San Francisco-based sculptor Tom Hill returns to the Woodson Art Museum this fall for an ambitious artist residency and site-specific installation inspired by murmurations – the avian aerial phenomenon, reminiscent of a school of fish, occurring when large flocks of birds fly as one to create undulating cloud-like forms.

Experiencing a murmuration is a shockingly spectacular event. A nightly impromptu air-ballet forms layers of dark and shade in ever-changing swirls against the evening sky, a Rorschach test of social choreography.

Tom Hill

During the residency, community members will join Tom in creating wire birds to contribute to a flock, which will be installed as a single sculptural work for all to enjoy at the Woodson Art Museum.

October 2 & 3    Sat. & Sun.    10 – 4 pm
Sculptural Puppets with Tom Hill
Explore avian gesture and movement and create an original marionette-like puppet. Materials and lunches provided; $120 for members; $140 for non-members. Scholarships available. Call the Museum at 715.845.7010 to register.

October 7    Thursday 5:30 – 6:30 pm
The Science & Art of Murmuration
Dr. Stanley Temple, University of Wisconsin-Madison Beers-Bascom Professor Emeritus in Conservation and Aldo Leopold Foundation Senior Fellow, offers insights into the complex and fascinating spectacle of murmurations, followed by conversation with sculptor Tom Hill on artistic representations of flocks and animal movements en masse.