



VILLAGE OF PINECREST

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Environmental Artist Spotlights Endangered Species through 360 Virtual Reality,
Participatory and Solo exhibitions*

Pinecrest, FL – The Schaus Swallowtail butterfly. The Eastern indigo snake. And the American crocodile.

All three have two things in common: they are endangered species and call Biscayne National Park home. They are three of 17 endangered species that live at the park. Environmental Artist Xavier Cortada highlights endangered species at the park and around the world through two thought-provoking exhibitions: **Endangered World: Biscayne National Park and 80.15W**.

Join us Sunday, August 12th from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Hibiscus Gallery in Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 Red Road for the exhibition's opening reception in celebration of Biscayne National Park's 50th anniversary. Meet Artist-in-Residence Xavier Cortada and special guest Park Ranger Gary Bremen. Guests will also have the opportunity to go under glaciers and dive atop coral reefs by watching **Let's Explore** a 360-degree virtual reality film presented by Honoring the Future and Steve Johnson. Exhibition runs through September 3, 2018.

Endangered World: Biscayne National Park

The exhibit is comprised of 360 brightly colored flags that represent one degree of earth's longitude and an endangered or threatened animal that lives at that longitude. The flags which lined the Biscayne National Park roads and trails for more than a mile, are now on display in the Hibiscus Gallery.

80.15W

In contrast to the vibrancy of **Endangered World: Biscayne National Park**, Cortada's **80.15W** features 17 somber works on paper that spotlight the 17 threatened and endangered species that call

Biscayne National Park home. The exhibit is titled for the longitude where Biscayne National Park is located. The pieces were created using carbon paper, a metaphor for the impact (or "carbon

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footprint”) that humans have had on that animal, even across the boundaries of protected nature preserve.

The work is fragile, almost ghostly. Guests see a reflection of themselves in the dark paper under glass furthering the metaphor of humans’ carbon footprint. The carbon paper originals were premiered at the national park’s gallery and are in the permanent collection of NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Xavier Cortada

Mr. Cortada’s accomplishments span the globe. Some of his most notable achievements include working with scientists and cultural groups around the world to produce numerous collaborative art projects including eco-art projects in Taiwan, Hawaii, and Holland, peace murals in Cyprus and Northern Ireland, child welfare murals in Bolivia and Panama, AIDS murals in Switzerland and South Africa, and environmental art installations at the South and North Poles. The artist has collaborated with a population geneticist on a project exploring human ancestral journeys out of Africa 60,000 years ago, with a molecular biologist to synthesize an actual DNA strand made from a sequence randomly generated by participants visiting his museum exhibit, and with botanists in eco-art projects to reforest mangroves and wildflowers. His work is in the collections of the Perez Art Museum Miami (PAMM), the NSU Museum of Art in Fort Lauderdale, the Whatcom Museum, the Patricia and Philip Frost Art Museum and the MDC Museum of Art + Design. His work has also been featured on National Geographic TV and the Discovery Channel.

For more about the artist, please visit www.cortada.com.

Gary Bremen

Mr. Bremen has been a park ranger at Biscayne National Park for 23 years. He is a writer, speaker and storyteller whose work has appeared in national magazines, on television, radio and podcasts. He is the recipient of the National Park Service’s Freeman Tilden award for excellence in interpretation and the Crystal Owl award for training excellence, as well as a special award from the United States Coral Reef Task Force for his efforts to educate South Floridians about the park and its inhabitants.

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