

Raising the Temperature Art in Environmental Reactions

Community Partnership Exhibition Program

Feb 2
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The Community Partnership Exhibition Program at the Queens Museum provides opportunities for our cultural and other nonprofit organizational partners to develop and mount short-term exhibitions based on their programs and our collaborative projects. In addition, it regularly showcases the work of students in the Museum's Department of Education programs.

Raising the Temperature is curated by Luchia Meihua Lee in partnership with the Rainforest Art Foundation in Long Island City, where the exhibition will be on view May 1–31, 2014.

Raising the Temperature is supported by the Ministry of Culture, Taiwan, Goldman Art Management, New York China Association of Collectors, Amax Printing, INC. and the Taiwanese American Arts Council. Additional Funding provided by the New York Department of Cultural Affairs and New York State Council of the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

Cover: Hai Zhang, Untitled Photograph from *Awaiting the Rain Series*, Costa Rica, 2010.

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"It is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-twentieth century... Global Mean Sea Level will continue to rise throughout the 21st century."

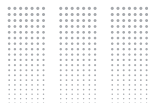
—From *Climate Change 2013: the Physical Science Basis*

No one is external to the social and cultural context of life. The current environmental crisis is the result of decades of prioritizing material value to the exclusion of cultural change and sustainability. *Raising the Temperature: Art in Environmental Reactions* presents nine artists – Miya Ando, Todd Gavin, Kay H Lin, Pey Chwen Lin, Jeremiah Teipen, Sarah Walko, Xi Fei, Marlene Tseng Yu, and Hai Zhang – searching for a new vantage point on this urgent and critical subject. The perspective is aesthetic, not aggressively political, with scientific alarms filtered through artistic sensibilities. The works presented here comment on our changing relationship to the world we inhabit or discuss the conditions and consequences of our urban life and its toll on the planet.

The artists in *Raising the Temperature* may be arranged in two strands. The first addresses technological changes in our society that reinforce behaviors contributing to the environmental crisis. Jeremiah Teipen transplants information abused in cyber space to his artwork and mimics the busy city we inhabit, while Pey Chwen Lin uses the *Eve Clone series* to criticize the dehumanizing effects of technology, and Xi Fei comments on the Darwinian nature of Manhattan life. His work indicts not technology itself but the political system that fails to evaluate its consequences. Hai Zhang's photographs of Chinese construction sites underline the anarchic quality of this feverish building boom. Todd Gavin's mixed-media wall-mounted piece uses coal, charcoal, and oil on cement mortar to discuss the multivalent role of carbon.

The artists in the second strand share a more romantic or intimate approach. Marlene Tseng Yu reacts to melting glaciers with black and white, abstract, acrylic paintings in her series *Ice Cracking*, while Sarah Walko reassembles natural and manmade materials to create magical assemblages suggesting that we have behaved like commanders of the biosphere. Miya Ando's *Shimenawa Sora [Sky] Study* recalls an ancient Japanese practice of roping off sacred objects and underlines our devaluation of nature. Kay Lin's *Sun, Air, Water – Balloon* refers both to restraint and to the solidarity that will lift us to a better land.

Ecology is the science of the relationship between the organism and its environments, and harmony with our ecosystem requires a partnership between human culture and the physical conditions of life. The artists in this exhibition question fundamental assumptions and their implications, offering insight into the relationship between art and the environmental crisis.



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