

Bio

As a native of the barrier islands off the coast of North Carolina, Fay Davis Edwards centers her work primarily on environmental concerns and climate change. Specifically, she works with coastal residents worldwide to collect narratives and share stories of sea level rise. Citing influence from artists such as Mel Chin, Laurie Anderson, and Sonya Clark, Fay works across disciplines employing painting, photography, installation, projection, and community engagement projects to chronicle these personal narratives. She teaches workshops nationally, exhibits her work regionally, and is a regular artistic contributor to *MilePost Magazine*. Fay earned her BFA from East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, and her MFA from Maine College of Art in Portland, Maine. Her home and studio are located on Roanoke Island, which she shares with a variety of critters including a lively flock of chickens and five very opinionated cats.

Artist Statement

Countless scientific reports from myriad sources indicate that climate change has a direct influence on sea level rise, impacting coastlines worldwide. The planet is experiencing stronger and more frequent storms that, when coupled with rising seas, brings great flooding and environmental destruction to coastal and low-lying areas. We hear much from disparate groups such as scientists, climate change deniers, and environmentalists, but there are other voices that are less frequently recognized: those living on the front lines of climate change. As an interdisciplinary artist, activist, and a native of a small island on the North Carolina coastline, I watch as the sea reclaims my own homeland through repeatedly stronger storms and higher flood levels. My work speaks to the crisis facing our shorelines and those who call these fragile areas home. Evacuation or relocation because of hurricanes and flooding are common topics of discussion. However, socio-economics, privilege, and mobility affect whether residents can evacuate, return, or rebuild. For those who have neither the means, the support, nor the ability to evacuate storm-prone areas, this is a very real and potentially life threatening problem. Mobility justice, concerned with movement inequality and accessibility, as well as recognizing populations who are affected most by this are a central focus of my work.