

“Listening to The Web of Life”/ Interdisciplinary Workshop/ March 17-18, 2022

In preparation of the exhibition *Helen and Newton Harrison: California Work*, an international group of ecological artists, writers, and scholars gathered in La Jolla to reflect on the theme “Listening to the Web of Life” (in Newton Harrison’s directive). Taking themes central to the Harrisons’ work as a point of departure, the workshop addressed such issues as the relationship between art and science in the field of Ecological Art, environmental justice, possible frameworks for an ecological art practice in the Anthropocene, and visual culture in Environmental Sciences.

Click the links below to view the recorded workshop proceedings.

[VIDEO 1: Day 1: *Poiesis of Knowledge and Visual Culture in Environmental Sciences*](#)

Participants will explore complexities in the relationship between art and science, comparing and contrasting the processes of knowledge-production, modes of thought, and ways of seeing in Environmental Science and Ecological Art.

Schedule

Introduction: Heath Fox, Lauren Lockhart, and Tatiana Sizonenko

Keynote Lecture: Anne Douglas and Chris Fremantle, “Thinking Ecology with Art: Helen Mayer Harrison and Newton Harrison’s Prophetic Works 1970-85.”

Roger Malina, “Humans are Badly Designed to Understand the Universe: Let’s Start by Redesigning Human Nature.”

[VIDEO 2: Schedule](#)

Monica Manolescu, “Aesthetic Agency and Literary Expression in the Harrisons: Poetics and Politics.”

Tim Collins, “Ideas and Provocations in Environmental Artworking.”

Art Miller, “Perspectives on the Influence of Art on Science: If there is no Art in Science, I’m out of a job!”

Brandon Ballengée, “Searching for Ghosts of the Gulf.”

Judit Hersko, “A Story About Stories.”

[VIDEO 3: Schedule](#)

Lucy HG Solomon and Cesar Baio (Cesar & Lois), “Connecting Human and Nonhuman Intelligences.”

Ruth Wallen, “Walking with Trees.”

Reiko Goto, “Empathic Relationships with Non-Human Others.”

Alexander Gershunov, “Collaboration of Art and Climate Science in the Anthropocene.”

[VIDEO 4: Day 2: *Aesthetic Agency*](#)

Participants will discuss the possibilities of ecological art practices in the Anthropocene, the modern age in which human activity has vastly influenced the climate and where the pressure of global warming on all planetary systems is frightening and alarming. Specifically, participants will explore the dimensions of aesthetic agency and what it means for an artist to work in the domains of science, urban planning, design, and policy development.

Schedule

Introduction: Tatiana Sizonenko, “Helen Mayer Harrison and Newton Harrison: Artistic Metaphors and Climate Change Science.”

Anne Whiston Spirn, “Helen and Newton Harrison: To Bring Forth a New State of Mind.”

David Haley, “Metapoiesis: Art that Yields to Life.”

Petra Kruse and Kai Reschke, “Means of Communicating Ecological Art to the Public and to Decision-Makers: Is It Possible to Create Common Awareness and Bring About Specific Changes?”

Newton Harrison, “To Give Back More Than We Take, A Sensorium for the World Ocean.”

[VIDEO 5: Day 2: *Aesthetic Agency*](#)

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Schedule

David Familian, “Systems Thinking.”

Betsy Damon, “Igniting Creativity, Complexity in Action.”

Lillian Ball, “Mangrove Rescue in Bimini: Connecting Art, Restoration, and Community.”

Cathy Fitzgerald and Nikos Patedakis, “Dangerous Creativity: Advancing Transformative Wisdom-Based Learning for Sustainable Cultural Renewal from the Haumea Ecovercity.”