

Bunker Hill Community College Art Gallery presents

art gone Green

An exhibit by Boston-area artists addressing global climate change, sustainability and the environment

**New Perspectives/
Now Perspectives:
Film Shorts Screening**

Art Gone Green

Films and Videos that explore the Environment, Sustainability, Nature, Global Warming, Suburban Sprawl and more

Guest Curator: Rinat Harel

December 1, 2009
6:30 p.m.
A300 Lounge



Featuring work by:

Mary Ackley, Kristin Alexander
Michael Conti, Jay Critchley
Tim Geers, Kristian Maynard
Michael Sheridan and
Sandra Sprecher

**Closing Reception
for Art Gone Green**

Friday, December 4, 2009
6:00 p.m.

Film screening of *Talking to the Wall:
The Story of an American Bargain* by
Steve Alves at 6:30 p.m.



New Perspectives/Now Perspectives: Film Shorts Screening

Art Gone Green—Films and Videos that explore the Environment, Sustainability, Nature, Global Warming, Suburban Sprawl and more

Guest Curator: Rinat Harel, Independent Filmmaker

Featured films/videos and artists:

Rock of Gold/Mary Ackley and Kristian Maynard—The remote Fijian mining town of Vatukoula, whose name literally means 'Rock of Gold,' happens to be located less than 30 kilometers from the source of one of the world's most recognized brands of bottled water, Fiji Water. This film tells Vatukoula's story, exploring the complex connections between industry, community, and the global environment from a local Fijian perspective. The film also offers constructive lessons for communities around the world that are struggling to harness wealth from their natural resources while striving towards sustainable development. For more information go to www.rockofgoldfilm.com.

Kristian A. M. Maynard is a freelance filmmaker and camera assistant, originally from Bristol, England. Mr. Maynard was recently a member of the camera crew for the Oscar nominated film *Frozen River* (2008). He currently resides in Boston, Massachusetts. **Mary A. Ackley** was a United States Peace Corps Volunteer in Fiji from 2003-2005, where she became fluent in Fijian. She received a grant from the Tiffany & Co. Foundation in 2007 to conduct research on environmental risk perception in Fiji during her graduate studies at the University of Vermont. Ms. Ackley is currently a Sustainable Energy Consultant at KEMA, Inc. in Boston, Massachusetts.

Screaming Forest/Sandra Sprecher—*Screaming Forest* is a multimedia work. The score from composer and videographer Sandra Sprecher, uses a jazz influenced keyboard improvisation along with orchestral instrumentation and processed found sounds accompanied by the haunting vocals of Mindy Levokove and Valentina Fleer. This original score evokes abstract, scary surreal scenes of the forests, their beauty, their souls and their cries for help as anthropomorphic images clash with metal crushers, cranes, and landfill sites.

Sandra Sprecher is a composer, pianist, videographer and sculptor. She started out with a traditional music conservatory education studying the classical repertoire and writing large and small ensemble works. In addition to creating music and sound for the theatre, experimental film and dance, she has, in the last decade, begun making video and sculpture, creating highly original, complex, experimental installation pieces. *Screaming Forest* was originally created for multiple videos, videosculture, live vocalists with a huge musical score. She has received funding from the Fromm Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, Meet the Composers, NYFA, and NYSCA.

Green Eco-Machine/Kristin Alexander—The Eco-Machine is a living machine that restores polluted water through a natural process. The Eco-Machine works in small homes as well as industrial complexes. The film explores the work of the inventor Dr. John Todd, and several of his Eco-Machines throughout the US and China. *Green Eco-Machine* shows how these living environments transform waste through a new partnership with nature.

Kristin Alexander is a documentary filmmaker. She studied communications and film at University of Notre Dame and Massachusetts College of Art. She has been a cinematographer for multiple film and video productions. Her first documentary followed 5 women surviving cancer on Cape Cod, and screened in Chatham and the Woods Hole Film Festival. She has filmed and edited portraits of people around the world. *Green Eco-Machine* has been an official selection in the WHFF, Louisville International Festival of Film, and EcoFocus Festival in Athens, Georgia.

Eleanor/Tim Geers—*Eleanor* is a re-contextualization of the psychological trauma inflicted on the Native Alaskans of Port Graham village by the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. The fishing community, whose livelihood was destroyed by the spill, suffered a profound psychological deterioration as a result. The crickets in *Eleanor* are immersed in a literal struggle to survive in black oil until they eventually succumb. Their struggle represents the universality of the Native Alaskans' experience, and the shared psychological effect. This work was inspired by the films of surrealist Jean Painlevé, who featured animals as a metaphor for the human political and cultural condition.

