

# Climate, Sustainability and the Arts

Interdisciplinary working group at Temple University presents  
an Earth Week international video festival, April 16-20

## April 16 Opening events

**Program I:** 5:30 pm SERC video wall installation ( daily to Apr 20, 5 -10pm )  
Temple University Science Education and Research Center

### **World-Wide-Walks / between earth & water / DESERTS I** ( 6 mins 2018 )

**Peter d'Agostino**

World-Wide-Walks have been performed on six continents over the past four decades. Conceived as a series of walks exploring natural-cultural-virtual environments in the four major deserts of North America: Chihuahuan, Mojave, Sonoran and Great Basin, this video is a preview of the Chihuahuan Desert segment. It includes soaptree yucca plants as testaments to natural survival in the desert ecosystem; fields of petroglyphs dating back to the Ancestral Pueblo period (c. 1300 to 1600 CE); and the location of the first Atomic Bomb detonated in 1945 preceding Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

### **Everyday Brilliance: Flow and Reflection in Wissahickon Creek** (10 mins 2018)

**Merián Soto**

Water flows. Every day, nature changes. We take it for granted. Climate change has accelerated and expanded range of change. Whole ecosystems are forever disappearing at a rapid rate. Nature is disappearing. Merián Soto has been recording movement in nature in Wissahickon Valley Park, throughout the seasons, since 2006. Her installations and performances aim to provoke sensory experience and to remind us of our connection to nature. Everyday Brilliance: Flow and Reflection in Wissahickon Creek records water flows a morning in Fall 2017, in Philadelphia's Wissahickon Valley Park.

## **Program II:** 6:00 pm Media Arts, Dance & Science projects

### **Our Health, Our City** (5:47 mins HD 2017) **Plastic Commune**

This documentary, exploring the concerns of Cambodians living in the vibrant capital city of Phnom Penh, is about the impacts of trash and plastic waste on their health and well-being. Produced by Plastic Commune - Mab Chum, Chanrado Sok, Vannat Chhit, Sopheary Hul, Sina Mok, Vanda Sorn & James Speck.

**Michael Kuetemeyer** led this 2017 American Arts Incubator (AAI) international creative exchange program in Cambodia. managed by ZERO1 in partnership with the U.S. State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

**Mi Nombre es Olive Ridley** ( 5 mins HD 2018 ) **Deirdre Maitre**

An experimental documentary produced in collaboration with ASVO (Association for Volunteers in Protected Areas). Endangered sea turtles and selfies are juxtaposed in this contemplative piece about the intersection between environmental preservation and human consumption that threatens the coastline of Montezuma, Costa Rica.

**Where** (4 mins, 2018)

**Ying Yu**

The lack of water has seriously affected much of the world, but not everyone is aware of it. There are still a lot of people who unknowingly waste a lot of water. This video intends to awaken people's awareness of the preciousness of the water we unconsciously waste: of the need for water conservation; that everywhere in the world people are dying and sickened because they can't drink clean water, that every drop of water we waste could be saving lives.

**Source** (12 mins, 2018)

**Prudence Amsden, Teresa Barr, Alissa Elegant, Tyra Jones-Blains, Enya-Kalia Jordan, Kalila Kingsford Smith, Dawn States, Avi Wold-Bourochoff**

Excerpts from Source an evening of dance and performance celebrating water created by students of the Temple University Department of Dances in celebration of World Water Day 2018.

**Through the Eyes of Integrative Ecologists** ( 10 mins 2018 )

**Jocelyn Behm and Matthew Helmus**, Integrative Ecology Lab (iEcoLab)

This unedited compilation documents the last decade of field research performed by these scientists while working in China, Mexico, Curacao, Bermuda, the Pacific Northwest, and the local farms of Southeastern Pennsylvania. Historically, ecologists have studied nature in isolation of human influences, but today nature resides on an earth dominated by humans and ecology is increasingly interdisciplinary. Economic and social sciences must be integrated with ecology to define our new nature, devise solutions for its protection, and tackle global environmental problems.

