



Pelham Art Center

March 20, 2009

To: LISTINGS/CRITICS/ FEATURES

Contact: Elizabeth Saperstein, Gallery & Program Manager, 914-738-2525 ext. 113

Author and Environmentalist Robert Emmet Hernan to Give Talk at Pelham Art Center

"In the years to come, the line that Hernan draws between natural and environmental disasters will blur. . . . What will remain the same, however, is human vulnerability. That vulnerability endangers us, of course-but it is closely related to the love, the shared concern, that might save us yet." – Bill McKibben

This Borrowed Earth:

Lessons from the World's Worst Environmental Disasters

Reading and Discussion with Robert Emmet Hernan

When Elephants Paint: The Quest of Two Russian Artists to Save the Elephants of Thailand,

A film by Vitaly Komar and Alex Melamid

Tuesday, March 31, 2009

6:30-8:30pm

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Pelham Art Center is pleased to welcome author and environmentalist **Robert Emmet Hernan** for a reading and discussion about global environmental disasters. He is the author of many articles, and most recently, *This Borrowed Earth: Lessons from the World's Worst Environmental Disasters*, a book telling the stories of 15 environmental disasters throughout the world, illustrated by photographs of the events, to be published by Palgrave Macmillan in late 2009.

The 20th century brought technological advances that led to improved quality of life for millions. But technology also brought devastation at Chernobyl, Bhopal, Minamata, Love Canal, and other places throughout the world now synonymous with the dark side of technology and human action. *This Borrowed Earth* is the first comprehensive book to explore the causes and consequences of fifteen major manmade environmental disasters in the twentieth century.

Mr. Hernan's reading and discussion will be followed by a screening of *When Elephants Paint: The Quest of Two Russian Artists to Save the Elephants of Thailand*, by Vitaly Komar and Alex Melamid. There will be a short intermission between the reading and the film screening.

This Borrowed Earth is presented in connection with ***And for all this, nature is never spent***, 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, broadening public concern for what is becoming the most pressing issue of our time, environmental degradation. 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, will be on view March 13 - April 25, 2009. Hours: Tues- Friday 10am-5pm; Saturday 12-4pm. There is no charge to visit the exhibit.

RELATED PROGRAMMING

Earth Day Work Party

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.

About Robert Emmet Hernan. 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.

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; Strypemonde Foundation; Target; Junior League of Pelham; Robin's Art + Giving; Members; and Annual Fund Donors.

For more information or high resolution images, please contact:

Elizabeth Saperstein, Gallery & Public Program Manager
Pelham Art Center
155 Fifth Avenue
Pelham, NY 10803
914. 738. 2525 ext.113
www.pelhamartcenter.org
galleries@pelhamartcenter.org