living land

June 18–July 30, 2021

About the Exhibition

Living Land is an invitational group exhibition about the growth and decay of the natural world. Through a variety of media, the artists included in this exhibition focus on the following themes: the effects of invasive species, the connections between human beings, trees, and animals, spiritual forces present in nature, the changing agricultural landscape, and the raw power of the natural world.

This was the one exhibition that was pushed from the 2020 exhibition calendar to 2021 due to Covid-19. We are thankful to finally share this wonderful exhibition with you.

Artists Included:

Laurie Beck Peterson (Philadelphia, PA)

Jack Elliott (Ithaca, NY)

G. Peter Jemison (Victor, NY)

Kaele Mulberry (Canandaigua, NY)

Scott Reagan (Webster, NY)

Helen Santelli (Pittsford, NY)

Laurie Beck Peterson

"This work begins as a photographic survey of the pre-spring leafless landscape - the trees marked for removal, the spaces left behind from the felled trees, the tree stumps that remain. The single unframed prints are bold in the classic Prussian Blue of cyanotype and serve as sketches of history. Using this 19th century process - whose origins began as means of documentation of flora and fauna - I present a series of prints that records the time when affected ash trees were intentionally removed due to the Emerald Ash Borer infestation.

The tree sections printed with cyanotype are record keepers of a different kind. The wood stumps take on a new form as totems marking a significant point in environmental history when the emerald ash borer was introduced to the western world through infested shipping containers. Reflecting the ever changing landscape of The Schuylkill property, they are impermanent in that the wood can retain latent chemistry and as a result may be subject to fluctuation. Although the ash trees are no longer integral to the forests, their remnant stumps are now colluding with the cyanotype for the remainder of their existence."

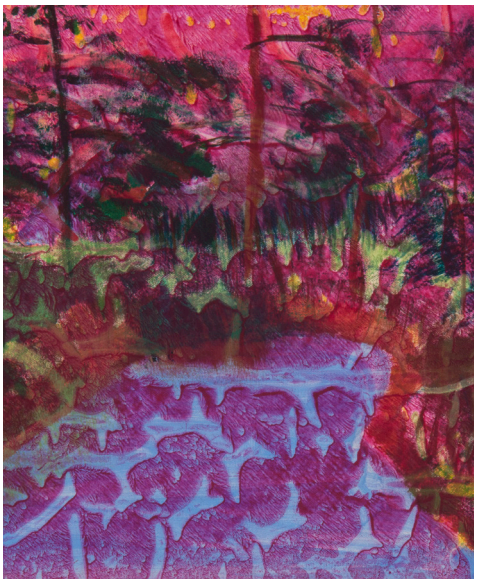
Laurie Beck Peterson is an alternative process photographer primarily working in gum bichromate, cyanotype and platinum palladium. Her current work focuses on cyanotypes on ash wood stumps and she has recently started using the sustainable plant-based processes of anthotype & chlorophyll printing. Most of her images are film based, using a holga or pinhole camera. Her cyanotypes on tree stumps and work in sustainable plant-based processes, are ephemeral which provides the viewer with an experience that can be transient. Her gum bichromate and platinum palladium prints on paper are archival. Currently, Laurie teaches alternative process photography at Tyler School of Art + Architecture.

Jack Elliott

"I make sculpture that explores the relations between trees, people, and our shared biophysical environment. These "Arborworks" are derived from parts of trees that have been naturally harvested or have been removed because of disease or construction. Every project is different but they are all characterized by the intention to challenge ideas about the human/nature relationship through juxtapositions of the geometric and the organic; the intentional and the spontaneous; the light and the dark. I do not force the material away from what it is, as a sign of mastery. I work with the material as it is, to allow its hidden powers to be revealed through a set of minimalist interventions."

Jack Elliott is an associate professor at Cornell University where he teaches studios on design and conducts research on environmental issues in the built environment. Since he began at Cornell in 1998, he has used the designed object or building, situated in a real-world context, to stimulate discourse, pull technology, and create impactful interventions. Jack holds a Bachelor's Degree in Physics with a minor in sculpture at the University of Alberta (1978), as well as two Master's degrees, one in architecture (1991) and one in product design (1993) from the University of Calgary.

G. Peter Jemison



"My artwork is rooted in the framework of Native American art. I make naturalistic paintings and have also created a series of works done on brown paper bags. My art embodies orenda, the traditional Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) belief that every living thing and every part of creation contains a spiritual force."

The illustrious career of G. Peter Jemison (Seneca, Heron Clan) spans decades across a wide swath of diverse accomplishments with an immeasurable worldwide impact. Through his art, Jemison has explored a variety of topics, from creating political works that portray contemporary social commentary to those that reflect his relationship with the natural world. His paintings, videos, and mixed media works have been exhibited in numerous solo and group exhibitions in the U.S., the U.K. and Germany. He is also an esteemed administrator, curator, editor, and writer. In 2004, he was elected Board Member at Large of the American Alliance of Museums (formerly the Association of Museums), and was the founding director of the American Indian Community House Gallery in New York City.

Kaele Mulberry

"The narrative structure of my work grapples with humanity's preconceived notions about animals, particularly those seen as pests. I illustrate fantastical animal-creatures amidst activities and settings that are both human inspired and familiar to challenge humanity's tendency to disparage the unfamiliar and strange. Within these scenes I hope to invite a moment of shared tenderness."

Kaele Mulberry is an artist living in Canandaigua, NY. She received her BFA from Alfred University with a focus in painting and printmaking. Kaele's current passion is creating small works, often dabbling in ink, graphite, gouache, watercolor, and sometimes tiny books.

Scott Reagan

"My style is impressionistic and primitive with elements of abstraction. I use acrylic and paint mainly with pallet knife. I like quiet places so my subjects most often are found on the country back roads. Our once agrarian way of life is rapidly vanishing. Landscapes of plowed fields and pastures dotted with wooden barns are a peaceful by-gone part of America that is becoming more memory than reality. It is my intent to preserve the old barns on canvas before they succumb to the elements and grace the back roads no more. I am inspired by such artists as Eric Sloane, Kevin Macpherson and Ramona Youngquist."

Scott Reagan was born in North Syracuse, NY and served in the US Air Force 1969–1973. He taught high school fine arts for 27 years in the Rochester City School District and earned an MST from Rochester Institute of Technology and BA in Education from SUNY Buffalo State College.

Helen Santelli

"I remember the days when I dove into the crystal clear waters of Lake Ontario (Huron meaning: lake of the shining waters) below the glistening surface sunfish made their ritualistic pebble nests hidden within dancing seaweed; above the bees and butterflies flourished unheeded. May my art be gently didactic to herald a return to the healthy planet from my heart."

I grew up on a farm in Lyons, youngest of 5 girls and have been married for 53 years to Jimmy. Our children are Jessica and Joshua who blessed us with 5 grandchildren. I attended Pratt Institute, Syracuse University and Rochester Institute of Technology I have created in many genres and mediums but have recently turned to ceramic sculpture which involves both 2D and 3D. My artistic journey is one of learning new processes.