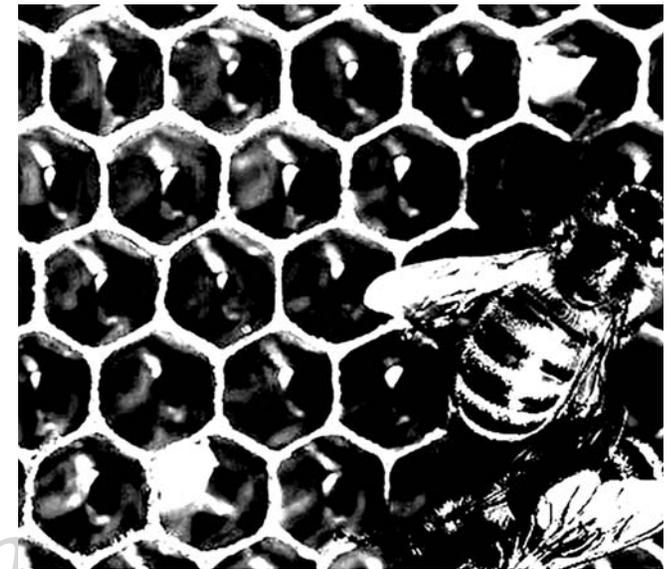


Smoke
by you

Smoke and Water: A Living Painting

Water



north
carolina
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ARTSCENE

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Smoke and Water: A Living Painting is a continued project developed by Greg Lindquist with Working Films and lead by Kristin Henry in Wilmington, NC in 2014 and is in concert with "Altered Land: Greg Lindquist and Damian Stamer," on view at North Carolina Museum of Art from April 16 - September 11, 2016.

Water and
Smoke

Greg Lindquist and Teen Art Council
ArtScene
North Carolina Museum of Art
April 30, 2016

Five Environmental Concerns

1. **Bees** are becoming extinct and are important in agriculture for biodiversity, or a variety of life within different systems and classifications. Biodiversity is crucial for the health of and adaptation within ecosystems. Bee colonies are dying from the use of toxic agricultural chemicals! Without bees, our crops cannot be pollinated and we will not have food or flowers. As an extension of biodiversity, we must save them.



1. Bees in their native honeycomb habitat



2. The Great Pacific garbage patch

2. **Plastic in our oceans** affects sea animals who mistake plastics for food. It is a threat to biodiversity because it kills sea life. One of the biggest problem areas, the Great Pacific garbage patch, is a gyre of marine debris particles in the central North Pacific Ocean. This trash vortex contains concentrations of pelagic plastics, chemical sludge and other debris that have been trapped by the currents of the North Pacific Gyre. It is estimated to be about twice as big in size as the United Kingdom.

3. **Deforestation** affects many animal species as well as indigenous peoples who rely on many of their surroundings for resources. Trees deserve more protection! Cutting down trees destroys animal habitats, leading to a loss of biodiversity. We have much to learn from the disappearing animal species and it demands our attention. The actor Harrison Ford has been threatened with deportation from Indonesia because of his activism addressing forest fires, peatland conservation and palm oil plantations in Southeast Asia.



3. Deforestation in Indonesia for palm oil



4. Air pollution in Beijing, China

4. **Air pollution** in highly populated areas hinders lung development and contributes to ozone depletion. Dangerous air can also cause health problems for animals. In China, it is common to see air-pollution masks worn to filter the hazardous particulate matter, which is nearly 20 times the safe level. The smog has become so thick in Beijing that the city's natural light-starved inhabitants have begun flocking to huge digital commercial television screens across the city to observe virtual sunrises.

5. **Genetically-modified organisms (GMOs), pesticides and herbicides in food** are all posing health risks. Studies now link the herbicide glyphosate ("Roundup") to gluten intolerance, liver and kidney damage, depleted soil minerals and aluminum toxicity. Corporations like Monsanto have engineered, patented and leased foods like corn to economically enslave farmers with the support of the government. GMO food monocultures threaten biodiversity. Ironically, genetically modified crops such as canola have escaped into the landscape posing unknown risks to feral plant species.



5. Applying pesticides and herbicides with a crop-duster plane

Our Process

The selection of these five environmental concerns are a culmination of a four month residency I did with the Teen Art Council at the North Carolina Museum of Art under the leadership of Harriet Hoover. Beginning with a series of video conferences and including their participation in creating the site specific wall painting in the East Building, we discussed a wide range of topics from what it means to be an artist now to what fears a group of ambitious, intellectually rigorous and thoughtful teens have about our shared future.

The Teen Art Council was asked to independently generate a list of their top ecological concerns from which I selected visual motifs and then created silkscreens of each. We then printed these five images you see here onto squares of canvas painted with the same color as the green base layer of the wall painting in the upstairs gallery. We invite you in mixing colors of your choice to add your own layer of paint to these patterns, which will be displayed with the paintings of gathered statements from those impacted by coal ash pollution and the Wilmington installation. We hope that in this process you are filled with inspiration, curiosity and care, turning our collective anxiety into action.

—Greg Lindquist, Raleigh, NC, April 26, 2016