (selected)***

- President, National League of American PEN Women, Fort Lauderdale, FL Branch, 2023-25 and 2015-21
- Art Chair and Scholarship Chair, National League of American PEN Women, Fort Lauderdale, FL Branch, 2021-23
- Member, Broward Cultural Division, Citizen Review Panel, Broward County, FL, 2022-24
- Member, Public Art and Placement Advisory Board, City of Fort Lauderdale, 2020-Current
- Vice President and Education Chair, Board of Directors, Broward Art Guild, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 2013-16