

SPECIES IN PERIL

Along the Rio Grande

516 Contemporary
ARTS MUSEUM

art&ecology

Exhibition & Regional Collaboration

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2019 • 516arts.org

SPECIES IN PERIL

Along the Rio Grande



With visual arts, music, performances, stories, and conversations, informed by science and Indigenous ecological knowledge, *Species in Peril Along the Rio Grande* offers a regional model of building bridges (not walls) across nations, peoples, disciplines and creative practices—to address a global crisis—the crisis of biological annihilation, which includes human-caused extinctions, die-offs and massacres of nonhuman kin with whom we share this Earth. It is arguably the most expansive (if you count casualties) and the most challenging (if you consider mitigation) crisis of our time. This region-wide initiative is situated in the fabled Rio Grande basin and the associated Mexico-US borderland, which is one of the most biologically diverse and culturally vibrant places in North America, and at the same time, one of the most endangered, facing numerous threats, including climate breakdown, ongoing fossil fuels capitalism and nuclear colonialism, and the proposed expansion of the border wall. These and other drivers are causing, contributing to, and threatening to amplify the ongoing biological crisis. *Species in Peril Along the Rio Grande* aims to raise public awareness about ecological vitality and the biological crisis, acknowledge past and present injustices, and inspire collective actions for multispecies justice.

— Subhankar Banerjee, Co-Curator
Lannan Chair & Professor of Art & Ecology, University of New Mexico



Welcome to *Species in Peril Along the Rio Grande*, an exhibition and series of public programs in the region of the Rio Grande watershed. Developed by 516 ARTS in partnership with the Art & Ecology Program at the University of New Mexico, this expansive project explores how the river connects us across borders and disciplines, and is designed to provide education and spur dialogue around pressing ecological issues of our time. The global biological crisis is described in a recent UN Report warning that species extinction rates are accelerating at an alarming pace. In response, a *New York Times* editorial emphasizes, “Biodiversity—a word encompassing all living flora and fauna—is declining faster than at any time in human history,” estimating that “around 1 million species already face extinction, many within decades, unless the world takes transformative action to save natural systems.” Centering around the exhibition at 516 ARTS—subtitled *Contemporary Artists Respond*—the regional collaboration features an array of ways to engage, from forums to performances, presented by partner venues across the arts, science, technology, and activism. Bringing all of these components together represents an effort to address in meaningful ways the crisis that is rapidly changing life as we know it. Please join us!

— Suzanne Sbarge
Executive Director, 516 ARTS

COVER: Suzi Davidoff, *Simplified World / Aplomada Falcon and Grasses* (detail), 2017, charcoal, gesso, map, 50 x 68 x 3 inches, photo by Marty Snortum • LEFT: Michael P. Berman, *Across from Sierra De San Vicente at the Big Bend along the Rio Grande* (detail), 2019 • Photo of Subhankar Banerjee by Amadeus Leitner • Photo of Suzanne Sbarge by Gabriella Marks

“I did not find a single place where the ecosystem along the river had not been radically shifted by people. We all share in the bounty of our magnificent project to bring the Rio Grande to heel for our benefit, but shirk our responsibility to share the river with the rest of our fellow species.”

—Michael P. Berman

Thinking Regionally

Albuquerque
Carlsbad
Ciudad Juárez
Denver
El Paso
Jemez Pueblo
Las Cruces
Marfa
Roswell
Taos

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Species in Peril Along the Rio Grande: Contemporary Artists Respond



Species in Peril Along the Rio Grande began as a discussion about how to approach organizing an art exhibition addressing species that are in crisis. We wanted to focus our efforts specifically on species rather than delve into the larger causes and impacts of climate change. Initially, the project was conceived as way to

explore species loss on a national and global scale but we realized that our efforts would have more impact if we engaged with local artists, focused on our own geographic area, and made the process collaborative and interdisciplinary. Rather than select solely existing work, we invited a group of artists who live in the Rio Grande region to participate in a series of discussions that brought together curators, artists, scientists, community groups, nonprofits, and professors. Despite the overwhelming scientific information that is available, many people simply are not aware of what is happening in our own backyard. The bird die-off in the Pecos, the loss of wildflowers in Colorado, and the threats to species due to barriers being built on the US-Mexico border are just a few examples.