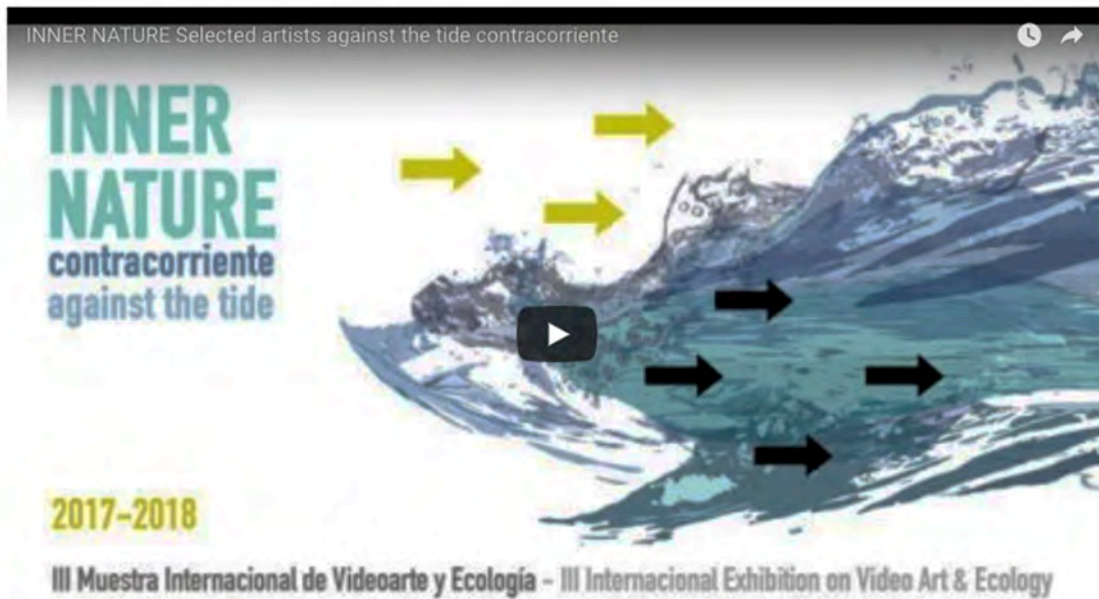
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**Apr 18** Program III: 5:30pm

### **Inner Nature: Against the Tide** ( 3rd Edition, 50 mins © 2017 )

A project of Inner Nature Network, UPV. Curated by: Estela López De Frutos,  
Lorena Rodríguez Mattalía, Chiara Sgaramella, Polytechnic University of Valencia, Spain.



Official Section:

#### **A Virtual Guided Tour In The Aegean Sea** Ronnie Karfiol ( 5:35 mins)

How do you travel? In the era of refugee-ism, there is a rise of "online refugee guides" providing instructions through live podcasts. This video work tries to show a hidden side of the internet. The normally Google-Earth tagged vacation photos of western tourists on yachts are replaced with "boat selfies" refugees have uploaded to Facebook. As the satellite camera glides over the virtual Aegean Sea, the "refugee guide" voice tells of the dangers on the road, and we can look at this internet phenomenon as means of both needed survival tactics and human smuggling at the same time.

#### **River in Flood** Johanna Reich ( 4:48 min.)

Water is the primary medium through which climate change influences Earth's ecosystem and thus the livelihood and well-being of societies. The film *River in Flood* shows the artist looking for found objects after the high-water began to drop. The artist as an explorer investigates found remnants of a dying species that has started to erase their own future: Remnants of human environment and garments become abstract compositions for a few seconds.

**The Weather Forecast** Roosje Verschoor ( 5 min.)

This film installation is beamed on two screens in a 90 degree corner. Water stands as different signifiers on how mankind is divided. To have water in abundance, to have none at all. To have the money and means to run from water, or to be a victim of it. Water can be a way for people to flee, but it can also be something people flee from. It draws a line between who is included or excluded.

