

CENTER FOR VISUAL ART

Water Line: A Creative Exchange Concerning Water



Contact:

Cecily Cullen, managing director and curator
conleycu@msudenver.edu, 303.294.5207

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Center for Visual Art

MSU Denver
965 Santa Fe Dr., Denver, CO 80204
msudenver.edu/cva

Natascha Seideneck, "Uncanny Territory"

The Project in Brief

Water is the center of concern and debate locally, nationally and globally. Shrinking glaciers in Rocky Mountain National Park that source the major rivers in Colorado affect us directly in Colorado, while protestors battle with oil companies for the right to protect rivers in North Dakota, and students in Michigan and Oregon have been drinking contaminated water from drinking fountains at their schools. The crisis of access to clean, plentiful water has been waged worldwide for decades. It has become an immediate and localized crisis.

Water Line is a project that examines the loaded issue of water, and promotes stewardship, rights, advocacy and activism through the work of contemporary artists, and in direct conversation with students, policy analysts and scientists. The exhibition, lectures, workshops and a symposium will be held at the MSU Denver Center for Visual Art 8/4/17 - 10/21/17.

Water Line Exhibition

The Center for Visual Art (CVA), Metropolitan State University of Denver's off-campus contemporary art space, will serve as a hub for the artist-led response to the water crisis. The exhibition will feature artists' critical response to institutional and individual actions that contribute to the water crisis, as well as imaginative solutions, practical and not, for addressing the issue. The challenge presented to artists will be to engage audiences in multi-channel dialogue about water, with the intent to make visitors think differently about solutions to this problem that affects everyone, and requires the efforts of all.

Artists

Each of the artists, collectives, musicians and content contributors has been

selected for their individual voice and expression addressing water struggles in compelling, provocative and poetic measure. Each contributor is examining our relationship with water and reflecting upon society's role in protecting the potential environmental legacy for future generations.

Winter Count Collective is a group of five artists from Brooklyn, NY, Santa Fe, NM and Sitka, AK. They will contribute video art, film, photographs and sculpture focused on the threat to water and land in Standing Rock, ND.

Nicholas Galanin and Merritt Johnson will contribute short film and sculpture.

The Infamous Flapjack Affair, an indie folk band, journeyed along the Colorado River for three weeks learning about the people and places that depend on the river system. Band members wrote original music and, in collaboration with the National Park Service, created a documentary film titled *Confluence*. A multimedia installation of film and music will be exhibited. A screening of the full length film and a performance by the band are in planning stages. <https://vimeo.com/155027327>

Matt Jenkins will contribute installation work addressing water in Flint, MI.

Cannupa Hanska Luger will contribute ceramic sculpture reflecting on the impact the oil industry has on human lives and our water resources.

Phillip Mann will contribute sculpture that recreates early explorations of the Colorado River.

Anna McKee's work *WAIS Reliquary* is a sculptural representation of 68,000 years of climate records taken from the West Antarctic Ice Sheet. The 22' long x 14.5" deep x 9' high sculpture consists of silk, glass, glacier water and wood. The work also includes a multi-channel soundscape by sound artist Steve Peters made from the sounds of the glass ampules used in the visual work, referencing the crystalline qualities of ice and the vertical representation of geological time implied by the drilled ice core.

Natascha Seideneck will contribute photographs, video and installation work reflecting on the impact of global warming on water stability.

Additional artists, currently unconfirmed, will be added to the exhibition using the same criteria as listed above.

Water Line Symposium

The One World One Water Center for Urban Water Education and Stewardship (OWOW) is a partner in the project. Through the research and community collaborations of OWOW, the project team will assemble partnerships for students, artists and participants to engage with scientists, activists and scholars. These partnerships will be held as public community events designed to raise water consciousness and provide a platform for the art communities and the water steward communities to come together in conversation.

Outcome

Visitors and participants of all ages and backgrounds will develop a keener understanding of the importance and fragility of water and a responsibility that all of us have to be effective water stewards to ensure the continued vitality of Denver for future generations. Through a wide variety of creative experiences individuals will

learn not only about the challenges we face, but what can be done both individually and collectively to manage and sustain our scarce water resources.