Together we grappled not only with the scientific studies but also the environmental, and emotional toll that the rapid decrease of species and biodiversity has taken on us and the planet. Our approach is unique in that we are supporting local artists and asking them to really engage with species loss in a way that will turn the studies into stories, which invite viewers to become more aware of what is happening to the living world around us. Our goal was to facilitate the process in such a way that the artwork produced would not simply be a documentation of the species themselves, but would serve as larger reflections on the crisis as it is embedded in art, culture, history, politics, and of course science. We hope that by raising awareness, the alliances and networks that were formed through this project will be vehicles through which to build the kind of acknowledgement and understanding that can lead to action.

— Josie Lopez, Co-Curator
Curator of Art, Albuquerque Museum

EXHIBITION OPENING:

Saturday, September 28, 6-8pm
Member Preview 5-6pm

516 ARTS
516 Central Ave. SW, Albuquerque, NM
505-242-1445 • 516arts.org • Free
Open Tue – Sat, 12-5pm

OPENING ADDRESS & FORUM:

Sunday, September 29, 2pm

See page 10

Presented by 516 ARTS at the Albuquerque Museum
2000 Mountain Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM
505-243-7255 • cabq.gov/museum • Free

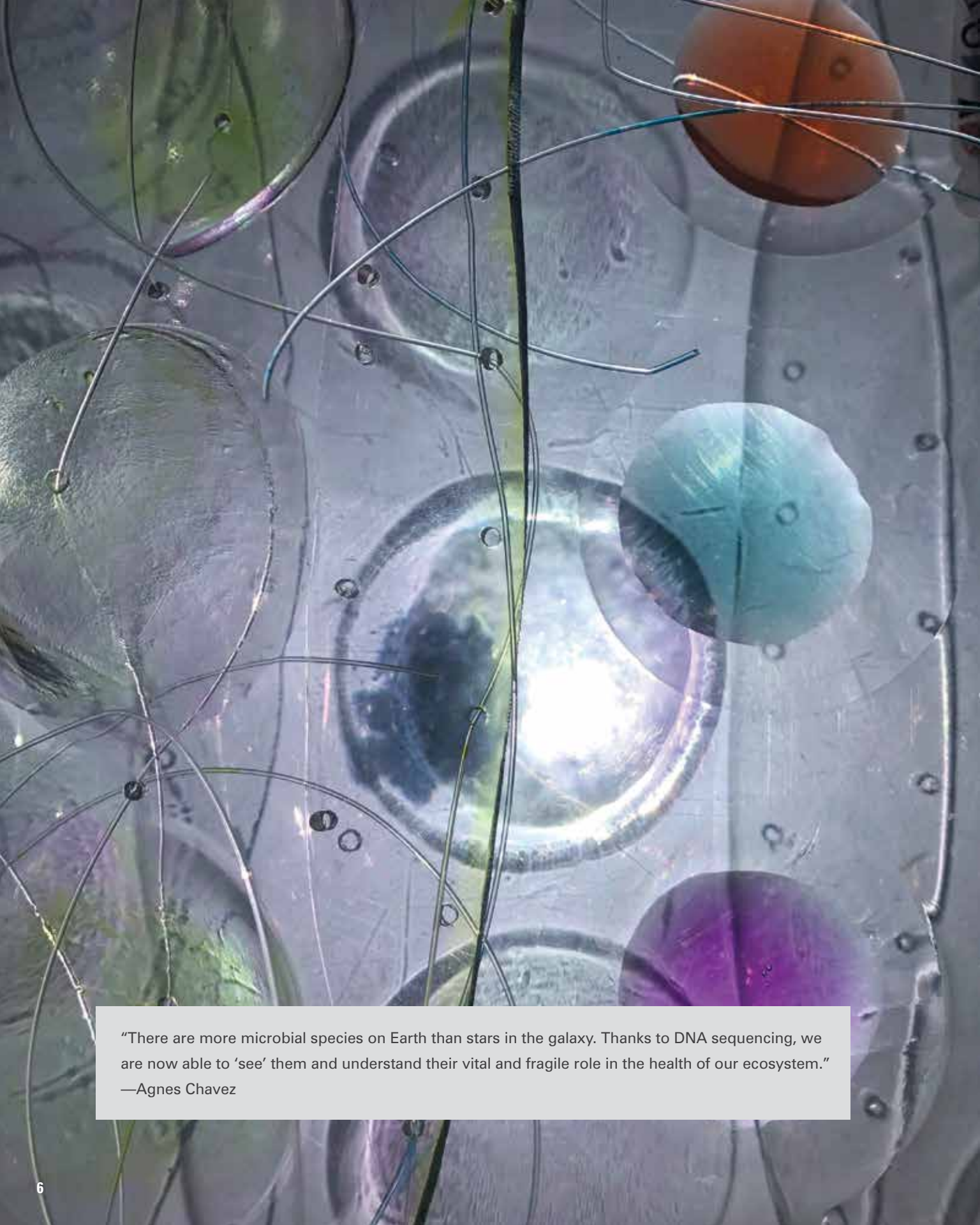
ARTISTS:

