

SYMPOSIUM

**Picture Ecology: Art and Ecocriticism
in Planetary Perspective**



December 7–8, 2018

10 McCosh Hall
Princeton University



Growing awareness and concern about the pervasive and advancing scope of global environmental crises have in recent years prompted a new area of interdisciplinary research: the environmental humanities. Efforts have coalesced around the fields of anthropology, philosophy, history, literature, and now art history, as scholars seek to enlarge

upon the traditional anthropocentrism of the humanities and embrace a more expansive consideration of nature, ecology, and changing understandings of them. “Picture Ecology: Art and Ecocriticism in Planetary Perspective” engages this vital new trajectory, bringing together seventeen speakers from a variety of perspectives to explore environmental dimensions of artistic expression across a range of periods and cultures. The symposium is convened in connection with the exhibition *Nature’s Nation: American Art and Environment*, on view at the Princeton University Art Museum, which reinterprets American art over three centuries in relation to environmental history and evolving ecological perception. “Picture Ecology” extends the exhibition’s focus and approach to the visual cultures of diverse times and places, offering compelling ecocritical analysis of a broad spectrum of artists and objects.

“Picture Ecology: Art and Ecocriticism in Planetary Perspective” is made possible, in part, with generous support from the Department of Art & Archaeology, Princeton University.

No registration is required. For information about travel and accommodations, please consult artmuseum.princeton.edu/visit.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
ART MUSEUM

ALWAYS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
artmuseum.princeton.edu

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

9–9:30 AM

COFFEE

9:30–9:45 AM

WELCOME

Karl Kusserow, John Wilmerding Curator of American Art, Princeton University Art Museum

9:45 AM–12:45 PM

SESSION 1

Alan C. Braddock, Ralph H. Wark Associate Professor of Art History and American Studies, William & Mary, “Mestizo Mnemonics: Diego de Valadés, *Rhetorica Christiana*, and the Earthly Art of Memory”

Mónica Domínguez Torres, Associate Professor, Department of Art History, University of Delaware, “Pearls for the King: Philip II and the New World Pearl Industry”

Karl Kusserow, John Wilmerding Curator of American Art, Princeton University Art Museum, “Pope Francis’s *Laudato si’* and Christian Visual Ecology”

Andrew Patrizio, Professor, Edinburgh College of Art, University of Edinburgh, “The Ecological Eye: What a Starfish Teaches Us About Art History’s Prospects”

12:45–2:15 PM

LUNCH

2:15–5:15 PM

SESSION 2

De-nin Lee, Associate Professor, Department of Visual and Media Arts, Emerson College, “Disorienting: Chinese Landscapes and Environment”

Gregory Levine, Professor, History of Art Department, University of California, Berkeley, “Tree-Buddhas”

Sugata Ray, Associate Professor, History of Art Department, University of California, Berkeley, “How to Live with Plants: Towards an Eco-Art History of the Eighteenth Century”

James Nisbet, Associate Professor, Art History, and Director, Visual Studies, School of Humanities, University of California, Irvine, “Shifting Baselines: Ecology, Scale, Modernism”

5:15–6:30 PM

RECEPTION AT THE ART MUSEUM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

9–9:30 AM

COFFEE

9:30 AM–12:30 PM

SESSION 3

Rachael DeLue, Christopher Binyon Sarofim '86 Professor in American Art, Princeton University, “Picturing Depth at the Surface in Alexander von Humboldt and Homer Dodge Martin”

Maura Coughlin, Professor of English and Cultural Studies, Bryant University, and **Emily Gephart**, Lecturer, Tufts University, “Confluence: Painting Seawater across the Nineteenth-Century Atlantic”

Stephen F. Eisenman, Professor of Art History, Northwestern University, “Ford Madox Brown, William Morris, and ‘Metabolic Rift’”

Greg M. Thomas, Professor, Department of Fine Arts, University of Hong Kong, “Courbet and Ecological Realism”

12:30–2 PM

LUNCH

2–5 PM

SESSION 4

T. J. Demos, Professor, History of Art and Visual Culture, and Director, Center for Creative Ecologies, University of California, Santa Cruz, “Ecology as Intersectionality: Aesthetic Approaches to Social-Justice Environmentalism”

Finis Dunaway, Professor of History, Trent University, “Seeing Beyond Borders: The Arctic Refuge, Visual Culture, and Grassroots Environmentalism”

Anne McClintock, A. Barton Hepburn Professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies, Princeton University, “The Future is Now: Rising Waters and Colonial Ghostscapes”

Fazal Sheikh, Currie C. and Thomas A. Barron Visiting Professor in the Environment and the Humanities, Princeton University, “*Erasures*: From Israel/Palestine to the American Southwest”