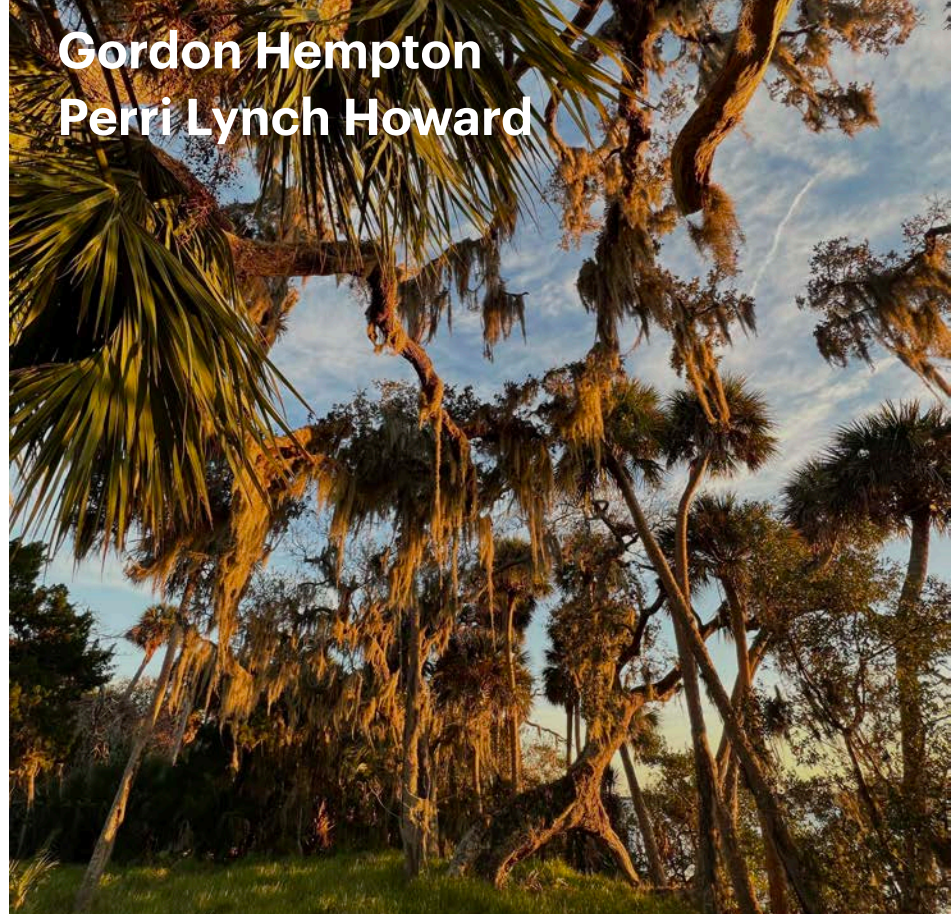




Gordon Hempton  
Perri Lynch Howard



**HEAR ME  
OUT**

Gordon Hempton  
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# HEAR ME OUT

*This creative work was produced under the Atlantic Center for the Arts artist-in-residence program at Canaveral National Seashore.*

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**Go Anyway.**

**Begin Anywhere.**



Canaveral National Seashore  
New Smyrna Beach, FL, USA  
February-March 2024



# ABOUT THE ARTISTS



Photo Credit: Eve Payor

## Gordon Hempton

Acoustic ecologist **Gordon Hempton** has circled the globe three times in pursuit of the Earth's rarest sounds. His sound portraits which record quickly vanishing natural soundscapes have been featured in *People* magazine and a national PBS television documentary, *Vanishing Dawn Chorus*, which earned him an Emmy. Hempton provides professional audio services to media producers, including Microsoft, Smithsonian, National Geographic and Discovery Channel. Recipient of awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Rolex Awards for Enterprise he is co-author of *One Square Inch of Silence: One Man's Quest to Preserve Quiet* (Free Press/Simon & Schuster, 2010) and Founding Partner of **Quiet Parks International**.

## Perri Lynch Howard

**Perri Lynch Howard** is a multi-disciplinary artist working in painting, drawing, installation, and sound. Her visual work and sound installations convey the passage of light, sound, and signal through landscapes on the front lines of climate change - a phenomenology of place. Howard received her BA from The Evergreen State College, BFA from the University of Washington, and MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art. Her art has a global reach through projects completed in Italy, Portugal, Brazil, Canada, the Arctic Circle, and in South India as a Fulbright Senior Research Scholar.

We were five-weeks embedded in Canaveral National Seashore, listening for pockets of quiet between bustles of commuter traffic overland, and overpopulated airspace above.

Our working methods combined a meticulous process of listening, recording, and acoustic analysis with off-hour conversations reflecting our intuitive response to place.

We drew inspiration from Mark Twain, John Muir, Walt Whitman, Shakespeare, and Doris “Doc” Leeper. If these fierce luminaries hadn't done their work, we couldn't do ours.

