

JEANNE K SIMMONS

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Artist Statement:

Born and raised in coastal New Hampshire, I grew up exploring neighborhood marshes, woods, and the Atlantic coastline with my four semi-feral siblings. I graduated from the Maine College of Art in 1991 with a BFA in Sculpture, and attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture the following summer. In 1992, I attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago as a graduate student, but moved to the Pacific Northwest a short time later, where I found my forever home among its ferns, mosses, cedars, and lichens.

In 2018, I began to develop an ephemeral approach to art-making that involved integrating women into the landscape, adorning them with sculptural components fabricated out of natural materials, and capturing the moment through photography. *Grass Cocoon*, the first of these pieces, set me on a trajectory of exploring my relationship with the natural world, expressing my reverence for it, and affirming my connection to it. Working in nature allows me to address my profound concerns regarding our fragile rapport with the natural world. With my work, I attempt to convey my belief that we belong in nature, and that we are part of the very fabric of nature.

I live and work in Port Townsend with my husband, Gunter Reimnitz, who is also an artist, our daughter Matia, who is a dancer, our two dogs and a cockatiel. I am currently working toward my first one woman show to be held at the Jefferson Museum of Art and History, in Port Townsend, opening in March of 2024.

