

Simple Objects, 2018-2019

Collaborative project by Christy Heron-Clark and Stephanie Taylor
after the Camp Fire in Paradise, CA in November 2018

Found objects courtesy The Clark Family and The Clovers

Photographs by Stephanie Taylor

“When I listened to Christy Heron-Clark, born and raised in Paradise, read an essay about her family who lost everything in the Camp Fire, I asked her if she’d collaborate on *Simple Objects*, drawings and photographs of everyday things. In January 2019, Christy and I made the first of two trips to see what remained of the homes she grew up in. Christy’s grandfather designed and built the house that used to stand next door to her parents’...Both Christy and I feel like this has been a contemporary archaeological dig of sorts, an insane journey – of grief for what was, and fear for what might be – as we search for a way forward through reality, to resilience.” – *Stephanie Taylor*

“There is a meditative practice that seeks to quiet the mind by working to eliminate labels we normally assign to objects, that negates judgment, of trying to assign meaning or context...These objects are all that is physically left of our houses, and I am working on seeing them in a way that provides a deeper awareness, an understanding of them without having to label them. Even in their destruction, they are vehicles for me to at once see and also to let be...Objects held in suspension, their utility stops here, but their stories continue.” – *Christy Heron-Clark*

Responding with whatever materials are most suited to interpret the meaning of a place, **Stephanie Taylor** is driven by curiosity, location, and audience. She has been creating site-specific installations, murals, and paintings for over 40 years. Her work is in international private and corporate collections. Stephanie Taylor was born in Chico and raised in Sacramento. Taylor has a BA in history from UCLA and an MA in studio arts from CSU Sacramento, where she studied sculpture and drawing.

Christy Heron-Clark is a writer, science editor, and lifelong resident of Northern California. Her newswriting and feature stories have appeared in a variety of newspapers, magazines, journals, and books. She currently lives 90 miles from Paradise, near Sacramento. The fire has helped her see things differently. Paradise will always be the place she calls home.