

Intersections: Art, Science and the Environment

Collaboration between the arts and sciences has helped to create new ideas, processes and knowledge. By working together we open up new ways of seeing and experiencing the world around us and the current relationship between art-making, science and ecology. How can we work across art and science to enable a creative discourse about ideas that shape the perception and the experience of our changing environment? Can artistic practices inspire engagement in environmental issues, and sustain engagement through ongoing activities?

This session seeks out those curious about the critical and intriguing topics that combine art, science and the environment. An interdisciplinary view about interpreting the world around us that embraces the natural environment and art by combining a fascination with how people create, interacts with, and impacts the landscape they inhabit.

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Fanatical Botanical: Student Incursions into the Environment

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The Satellite View: New Approaches to the Landscape

Glenn, Allison; MA Candidate, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL; aglenn1@saic.edu
Site-Reflexivity and the Contemporary Environment: Small Liberties in Andrea Zittel's High Desert Test Sites

Hotvedt, Paul; Independent Lecturer, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS; blueheron@sbcglobal.net
Imagination and Place

Lee, Flounder; Assistant Professor of Photography and Intermedia, Herron School of Art and Design, IUPUI, Indianapolis, IN; fllee@iupui.edu

Parallel Investigations into Environmental Art

Paper Abstracts: **Intersections: Art, Science and the Environment**

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Fanatical Botanical: Student Incursions into the Environment

Observational inquiry is commonly introduced as a way of visually deciphering our world in the arts and sciences. In an academic community seldom do we challenge the students to contextualize their work in an unfamiliar setting or environment. In 2011, a summer seminar "Fanatical Botanical" was created through the collaboration of faculty and staff from drawing, glass, and biology to explore the intersection of these disciplines.

This seminar expanded into a community partnership with Garfield Park in Indianapolis, Indiana. Ball State students did additional site-specific research and proposals alongside students from Anderson University, which resulted in a unique exhibition and installation at Garfield Park Conservatory and Garfield Art Center. We will examine the challenges, benefits, and potential outcomes of cross-disciplinary collaboration and its potential for a student-driven immersive experience in Costa Rica where students will learn about the interconnectivity between the environment and how it relates to the arts and sciences.

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The Satellite View: New Approaches to the Landscape

As satellite technology has developed to a point where personal exploration of satellite views through a variety of smartphone and computer applications and images of the earth's surface as seen from space have become commonplace. As a result, how has our view of the world has changed? Before such technology the availability of aerial images of the landscape were limited, yet as satellite landscape images filter into our everyday visual vocabulary, how are artists responses to the landscape altered?

This paper will examine contemporary landscape approaches taking inspiration from new views of the landscape through Google Earth and satellite imagery found on a variety of websites.

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Site-Reflexivity and the Contemporary Environment: Small Liberties in Andrea Zittel's High Desert Test Sites

The 21st century has brought with it the re-emergence of contemporary conceptual artists engaged with penumbral zones. These artists are interested in site, positing new ideas for space usage upon once-inhabited homes and urban spaces. Whether the middle of the desert or the center of a blighted, impoverished neighborhood, these sites exist on the theoretical—albeit times physical—margins of society. Artistic engagement with these interstitial spaces is on a material level, with art and architecture converging to create experimental approaches to living. Positing ideas for architecture, technology, space and the body's relation to it, each artist projects utopic ideals for the future of the quotidian environment. What emerges are hybrid works of art and cultural production.

This paper analyzes the current interest in reactivating architectural structures and sites, situating it within the larger historical lineage of the conceptual, land and feminist art movements. Using Andrea Zittel's High Desert Test Sites as a case study, I define themes inherent to many of these contemporary artist projects. I conclude that rise of the DIY movement, and the popularity of collaborative, non-hierarchical organizational strategies are an extension of postwar practices, citing similar socioeconomic conditions as the main catalyst for this return.

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Imagination and Place

This presentation focuses on a 2001 conference, which brought together geographers, writers, community activists and artists to discuss a collection of dreams about places. The Imagination & Place conference spawned an on-going, truly interdisciplinary, collaboration, which has produced exhibitions, publications, lectures, web projects, conferences, and community activism in Lawrence, Kansas. The presenter, a practicing visual artist, musician, and educator, proposed the original conference and is interested in how imagination is inseparable from our sense place. The narrative fluidity of our sense of vision, which is the wellspring of our imagination, continually answers the question: where am I? both literally and figuratively.

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Parallel Investigations into Environmental Art

Flounder Lee's research is split between his curatorial and artistic practices. In this session, he will be discussing the investigation of environmental topics through each of these methods of working. In his art making, Lee has been doing lens-based mapping in the Juneau Icefield in Alaska and Glacier National Park in Montana. He is documenting the retreat of glaciers due to global warming using on the ground and aerial image making. This is one way he is exploring environmental topics. The second track in his research is curating exhibitions, performances, and screenings. Lee is currently working on an exhibition of small-scale environmentally based works. While visiting *Documenta* and *Bewegter Wind* in Germany in the summer of 2012, he will select artists to translate their work into a scale appropriate for his tiny alternative gallery, SpaceCamp MicroGallery in Indianapolis.