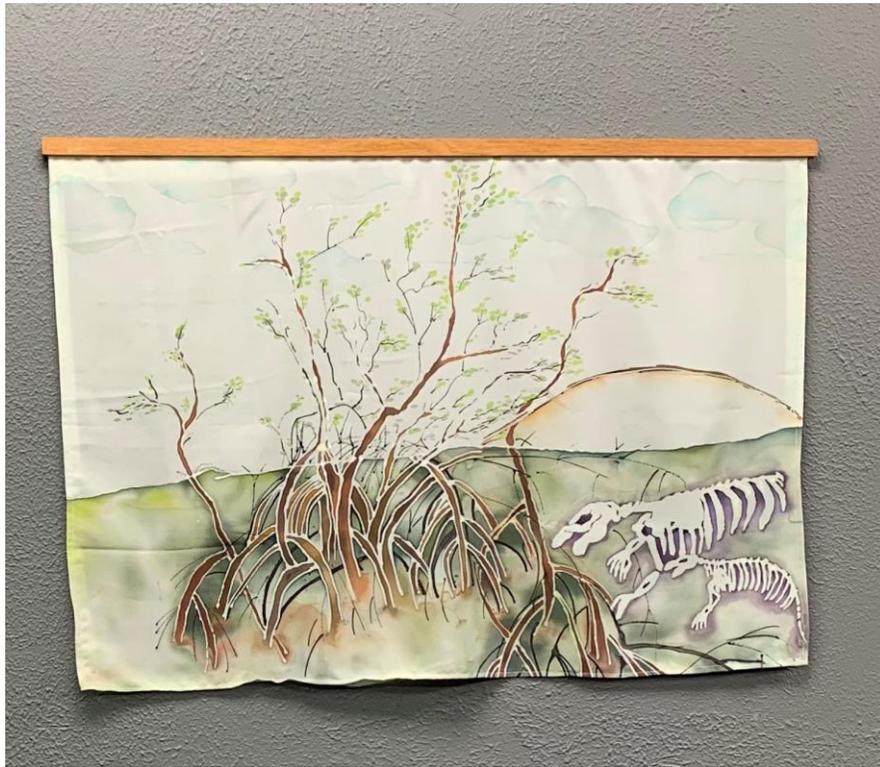


Brandi Long

My passion for making art stems from the love I have for nature and my own personal development as an individual. Nature for me evokes beauty, fragility, and a feeling of peace and serenity. My reaction to being in nature feels spiritual; it moves me to my core, centers me, and helps me understand what's ultimately most important in life. My art making is a product of what nature does for me. I hope to stimulate my viewers to feel the same emotions while also addressing environmental concerns when creating my silk paintings. Growing up in Florida and constantly being surrounded by nature made me want to savor and save it even more. When making my silk paintings I want them to look and feel alive with color, almost deceptively beautiful. This is to contrast the stark empty space the skeletons of the animals left behind. A process that is both, tedious and time consuming, but is well worth the wait. Each painting is completed in stages. The fabric is first cleansed and stretched then wax resist is applied to create the skeleton of the animal. Once dried, I apply alcohol based inks, which act much like watercolor. If applied with water it will spread far and the color will be thin, but if applied directly to the silk streaks of vibrant pigment penetrate the fabric. When I'm happy with the color and composition the ink can be heat set into the silk with an iron and then washed to reveal the final work. Both "Quiet Extinction" and "Trashed" feature endangered animals native to Florida. West Indian Manatee or their better known name sea cows have slowly dwindled down to the hundreds. Mostly due to habitat destruction my piece "Quiet Extinction" highlights both the gentle giant and its home. "Trashed" takes a closer look at the other lesser known pink bird of Florida known as the roseate spoonbill. Often we find birds tangled and perched on our garbage, it's a sad truth but one I wanted to bring light to. With my art making process I want to make pieces that both draw the viewer in with stunning color but also educate them to the realities of our state's biodiversity.

*Nature is in everything ...
in the sizzling sun, the boundless sky,
in the rolling hills and vast oceans.
Nature is what we hear and feel...
Caressing whispers blowing in the wind.
Dewdrops lying lovingly on the skin.
Nature is what we know...
Beautiful, fragile, it brings peace and serenity to all.
Nature is a muse
My artistry evokes all that she gives me.*



Quiet Extinction, 2019

Silk Painting

34 x 24 in

\$1,500



Trashed, 2019
Silk Painting
12 x 36 in
\$1,500

Contact info for inquiries:
ArtToSaveLives Contemporary
9705 NE 2nd Ave, Miami, FL 33138
Luba Kladienko-Ramirez
gallery@arttosavelives.org
845-548-5161