

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IOWA ARTIST TO DEBUT INTERACTIVE BIRD MIGRATION ARTWORK FUNDED BY IOWA ARTS COUNCIL GRANT

Ames, Iowa – November 1, 2022 – The Ames Public Library is to host the debut exhibit of the Iowa Arts Council funded Junk Mail Migration Series by Kristin M Roach. The project was initially inspired by the question, "Where does junk mail come from?" which led to identifying the impact of deforestation on Iowa's backyard, migratory bird populations. The series consists of paintings and an interactive tapestry featuring data from 37 migratory birds.

From November 1 - November 29th, the much anticipated Migration Tapestry and Paintings will be on view in the main floor of the Ames Public Library. Roach will give a presentation about the work's history and creative process Thursday, November 10th from 7-8pm.

The Junk Mail Migration Tapestry is a large-scale interactive hand-woven wall hanging that integrates art, craft, and technology. Visitors control the bird sighting data being displayed. Over 12 feet long and 4 feet wide, the tapestry is made using walnut dyed wool and LEDs. Over 100 years of bird sighting data illuminate the tapestry from within. This project is made possible in part by the Iowa Arts Council's grant program and in partnership with software engineer Jason B Shaw. Data courtesy of Cornell University Ornithology Lab's citizen science project eBird.

Kristin M Roach is an artist, author, and local business owner (Little Woods Herbal). Trained in painting & fibers, she takes an interdisciplinary approach to her work. Kristin uses scientific data and cast-off materials to create drawings, paintings, and immersive installations about backyard ecology. Her art and zines are internationally exhibited and collected, and her book, *Mend it Better*, has been published worldwide. Born in Rock Island, IL Roach is an alumnus of Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, IL. She currently lives and works in Ames, Iowa.

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Artist Contact Information:

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Ames Public Library Location

515 Douglas Ave, Ames, IA 50010

Ames Public Library Exhibition Dates

November 1 - 29, 2022

Artist Presentation: From Junk Mail to Migration

Thursday, November 10th, 7 - 8pm.

### Related Resources and Links

Ames Public Library — [Http://www.amespubliclibrary.org](http://www.amespubliclibrary.org)

Iowa Arts Council — <https://iowaculture.gov/>

Migration Mapping Host Request Information — <https://kristinmroach.com/migration>

Cornell University Ornithology Lab eBird Project – <https://ebird.org/>

Little Woods Herbal – <http://www.littlewoodsherbal.com>

Craft Leftovers – <http://www.craftleftovers.com>

### Available Images

Artist at work

Artist, headshot

Migration Mapping detail

Migration Mapping illuminated

Junk Mail Migration Painting, Black-backed Woodpecker

Junk Mail Migration Painting, Detail

Iowa Arts Council logo

Hi-res images available for print on request.