**Menú nuclear** Juanma Valentín y Lucia ( 4:58 min.)

The work addresses the influence of nuclear power plants on the Ebro river in Spain, their environmental impact, the consequences on the trophic chain and on our food and health. It ends with a reflection on possible solutions and alternatives to the use of the nuclear energy. A reflection on how all activities derived from nuclear power plants end up impacting our food, the water we drink and we irrigate our crops with. The cartography of the Ebro, embroidered in red thread, alludes to the great organism represented by this river basin.

**Disappearing Streams** Nobina Gupta ( 3.44 min.)

The crisis of water can only be felt if we really experience it. This video relates to the dying streams due to climate change in the Himalayas. A story of how people have to walk for hours in the rugged terrain of Ladakh to fill a pitcher of water for their families and children to drink. Impermanence is an undeniable truth of our existence. What is real is the existing moment, the present that is a product of the past, or a result of the previous causes and actions. The core of existence in traditional past was based on a symbiotic relationship or a spiritual dialogue with nature and not on monologues we are currently creating. The way ahead is to respect the vulnerability of our environment. A conscious effort to recognize and value basic elements in nature realizing all that is around us now might go extinct the very next moment. Learn from each other, motivate our future generations, to follow examples of alternative livelihoods and reemploy them in our modern lives to create relevant platforms that can globally impact actions and experiences.

**The story of water** Pat Van Boeckel ( 5:20 min.)

At the source of the river Livenza tons of water leave the depths of the earth. The soil trembles, the water pushes and sings. It is colourless and at the same time deep jade green. It disappears in a black hole and then returns. It has stories to tell. The story of water is a project of Karin van der Molen en Pat van Boeckel in Humus Park, Polcenigo, Italy.

Variable Section:

**Sea Change** Anna Day ( 3:38 min.)

This piece is a poetic film, exploring place through a close encounter with the shifting sands and microscopic remnants of sea creatures that are cast up along the strandline of a British beach.

**Lifetime, Sooner or Later** Despina Economopoulou ( 4:54 min.)

We are introduced in a rather complex and chaotic universe (reflecting parts of our way of life) but nonetheless close to a reality that will sooner or later come up. Water scarcity, pollution and water stress, even in countries of the western world, is an alarming reality that we need to be aware of. Personal responsibility and awareness is one of the tools to get prepared, face the facts and act sooner rather than later.

**New lands** Antonia Bañados ( 5 min.)

*New lands* proposes a contained environment, a submerged landscape in which ten glass pieces -cryptically lighted from below and taking their shapes from fragments of polystyrene packaging- serve as an architectural habitat for one single inhabitant: an albino amphibian from Central Mexico who floats behind the glass, looking back at us with an unreadable stare. The sunken ruins evoke forgotten and unrealised architectural and scientific utopias of the 20th century, in order to create a liminal space where temporality becomes uncertain and a green mantle of nature grows between industrial remains.

**Water makes life possible on Earth** Kim Jin Kook ( 2 :11 min.)

This work portrays different plants, fruits, fungi and flowers frozen in ice blocks. By reversing their thawing process through a time-lapse, the author evokes the extraordinary potential of life to sprout, flourish and bear fruit in a great diversity of plant forms. In effect, the stems, petals and leaves seem to be regaining all their vigor thanks to the action of water.

**Equilibrar – to balance** Clare Charnley & Patricia Azevedo (1:27 min.)

*Equilibrar - to balance* is a performance to camera in which two artists, from opposite sides of the world, negotiate working together. Here is a sort of silent game that is played blind, yet we are in a position to watch. With uncalculated movement, hands and arms feel around for the other, sometimes with great sensitivity. At other times they seem gently comic. The arms take on a dynamic that is almost expressive, as if a new language is about to evolve.

**River text** Hugh Livingston ( 3.29 min.)

Each creek feeding into the watershed of the Russian River (Sonoma, California) is portrayed with a snake of text drawn from government documents about the river. Real-time data from the internet drives the installation, providing the text and also real-time adjustment of the text size and speed based on USGS flow data.