

2017 ART + ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

PROGRAM

THURSDAY OCTOBER 19

5–9pm

Members' Premiere
Art + Environment Season

6:30pm

Welcome | David B. Walker
Executive Director/CEO, Nevada Museum of Art

Conference guests are invited to join the Nevada Museum of Art for the Members' Premiere of the exhibitions featured for the *Art + Environment* season. Curators and artists are available for informal conversation in the galleries. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Performance by The Special 2, a throwback 1980s rap group featuring Umar Rashid (Frohawk Two Feathers) and Micah James

Hosted by NV Energy

FRIDAY OCTOBER 20

8–9am

Welcome Breakfast
Continental breakfast with coffee and tea

9–9:15am

David B. Walker and William L. Fox
Conference Welcome

9:15–9:30am

Ann M. Wolfe
Why Here? Why Now?

It is no coincidence that the Nevada Museum of Art has an interdisciplinary focus on the way humans creatively interact with their environments. Ann M. Wolfe, senior curator and deputy director, reveals that the museum's contemporary endeavors are, in fact, rooted in its past.

9:30–9:50am

William L. Fox
Rhizomatic Geography

The geographic region of the Greater West is the result of ongoing tectonic collisions that occur as continents shift, break apart, and thrust mineral resources to the earth's surface. People shift in response. Indigenous and new frontier cultures collide. Geography is created in response to geology. Bill Fox, director of the Center for Art + Environment, describes the Greater West as *Terra mobilis*, and how we're all still in motion.

9:50–10:20am

Break

10:20–10:55am	<p>JoAnne Northrup Unsettled: Art of the Greater West</p> <p>Past, present, and future converge in <i>Unsettled</i>, an exhibition that explores legacies of colonialism, conflict, and the changing landscapes of the Greater West. JoAnne Northrup, curatorial director and curator of contemporary art at the Nevada Museum of Art, discusses the genesis of the exhibition, its underlying motivation, and the artworks and artifacts that bring the show to life..</p>
10:55am–12pm	<p>Moderator: JoAnne Northrup Presenters: Minerva Cuevas, Ana Teresa Fernández, Rubén Ortiz-Torres, and Frohawk Two Feathers Collisions in the Greater West</p> <p>The history and present of the Greater West are characterized by a series of collisions between humans and nature, as well as human cultures. Artists have responded by erecting and erasing borders both factual and fictional, by subverting stereotypes and clichés, and by imagining histories that illuminate the paradoxes of the superregion. Northrup moderates a panel of artists from <i>Unsettled</i>. Participants include Mexico City–based conceptual artist Minerva Cuevas; mixed-media artist Rubén Ortiz-Torres of Los Angeles; San Francisco–based performance artist and painter Ana Teresa Fernández; and Frohawk Two Feathers, the alter ego of performer, writer, and artist Umar Rashid.</p>
12–1:30pm	<p>Lunch</p>
12:20–1:10pm	<p>Bruno Fazzolari Brown-Bag Lunch “Western” Synesthesia Nightingale Sky Room</p>
	<p>For the most part, what we call “flavor” is not actually perceived by the tongue but instead by the nose. The distinctive taste of banana, for example, is actually an aroma. San Francisco–based artist and perfumer Bruno Fazzolari has created a new scent inspired by the Greater West. Fazzolari will lead a discussion informed by his synesthesia—the way he “sees” scent. In this participatory presentation he will explore the intersection of food, scent, and perception with an array of fragrant gustatory (i.e., edible smelling) materials—a scented luncheon to bend your sense of taste. <i>Bring your lunch. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.</i></p>
1:30–2:10pm	<p>Moderator: William L. Fox Presenters: Harley K. Dubois, Marian Goodell, Larry Harvey, Michael Mikel, Will Roger Peterson, and Crimson Rose Burning Man</p>
	<p>The six Burning Man cofounders trace the evolution of this cultural gathering from its ad hoc beginnings as a beach party in San Francisco into an annual gathering of more than seventy thousand people in the Black Rock Desert. This nomadic intentional community is a transformative experience, a collective response to <i>Terra mobilis</i>, and a provocation for civic behavior everywhere.</p>

Moderator: William L. Fox

Presenters: Harley K. Dubois, Marian Goodell, Larry Harvey, Michael Mikel, Will Roger Peterson, and Crimson Rose

2:10–3:30pm

City of Dust: The Evolution of Black Rock City

More than seventy thousand people now attend Burning Man each year, and thousands more cannot obtain the coveted tickets needed to gain access. As Burning Man continues to evolve, the collective desire to experience life outside mainstream society remains prevalent, and the resilience of Black Rock City continues to be tested. What does the future hold for the Burning Man gathering? The cofounders of Burning Man will explore its capacity for governance and economic stewardship, its continuing efforts to encourage cultural production and preservation, and the recent acquisition of Fly Ranch, a 3,800-acre parcel of private land adjacent to Nevada's Black Rock Desert.

3:30–4pm

Break

Lance Gilman

4–4:10pm

The Tahoe Reno Industrial Center

Located just nine miles east of Reno, the 100,000+-acre park known as the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center (TRIC) is, in part, the vision of Lance Gilman, a commercial real estate broker and elected public official who is largely responsible for developing the site and populating it with corporate tenants. TRIC is home to the world's biggest data centers, enormous warehouses, and advanced manufacturing facilities. If Burning Man is a model nomadic city for the Greater West, TRIC is its industrial counterpart.

