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"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society - Friends of the Refuge

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
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Caption: "Ding" 2021 artist in residence Rachel Pierce is now exhibiting at the refuge.

'Ding' hosts free artist in residence exhibition

With the recent reopening of the "Ding" Darling Visitor & Education Center on Sanibel Island, free art exhibitions have returned to the auditorium. Currently, 2021 artist in residence Rachel Pierce exhibits her work inspired by the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge.

In the spirit of refuge namesake, Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling - artist and Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist – the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) hosts the Artist in Residence program, culminating in an exhibition of the artist's work. The 2021 program featured Pierce, who was unable to mount an exhibition last year because coronavirus had caused the closing of the Visitor & Education Center.

Her current showing of paintings runs through February 28 daily during normal center hours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Works are for sale through the Refuge Nature Store inside the center.

The second guest artist in residence at the refuge, Pierce retired recently as a longtime anchor for a local television station to devote her time fully to her art, which features whimsical, impressionistic portraits of wildlife. She currently resides on Sanibel Island.

Artists in residence at “Ding” Darling conduct free art activities for visitors and collaborate on outreach programs for underserved children in the greater community. DDWS soon will be releasing information about its 2022 guest artist in residence.

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 profits.

To support DDWS and the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit dingdarlingsociety.org or contact Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

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