Goodall Visiting Fellow Artist Talk
by Dr. Daniel Helman

It is Thursday night and I am dead tired. But happy. The orange and yellow Chihuli glass catches my eye as I hold the door for two dear students. We are here to see our own artist-in-residence Mirra Goldfrad. She is a Visiting Fellow at the Goodall Environmental Studies Center. Among the six steaming pizza pies and the well wishes, I count myself lucky. How have I landed here?

Among tales and longing to recreate the joyful meals of the rooms, kitchens, this-will-do housing in suburbia with its doors to the soul held open for food and scent and subtle textures of sound, Mirra Goldfrad’s lecture and visuals have me on the edge of my seat. I’m in front. Way up in front. There are a hundred students here. I wave in the last few in the way of pointing out a few seats up here. These are the best.

The closest to the calm spirit and gentle stories the artist shares. “The gallery did not like the mold, so I had to seal them.” It’s true, though dead, they are also no longer fecund. Slabs of fruit, one each on the square face of a concrete block. Small, complementing the furniture. The slides are much like Picasso’s famous painting, showing how a bull is transformed into abstract lines, each panel of a progression. But here the abstract is her early work. And we see in detail the new life coming first as figures then as buildings are abstracted and then left behind. What remains are memories of food, nature and very flavorful semiotics of love. Mirra Goldfrad leaves behind a four-foot by four-foot house with a clear tin roof, walls lush with trees and signage. When you see it in the Richardson Art Center, put your head inside? You will hear the stream flow by. These objects. So precious!
Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Follow the Goodall Center Instagram page.

**Anderson Mill Invasives & Litter Clean-Up:** Tyger River Foundation is hosting a clean-up day to remove invasives and litter. Snacks and drinks provided. Bring gloves. [Register here.](#)

**Presentations by Dr. Bradham’s ENVS470:** Join us for presentations from Sarah Buckmaster, Anthony Tarulli, William Edwards, and Kriti Baral to discuss their collaborations with community partners in Spartanburg using applied GIS.

**Second Saturdays Volunteer Day in Glendale:** Join us on the second Saturday of the month to help beautify the garden and surrounding areas at the Goodall Center. [Register here to let us know you’re coming.](#)

**PAL Trail Stewardship Day:** Bring your gloves and any tools you might want as we fight back the invasive plants species that threaten our trees and trails. [Sign up to help.](#)

Questions? Contact Ned Barrett, nbarrett@palspartanburg.org or Emi Bautista, ebautista@palspartanburg.org.

Learn more about joining the Forum of the Association for Environmental Studies and Science (AESS). Click [Connect](#) to find opportunities to get involved through webinars, news, and academic announcements.

---

**PROFILE OF THE WEEK:**

**Vanderbilt University – Center for Environmental Management**

Vanderbilt Center for Environmental Management (VCEMS) was established “to study the coordination and sharing of environmental responsibilities that is required among a variety of stakeholders representing business, government, and community interests.” VCEMS is a joint initiative between the School of Engineering, the Owens School of Management, and the Law School. A wide range of options for study focus is available through the three schools.

VCEMS fosters the next generation of leaders in searching for solutions to environmental issues through management and policy that will impact communities well into the next century.

VCEMS offers a customized interdisciplinary master’s degree and Ph.D. degree in environmental management by applying to Vanderbilt’s School of Engineering.

Visit: [Vanderbilt University - Environmental Engineering, Management and Policy](#)