Introduced by Dennis Scholl

4:10–4:55pm

Rem Koolhaas

World-renowned architect and urban theorist Rem Koolhaas is widely regarded as one of the most influential architectural thinkers and urbanists of his generation. Koolhaas has recently turned his attention to the countryside, where enormous depopulated cities of megawarehouses and server farms now proliferate. Too massive to fit within existing cities and inhabited mostly by robots, these new industrial communities serve as the data hubs and transportation crossroads that make metropolitan life possible.

4:55–5pm

Closing Remarks

5–6:30pm

Reception

Nightingale Sky Room

Join fellow attendees, artists, and presenters on the rooftop for cocktails and light hors d'oeuvres. Artist Nicholas Galanin and his band, Indian Agent, perform sonic explorations of indigenous land from their recent album.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 21

8–9am

Breakfast

Continental breakfast with coffee and tea

9–9:05am

Conference Reconvening

9:05–9:15am

Jonathon Keats

Introduction to a Deep Future

The Greater West has been described as a geographic superregion with roots in the deep past. Conceptual artist Jonathon Keats will provoke the day's proceedings by asking how we might conceive of the region's future and our relationship to it, a topic he will discuss in detail during a Brown-Bag Lunch presented later in the day.

9:15–9:40am

Julie Decker

Alaska: Metalandscape of the Strategic North

Julie Decker, director and CEO of the Anchorage Museum in Alaska and a collaborating partner for *Unsettled*, introduces us to Native artists living and working in the northernmost reaches of the Greater West. These artists bring contemporary and indigenous knowledge to bear on cultural and environmental disruptions of an epic scale. These disruptions range from nuclear testing and disappearing glaciers to threatened marine species and resource extraction on endangered lands.

9:40–10:10am

Break

10:10–11:30am

Moderator: Julie Decker

Nicholas Galanin, Da-ka-xeen Mehner, Allison Warden

North: Adaptation and Resistance

Contemporary indigenous artists of Alaska deconstruct conventional notions about cultural traditions by employing a variety of media to invent narratives surrounding their personal and collective identities. Participants in this session whose work appears in the *Unsettled* exhibition are multidisciplinary artist and musician Nicholas Galanin (Tlingit/Unangax), who explores exchanges between Native and non-Native communities; Da-ka-xeen Mehner (Tlingit/N'ishga), whose work defies social expectations and is rooted in his family's ancestry and personal history; and performance artist and rapper Allison Warden (Iñupiaq), whose Twitter poems transform traditional genres.

11:30am–12pm

Lauren Bon

Bending the River Back into the City

Based in Los Angeles, Metabolic Studio creates site-specific "devices of wonder" that help us understand land and water use. Artist Lauren Bon and her team are currently designing a contemporary waterwheel. When completed, the sculpture will divert water from the Los Angeles River to Metabolic Studio where it will be cleaned to potable standards and distributed to a network of five city parks before returning to the river's channel. The geographic focus of Metabolic Studio's work is the watershed of the Intermountain West, which stretches from the Rockies to the Sierra Nevada and is a subregion of the Greater West.

12–1:30pm

Lunch

12:20–1:10pm

Jonathon Keats

Brown-Bag Lunch | The 5,000-Year Bristlecone Calendar

Nightingale Sky Room

Working in collaboration with the Long Now Foundation, conceptual artist and writer Jonathon Keats envisions a five-thousand-year clock on Mount Washington, near Great Basin National Park in eastern Nevada. At the heart of his calendrical index will be the most ancient of timekeepers: *Pinus longaeva*, commonly known as the bristlecone pine tree. Data will be transmitted from the clock's remote site in eastern Nevada to Reno and presented via a sculptural public artwork.

Bring your lunch. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

1:30–2:15pm

Bonnie Ora Sherk

Reframing the Watersheds of the West

Bonnie Ora Sherk's *A Living Library* is a systemic framework that links biological, cultural, and technological systems to create and sustain ecological change. Sherk, who is based in San Francisco, discusses how her work transforms neglected urban spaces and concealed watersheds into community art spaces that strengthen economic development and the ecological community to create new landscapes in the American West.

2:15–3:30pm

Trevor Paglen

Introduced by Dennis Scholl

Orbital Reflector

In partnership with aerospace engineers and the Nevada Museum of Art, Trevor Paglen will launch *Orbital Reflector* into low-earth orbit as the world's first nonutilitarian satellite. This ephemeral artwork will have a life span of several weeks. Paglen aims to make an artistic and aesthetic statement while encouraging dialogue related to larger issues surrounding the interdisciplinary fields of science, engineering, politics, and space.

3:30–4pm

Bruce Sterling

Speculations

Author and provocateur Bruce Sterling will provide his highly anticipated summary of the proceedings—always a highlight of the Art + Environment Conference.

4–4:15pm

William L. Fox and David B. Walker

Closing Remarks

4:15–6 pm

Wrap Party

Nightingale Sky Room

The conference closes with a cocktail celebration for all speakers, sponsors, and attendees. Drinks and light hors d'oeuvres.



NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART