



Doug Eng Selected to Receive the Seventh Annual Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award
Noted photographer honored by The Community Foundation at his MOCA Jacksonville exhibition

JACKSONVILLE, Florida – November 18, 2021 —Douglas J. Eng, an award-winning photographer, installation artist and environmental advocate, was presented with the Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award last night by members of the Baker Family. Martha Frye Baker, chair of The Community Foundation’s Board of Trustees, made the announcement at MOCA Jacksonville, where Eng’s retrospective ‘Structure of Nature | Nature of Structure’ is currently on exhibit.

The Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award recognizes an artist whose work brings distinction to Northeast Florida, and is named for the late Ann McDonald Baker, whose leadership helped create and nurture such vital cultural gems such as The Community Foundation’s Art Ventures Fund, the Arts Assembly (now the Cultural Council), Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, and Greenscape, among others. As this year’s Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures award recipient, Eng received a \$10,000 unrestricted grant.

“It’s not only the power and precision of Doug’s photography that earned him this award, but also his deep reverence for the natural world and his willingness to advocate for its preservation,” noted Baker, who is Ann McDonald Baker’s daughter-in-law. “His career is also notable for the number of meaningful public art projects to which he’s contributed over the years—Imagination Squared, Message in a Bottle, The Red Chair Project, Blu Gras and Photographers for Freedom, among others.”

Eng’s visual interests are urban and natural landscapes, and his most recent projects focus on raising awareness of environmental issues in the Southeast by showing how trees and forests respond to human intervention. The condition of Jacksonville’s urban creeks is his current investigation.

A Jacksonville native and resident, Eng received his B.S. and M.Eng. degrees at Cornell University, studying structural engineering and architecture. This combination of arts and science germinated his interests in natural forms, systems, and design. Photography became the ideal medium to support his studies and document his particular view of the world. He is a three-time Critical Mass Finalist, and his work is exhibited widely in the Southeast, as well as held in many public and private collections.

The selection process for the Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award includes a knowledgeable, anonymous panel of advisors who put forward a short list of finalists after considering a wide range of deserving artists in all disciplines throughout the year. The selection committee (a Baker Family member, a Community Foundation trustee, a representative from the advisory panel and The Community Foundation president) reviews the finalists and names the winner. Past recipients include Terrance Patterson, David Engdahl, Jim Draper, Louise Freshman Brown, John Bunker and Jorge Peña.

Eng’s studio is located in CoRK Arts District in Jacksonville. For more information about the artist, go to <https://dougeng.art> or on Instagram [@dougengphoto](https://www.instagram.com/dougengphoto). His retrospective, ‘Structure of Nature | Nature of Structure’ will be at MOCA Jacksonville through January 2, 2022. For more information, go to www.mocajacksonville.org/exhibitions.



Art Ventures

For decades, The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida has invested in the local cultural community as part of an exceptional initiative known as Art Ventures. In 1989, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) chose Jacksonville to receive \$50,000/year for four years, provided that The Community Foundation and (at the time) The Arts Assembly work together to raise \$100,000/year in unrestricted gifts over the same period. The challenge was a success, and the first grants were made in 1990. Art Ventures provides support for the more fragile part of the arts community—emerging individual artists and small arts organizations—and it has provided more than \$1 million in grants to individuals and small arts organizations since its inception. In 2015, The Community Foundation created the Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award to honor the late Ann Baker, who led the initial Art Ventures fundraising with Courtenay Wilson, and who chaired The Community Foundation Board of Trustees from 2002-2003.

About The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida (www.jaxcf.org), Florida's oldest and largest community foundation, works to stimulate philanthropy to build a better community. The Foundation helps donors invest their philanthropic gifts wisely, helps nonprofits serve the region effectively, and helps people come together to make the community a better place. Now in its 57th year, the Foundation has assets of \$550 million and has made grants of approximately \$600 million since 1964.

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