Sometimes in tandem, and otherwise in sequence, we led sound walks and created soundscapes for blind youth and community members longing for quiet at Canaveral National Seashore.

Here, a pristine lagoon shares an edge with the Kennedy Space Center, but the explosive sounds of rocket launches know no boundaries. We listened.

We learned. We opened our deep attention to the sounds, the stress, the silence.

Between the rockets, there were the planes. Two-hundred flight training schools in one-hundred square miles, they say. The untimely rhythm of engine stalls, steep turns, and touch-and-go practice peppers the sky above Doris Leeper's true home, affectionately named "Capers Acres."

The airspace is insufferably loud, and the dawn chorus fairly quiet. We wonder if there is some linkage between the two.

Do artists have a responsibility to defend the beauty that inspires their creative work? We quietly nod "yes."

Beneath a canopy of cosmic awe, we were permeated by the natural grandeur, the abundance of time and space, and our exploration of this canvas, vast and wild. In the words of Doris "Doc" Leeper, "This is enough."





People. Insiders. Pastimes. Speak. Always a lot. Mecca. Place. No way. Dog and then Bible, in my mind. Basis. And the music is supporting the environment. Agreed. I was there. It could happen. Sculpture. Work together. Indeed. **Hear me out.** The arts. It was enough. Indivisible. Design. Leap of faith. And I thought. And that's the part there seemed to be. The idea. I suddenly thought it was just an idea. It was just not possible. In close proximity to lifelong love. New spaces. Cross-fertilization. I love a challenge, I guess. The way you normally do things. It's all going to be a plus. While I was there. I'm basically self-taught. It takes guts to say that. The rest now is history. To make people believe. We were also talking about it. It made all the difference in the world. We were asked that question.

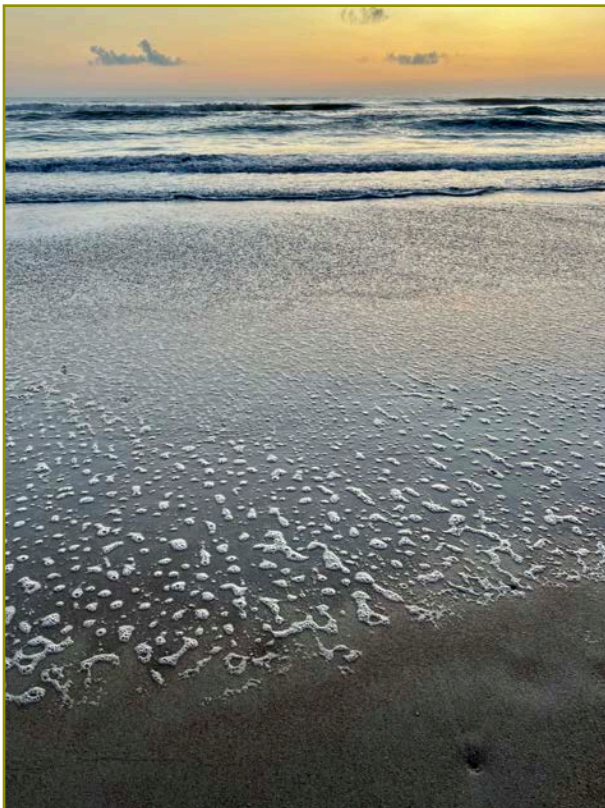
Maybe if there was a little epiphany. There is and there was. One of the things I need to say is this. It's an extraordinary opportunity. I kept thinking about this. It's remarkably like I envisioned it. I would kill for an opportunity like that. But I think it's important to know I'm happy doing what I want to do. and playing in my own little sand pile. To be able to do whatever they want to in that period of time. One of the funny things about this whole deal is that I was never particularly interested in sharing with other artists. People have asked me that repeatedly. Well, of all the people that had this idea. Because you always worked alone.







# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



With sand between our toes and hearts brimming with gratitude, the artists acknowledge the incredible gift of life on Earth. The abundant flora and fauna, the breathtaking landscapes – all have played a vital role in inspiring and shaping this work. We extend our deepest thanks to these magnificent teachers.

Furthermore, we express our sincere appreciation to a few absolutely essential individuals and organizations whose invaluable support made this work possible.

Thank you, Eve Payor from the Atlantic Center for the Arts and Nathan Wolek from Stetson University for above-and-beyond project support, local knowledge, and public outreach. For residency support, accommodations, and broken window replacement, we express our heartfelt thanks to Laura Henning, Avia "Michell" Woulard, and the intrepid staff at Canaveral National Seashore. Thank you to our project partners, Quiet Parks International, the Atlantic Center for the Arts, Friends of Canaveral National Seashore, and the Young Sound Seekers. It was such an honor to join in community with you and listen.

We stand humbled by the chance to live and create within this visionary landscape shaped by Doris "Doc" Leeper. Her unwavering spirit as an artist and activist illuminates the path, leaving an indelible mark of inspiration that will forever enrich our lives.