

Images Available Upon Request

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Wave Hill and Lehman College Art Gallery Announce Exhibition Eco-Urgency: Now or Never

At Wave Hill: August 28–December 5, 2021

At Lehman College Art Gallery: December 4, 2021–April 23, 2022

Bronx, NY, July 7, 2021—Wave Hill, a public garden and cultural center in the Bronx, and Lehman College Art Gallery, City University of New York, are pleased to announce *Eco-Urgency: Now or Never*, a collaborative exhibition that shows the varied responses artists have to the unfolding ecological crisis. This two-part exhibition opens August 28, 2021, at Wave Hill. Part two opens at Lehman College Art Gallery on December 4. Visit our website for more info: <https://www.wavehill.org/calendar/eco-urgency-now-or-never>

Climate change, pollution, competition for natural resources and food insecurity threaten to overwhelm our planet and make earth uninhabitable. To encourage public engagement and deepen awareness of these issues, the artists in *Eco-Urgency: Now or Never* rely on research, critical analysis, observation and direct action that manifest as objects, videos, performances and community organizing. There are no easy answers, yet *Eco-Urgency: Now or Never* distills the current moment so that it can be approached, understood and acted on, provoking conversation and shared ideas.

The first part of the collaborative exhibition, *Now*, brings together artists who are looking at the urgency of the present moment, raising awareness through a holistic approach to understanding our ecological crises, including overlapping social, political and environmental concerns. *Or Never*, the second part of the project, at Lehman College Art Gallery, is both speculative and reflective, treating our ecological crises as a cycle that repeats itself endlessly. Here, artists examine the resonant patterns of history that have shaped and led us to our current moment alongside possible and causal futures.



Rachel Frank, *Thresholds*, 2019 Single-channel HD Video. Courtesy of the artist.

Unfolding over a period of eight months, the exhibition and related public programs engage in research

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across multiple seasons. The work of several of the artists in the show will appear in both venues, deepening the connections between the two galleries. Both parts of the exhibition investigate a series of overlapping thematic inquiries that preoccupy artists today. These include:

- *Depicting Imminent Change*—Imagining apocalyptic climate catastrophe, artists propose ideas for mitigating the resulting damages and impacts of ongoing environmental changes.
- *Politics and the Land*—Artists explore the impact of political and economic policies on natural resources, considering the land as witness to devastation, and the social health inequities exacerbated by unequal distribution of resources.
- *Stewardship*—Focusing on the urge to collect, archive and preserve, artists promote strategies for reducing consumption and working toward a more equitable and sustainable way of living.
- *Decentering Human Experience*—Artists posit the importance of non-human perspective, and of rethinking humans as both a determinative force embedded in, and standing apart from, the natural world.
- *Grief*—A growing body of artistic work is mournful or elegiac, prompting questions about what it means to memorialize what is already lost, or what is about to be lost.

Confirmed artists to date include **Vanessa Albury, Allora & Calzadilla, Tatiana Arocha, Samantha Box, Hannah Chalew, Lionel Cruet, Nicky Enright, Rachel Frank, Alicia Grullón, Alison Janae Hamilton, Susan Rowe Harrison, Richard Ibhgy & Marilou Lemmens, Mary Mattingly, Alison Moritsugu, Alexis Rockman, Francesco Simeti, SPURSE, Candace Thompson, Will Wilson, Natalie Collette Wood, Suné Woods, Sasha Wortzel and Ken + Julia Yonetani.**

Eco-Urgency: Now or Never is co-organized by Wave Hill and Lehman College Art Gallery, The City University of New York, and is curated by Bartholomew Bland, Gabriel de Guzman, Jesse Bandler Firestone, Eileen Jeng Lynch and Deborah Yasinsky. The curatorial concept for the exhibition was initiated with Jennifer McGregor, former Director of Arts at Wave Hill. A two-part catalogue devoted to the *Now or Never* portions of the exhibition will include essays and entries about each artist by the contributing curators. Learn more about Wave Hill exhibitions here: <https://www.wavehill.org/discover/arts/exhibitions>

Support for Wave Hill's Visual Arts Program is provided by Con Edison; the Council for Canadian American Relations; Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation; Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation; the National Endowment for the Arts; New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York Community Trust Edward and Sally Van Lier Fund; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; The Pollock-Krasner Foundation; Stavros Niarchos Foundation; Teiger Foundation; The Willem de Kooning Foundation; and by the Cathy and Stephen Weinroth Commissioning Fund for the Arts. The City of New York owns the buildings and grounds of Wave Hill. Wave Hill's operations are made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; the Zoos; Botanical Gardens and Aquariums Grant Program administered by the New York State Office of Parks; Recreation and Historic Preservation; the National Endowment for the Arts; the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

The Lehman College Art Gallery exhibition program is supported by the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Council; the New York City Council through the Honorable Andrew Cohen and the Bronx Delegation; the Edith A. and Herbert H. Lehman Foundation; and the New York Yankee Stadium Community Benefits Fund.



A 28-acre public garden and cultural center overlooking the Hudson River and Palisades, Wave Hill's mission is to celebrate the artistry and legacy of its gardens and landscapes, to preserve its magnificent views, and to explore human connections to the natural world through programs in horticulture, education and the arts.

HOURS: Open all year, currently Tuesday–Sunday, 10AM–5:30PM.

ADMISSION TO THE GROUNDS: \$10 adults, \$6 students and seniors 65+, \$4 children 6-18. Free Thursdays. Free to members, children under 6. *Reservations recommended before you visit*, at wavehill.org or by calling 718.549.3200 x251.

DIRECTIONS: Complete directions at wavehill.org.

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