FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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June 28, 2019 -- Minneapolis-based artist, basket maker and nurse Martha Bird, Alumni Hinge Artist, announces a joint exhibition of new and retrospective work at Kaddatz Galleries and Otter Tail County Historical Society in Fergus Falls, Minnesota from Wednesday, September 11 through Friday November 1, 2019!

**The Forest Breathes**, Otter Tail County Historical Society

**Listen**, Kaddatz Galleries

Presentation and Q&A: “Reclaiming Basketry: Working Through Stigma to Reach Creative Potential,” Saturday, September 21, 1:00 p.m., Otter Tail County Historical Society, 1110 W. Lincoln Avenue, Fergus Falls, MN 56537. Free and open to the public.

Reception: Saturday, September 21, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Artist talk at 4:00 p.m. Kaddatz Galleries, 111 W. Lincoln Avenue, Fergus Falls, MN 56537. Free and open to the public.

*The forest breathes. Listen. It answers,*
*I have made this place around you.*
*If you leave it, you may come back again, saying Here.*
- “Lost,” David Wagoner

*The Forest Breathes* at the Otter Tail County Historical Society is a retrospective of Bird’s functional baskets, created with a wide range of natural fibers and basketweaving techniques. **Listen** features Bird’s new work in sculptural basketry at the Kaddatz. In these new works, she uses basketweaving techniques as a jumping off point to create sculptural objects and installations that explore themes of trauma and resilience. The resulting sculptures often suggest vessels, but their composition and scale also create impressions of movement, bodies, psychological connections and emotions.

Bird will also give a presentation on basketry as a tool for healing and empowerment entitled “**Reclaiming Basketry: Working Through Stigma to Reach Creative Potential**” at the Otter Tail County Historical Society prior to the reception at the Kaddatz. For over 100 years, basketry has been used in the medical field to treat trauma. Bird will share a personal history of basketry as both an art form and a medical treatment, providing an engaging, far-ranging look at the artform’s history and therapeutic uses.
ABOUT MARTHA BIRD
Martha Bird is a Minneapolis-based artist who specializes in traditional and sculptural basketry. Her education as a Public Health Nurse and Board Certified Holistic RN with a Masters in Human Development weaves into her artistic practice. Bird has exhibited regionally and nationally, including the Minneapolis Institute of Art and the Minnesota History Center, as well as a traveling exhibition sponsored by the National Basketry Organization in New Jersey, Washington and Massachusetts. Her work has been acquired by the Minnesota Historical Society.

In 1994, Bird enrolled in her first basket class and fell in love with the materials and wove her way into activity and health after a back injury, two years of prescribed bed rest, and a bout of serious depression. She is a frequent speaker and presenter for both healthcare and arts organizations. Bird uses her work as a weaver and health professional to encourage a deeper understanding of how creating with one’s hands can enrich levels of well-being. Visit her website at www.marthabirdart.com.

For more information and any accessibility accommodations, please contact the venues directly: kaddatzgalleries.org and www.otchs.org.


Follow along on Instagram at @kaddatzgalleries, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OTCHS and www.facebook.com/kaddatzgallery and https://www.facebook.com/springboardartsLakeRegion/

Martha Bird is a fiscal year 2019 recipient of an Artist Initiative grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature; and by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.