

# Seekers Gallery: Environmental Art by Paul Downs



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Paul offers this reflection on his work:

*"Paul Downs grew up near the woods of Greenbelt, Maryland and spent his youth exploring and bonding with the natural world through these woods. He discovered, through the years, that clays, berries, lichens, and fallen branches can be molded into images that reflect his connection with the natural world."*

*"Emerson and Thoreau and readings of Native American history and beliefs are all reflected in his art. For 17 years, Paul*

*has engaged in saving the last 225 acres of the Green Belt from development – now a forest preserve. His efforts have helped to enlighten his community about the beauty and wonder of the woods.*

*"His environmental work and art work help to bring people closer to the tranquility of the natural world and to the fine art of living with the Earth rather than on it. His creations may generate a sense of reverence for the beauty of nature or may revere the wise souls of Native American history and beliefs. R. W. Emerson once said "In the woods, a person returns to childhood." The medium of the forest gives a playful and lighthearted spirit to Paul's work yet there is a serious serenity and calming effect at the same time."*

Enjoy Paul's collection during the life of Seekers Church or during other events at our home on Carroll Street. They will be with us until mid-October. Individual pieces may be purchased from Paul.