

This installation is the result of an arts-integrated Side x Side program for third graders at Gerald E. Talbot Elementary School in Portland. Students explored the concept of sustenance as they studied river ecology and migratory salmon with classroom teacher Jes Ellis. They then worked with teaching artist Pamela Moulton to create sculptures of salmon and plates of food using recycled denim. The individual student sculptures have been combined to create this installation.

Given the recent lived realities of the COVID-19 global pandemic and the increased awareness of race, income, food insecurity, and opportunity inequality, arts integration is key to meaningful, inclusive, and holistic learning. Students taking part in this crucial conversation side by side with artists and community members aligns with Side x Side's mission and belief that arts integration can be an important catalyst for learning and social change.

This program was made possible by Side x Side, Inc., the LilySarahGrace Fund, Maine Humanities Council, teaching artist Pamela Moulton, and the dedicated staff and teachers at Gerald E. Talbot Elementary School.

Whooo is Side x Side?

2023, recycled denim