Tim Geers is a Boston based Video Artist with an MFA in Visual Art from the Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University, and a professional background in television production and news videography. Geers recontextualizes non-fiction narrative (often disturbing news events) in a deliberate attempt to create metaphorical representation; transcending the specificity of the media and creates an experience of visceral emotions and pain lacking in generic, mass produced visual content.

Instant Noodles/Michael Sheridan—Eight thousand square miles of tropical forest is cut down each year in Indonesia. Much of the 'recovered land' is turned into palm oil plantations, which is used primarily to preserve foods such as instant noodles. Indonesia is the largest producer of palm oil and instant noodles and the biggest tree chopper and forest burner in the world. Indonesia is now the third greatest contributor to global warming – after the US and China.

In *Instant Noodles* the precision and timelessness of traditional Indonesian dance is used as a contrasting lament for our careless consumption and the permanent damage caused by our desire for immediate satisfaction.

Michael Sheridan is a filmmaker whose videasonic art and documentary work address issues of social development and the tipping point between order and chaos. Michael's interest in these issues arises from his experiences of families falling apart and reuniting, and societies teetering on the verge of collapse or recovering from conflict and disaster. Michael's artwork has been exhibited at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Boston Cyberarts Festival and the GASP gallery in Boston. His documentary work has appeared on PBS, The Learning Channel, The Discovery Network and National Geographic TV. The National Education Media Network, the Columbia International Film and Video Festival, the United Nations Association Film Festival, and EarthVision have all awarded his work. Michael's work is influenced by his extensive travels throughout Europe, South Asia, Africa and the Americas. In the 90s he started traveling the world producing documentaries on issues of hunger, poverty and community development for organizations like Oxfam, Save the Children-UK, Bread for the World and independently. He served as Senior Fulbright Scholar in Indonesia teaching and working on new films during the 2007-08 academic year. Michael has an MFA from the Massachusetts College of Art.

The Rink/Michael Conti—*The Rink* is a short narrative about an athlete going to extremes to play his sport in a changing environment. His obsession with the game forces him to adapt and overcome obstacles. Is the payoff fulfilling or is his cup still half-empty?

Michael Conti is an artist and educator living and working in Anchorage, Alaska. His performance art is staged in the natural environment. Michael is an MFA candidate at the Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University.

Christmas Warming Alphabet/Jay Critchley—Santa and Frosty meet FEMA for a toasty Christmas! The artist reworks a familiar Christmas song with surgical-masked Santa's and Snowmen, mixed with film and government-issued disaster preparedness videos.

Provincetown artist **Jay Critchley's** visual, conceptual and performance work has traversed the globe, recently in Columbia and Argentina. He founded and directs Theater in the Ground @ Septic Space in his backyard septic tank. He produced, wrote and directed two movies in 2002. *Toilet Treatments*, won the HBO Audience Award and was shown at the Provincetown International Film Festival, and Providence Dirt Newsreel. He also produced a CD, *Big Twig Tunnel Tapes – Boston's Big Dig Sings*, recorded 125 feet below the city before the tunnels opened for traffic. His recent environmental projects include the award-winning *Martucket Eyeland Resort & Theme Park*, and *Global Yawning for a Small Planet – A New Day is Yawning*.

Talking to the Wall: The Story of an American Bargain/Steve Alves (This film will be screened at the closing reception for the Art Gone Green exhibit on Friday, December 4 at 6:30 p.m.)—Wal-Mart's plan to build a large store in a small New England community is the backdrop for this sharp-edged comedy. All goes well for the corporate giant until an 11th hour citizens' rebellion resists the lure of low prices to reveal another side of the bargain—a side which paves over open land, annihilates Main Street businesses, and rolls back wages. This David and Goliath tale goes deeper, exposing the larger American story of citizens unwittingly turned into a nation of consumers. Once you see this movie, shopping will never be the same.

Steve Alves, Producer/Director, is an award-winning documentary filmmaker who graduated from the University of Southern California Film School. After working in Hollywood and New York City as a film editor for ten years, he moved to western Massachusetts and started his own documentary company, Hometown Productions. His company has developed a fast-moving signature style, accessible to many age groups. Since 1997, Alves has written, produced, and directed six films about New England and what it means to have a sense of place. His 2001 production, *Together in Time* won a CINE Golden Eagle, Best Short Documentary at the International Family Film Festival, and a Gold Award from WorldFest-Houston. His recent production *Talking to the Wall: The Story of an American Bargain* (www.talkingtothewall.com), won several environmental awards, was featured in over a dozen film festivals, and is used as an organizing tool in communities throughout the U.S and Canada. For more information on Steve's work, please visit www.stevealveshometownproductions.com, or www.foodforchangemovie.com.

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