



Pelham Art Center

January 28, 2009

To: LISTINGS/CRITICS/ FEATURES
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Art and Ecology Exhibit to Open at Pelham Art Center



Subhankar Banerjee, "Snow Geese II," 2002. Chromogenic print.

*Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.*

And for all this, nature is never spent. . .
-- Gerard Manley Hopkins

And for all this, nature is never spent
March 13 – April 25, 2009
Opening Reception & All Age Art Workshop
Friday, March 13, 6:30- 8:00pm
FREE & OPEN TO PUBLIC

From the time of Manifest Destiny to the age of global warming art has had a powerful impact on environmental reform. Paintings, photographs, and the environmental-themed coffee-table book were all instrumental in the creation of America's national parks and in the passage of The Wilderness Act (1964), legislation that would guarantee the permanence of the nation's wilderness preserves. Recently, the success of Al Gore's book and film, *An Inconvenient Truth* — and the film's capacity to alert and inform a diverse population to the problem of global warming — is a prime example of the way in which art can be used in aid of the environment. Today artists are working with scientists, marine biologists, botanists, urban planners and industrial engineers to discover creative solutions to ecological problems.

And for all this, nature is never spent is an exhibition of contemporary artists working in a variety of traditional and nontraditional media, who employ their talents in the service of increasing environmental awareness, providing a variety of approaches and models of participatory engagement, designing solutions to environmental problems and broadening public concern for what is becoming the most pressing issue of our time — degradation of the environment. **The participating artists are: Subhankar Banerjee, Sue Coe, Mark Jones, Samm Kunce, Stephanie Lempert, Jesse Potts, Christy Rupp, Chris Sollars, Alan Sonfist, and Susan Unterberg.** The exhibition, organized by Jo Anna Isaak and Fordham University students, is hosted by Pelham Art Center and will be on view March 13 - April 25, 2009. There is no fee to visit the exhibit.

RELATED PROGRAMMING

Author's Talk and Film Screening

Tuesday, March 31, 2009, 6:30-8:30 – FREE

This Borrowed Earth: Lessons from the World's Worst Environmental Disasters

Reading and discussion about global environmental disasters by author and environmentalist Robert Emmet Hernan. Lecture followed by screening of "When Elephants Paint: The Quest of Two Russian Artists to Save the Elephants of Thailand," a film by Vitaly Komar and Alex Melamid.

Earth Day Work Party & All Age Art Workshop

Wednesday, April 22, 3-4:30pm - FREE

On Earth Day, Pelham-based landscape firm Greener By Design, greenerdesigns.com, will lead an Earth Day work party to prune, plant, mulch, transplant, compost, and weed the Art Center's grounds and courtyard. Please meet in the courtyard and bring work gloves.

Closing Reception & Earth Day Art Making Workshops

Saturday, April 25, 1:30-3:30pm - FREE

In celebration of Earth Day, Fordham University students involved in the exhibition *And for all this, nature is never spent*, lead tours of the exhibit and invite the public to participate in art-making activities.

Jo Anna Isaak is the Marion Chair in Art History at Fordham University. Her research and writing focus on modern and contemporary art and critical theory and more recently on environmental issues. Her first book traced the connections between visual art and literature in European modernism; her second book was an exploration of laughter as a revolutionary strategy employed by contemporary women artists. She has organized several art exhibitions that have toured the U.S. and Canada including: "The Revolutionary Power of Women's Laughter," "Looking Forward, Looking Black" and "H2O," an exhibition about water and the human body. She has been the recipient of several awards including The J. Paul Getty Fellowship and the Hewlett Mellon Fellowship for Research in the Soviet Union.

Robert Emmet Hernan is recently retired from his post as Senior Counsel for Commissioner Initiatives at the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Mr. Hernan was responsible for identifying environmental problems not being addressed by the Department, identifying and developing resources to address these problems, and implementing enforcement and other actions to correct the problems. A major initiative for the Commissioner of DEC was the Stop Smoking Trucks enforcement campaign in communities disproportionately impacted by pollution. Prior to this, Mr. Hernan worked as an Assistant Attorney General for the State where he served as a trial counsel in the Love Canal litigation, among other major cases involving environmental pollution. He is the author of many articles, and most recently, *Vulnerable On This Earth: Environmental Disasters of the Twentieth Century*, a book telling the stories of 16 environmental disasters throughout the world, illustrated by photographs of the events, to be published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2009.

Pelham Art Center provides the public with the place, the resources and the opportunity to see, study and experience the arts in a community setting. Active since 1969, Pelham Art Center now serves more than 15,000 people every year. Pelham Art Center receives funding from New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; Westchester Arts Council, through county government; Westchester Jewish Community Services; Comer Family Fund; Nurses Network of America; Town of Pelham; New York State Department of Education through State Senator Jeff Klein; Brewer Family Fund; Stryemonde Foundation; Target; Junior League of Pelham; Robin's Art + Giving; Members; and Annual Fund Donors.

For more information or high resolution images, please contact:

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