

## The Artist's Gaze: The American Land Conservation Movement

Iconic landscapes such as Yosemite and Yellowstone Park were documented by artists long before they were even parks. Even the concept of a National Park in this country was the idea of the artist, George Catlin, who'd traveled the West in the mid 1800s painting Native American tribes. Flores's lecture will explore the Hudson River School of Painters and their followers who were instrumental in opening American's eyes to the majesty and importance of wild and open spaces in our country. Their work encouraged the decisions of policy makers and citizens to preserve large tracts of land in the 19th and 20th century.

Ana Flores is an award winning sculptor, and ecological designer. Her sculptural work focusing on cultural and ecological narratives is shown internationally and included in private, corporate and institutional collections throughout the United States. For two decades she has been promoting interdisciplinary dialogue and groundbreaking collaborations between the arts, sciences and humanities. She teaches Ecological Art and Design at Bryant University, and last year was the first Schumann Fellow in Environmental Art at the University of New Haven. Flores was also the first artist in residence for the U.S Fish and Wildlife Agency. For more: [www.earthinform.com](http://www.earthinform.com).