



The Mural Artist

Chesapeake Conservancy's logo comes to life in a

breathtaking new way in a 75-foot mural at the Earl Conservation Center, which is home to Chesapeake Conservancy, Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation, Chesapeake Legal Alliance and the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education.

Made possible through the generosity of the Earl family (see related story, p.3), the mural was commissioned to welcome visitors and inspire staff. More than just a work of art, it serves as a visual narrative of the Bay's beauty, resilience and the importance of protecting it for future generations. The artist, Gayle Mangan Kassal, an Annapolis resident known for her vibrant and dynamic murals, has created art for hospitals, schools and institutions from Boston to Washington, D.C. She is also a highly regarded educator and a member of the Maryland Pastel Society and Annapolis Art Alliance.

The mural spans nearly the entire length of the first floor and features iconic locations such

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Bay Vision

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as Cape Henry, Fones Cliffs, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and the region's tributaries and wetlands, along with native flora and fauna. Each scene flows into the next, creating a seamless journey through the Chesapeake's diverse ecosystems.

Kassal worked in close collaboration with Chesapeake Conservancy staff, environmental experts and naturalists to ensure every scene resonated ecologically.

"It was an honor to meet James Earl, himself a talented artist, and to bring the Chesapeake Conservancy's logo and mission to life," Kassal said.

"Spending so much time in Earl Conservation Center, I have come to know the passionate conservationists who work here. I hope the mural inspires them and honors the Earl family legacy. The Chesapeake Bay is a special place for my family and my chosen home."

She added, "I'm especially grateful to the Chesapeake Conservancy team, to Lauren



Mural artist Gayle Mangan Kassal
COURTESY PHOTO

Peeler Brice and to Broadneck High School student Addison Thornton for supporting my research into the many stories, species and landscapes that are woven into the design."

Chesapeake Conservancy welcomes you to come see the beautiful mural. Please let us know you're coming at info@chesapeakeconservancy.org.

Visit gaylemangankassal.com to see more of Kassal's stunning artwork.