Michael P. Berman
Kaitlin Bryson & Hollis Moore
laura c carlson
Agnes Chavez
Suzi Davidoff
Catalina Delgado Trunk
Marisa Demarco, Dylan McLaughlin & Jessica Zeglin
Nina Elder
Jaque Fragua
Jessica Gross
Cannupa Hanska Luger
c marquez
Ruben Olguin
Zeke Peña
Daisy Quezada
Nicasio Romero
Marcia I. Santos
Janette Terrazas
Mary Tsiongas & Jennifer Owen-White



"The River is an illustrated time line of the river in one image. The river has been essential to survival and the foundation of cultures for thousands of years but recently we've seen many detrimental changes the river has gone through due to colonization, poor management and the international border infrastructure."

—Zeke Peña



“There are more microbial species on Earth than stars in the galaxy. Thanks to DNA sequencing, we are now able to ‘see’ them and understand their vital and fragile role in the health of our ecosystem.”
—Agnes Chavez



Cannupa Hanska Luger

“My project is a figurative ceramic and steel sculpture in the form of a full-sized buffalo skeleton that is both sculpture and subject in a series of videos. It explores the cascading effects of a decimated species on our precious and interconnected environment, and expresses how losing one species a hundred years ago has lasting effects in the 21st century. Through installation, sculpture and performative video, the piece implores audiences not to wait another hundred years to protect the next species in peril.”

ART INSTALLATION:
Be(Longing)
(On view at 516 ARTS)

Catalina Delgado Trunk

“The jaguars are at the center of many ecological and mythological Mexican narratives and possess powerful and generative force in the traditional spiritual realm. Tezcatlipoca is one of the central deities in the Mexican pantheon, along with his three brothers. His sacred spirit animal is the jaguar (ocelotl), and he is brother and arch rival to Quetzalcoatl, whose sacred spirit animal is the eagle (cuauhtli). Tezcatlipoca and Quetzalcoatl, the jaguar and the eagle, are the opposite forces involved in the creation of our current world and the sun. While the eagle is connected with the bright sun and the day, the jaguar becomes the lord of the night and the ruler of the moon; the spots on the fur representing the stars.”

PAPEL PICADO:
Fauna Mesoamericana
(On view at 516 ARTS)



Kaitlin Bryson & Hollis Moore

“The current stand of the most prolific cottonwood trees in the Middle Rio Grande Bosque are nearing the end of their lives. Cottonwoods grow when flooding occurs along the riparian zone, allowing for successful germination of seeds. With the rise of climate change and diversions upstream, there has not been a successful year of natural propagation since 1941. The decline of cottonwoods along the Rio Grande is changing the entire ecosystem, resulting in habitat loss and species migration. Our work asks, how is loss felt? What will be left in this wake? We explore these questions through hand-made cottonwood paper embedded with native seeds.”

ART INSTALLATION:
Its Vitality Comes Through Fluctuation
(On view at 516 ARTS)

LEFT: Agnes Chavez, *Biota*, (detail), 2019, mixed media

Species in Peril in the Rio Grande Watershed

ANIMALS:

- Diminutive amphipod

Noel's amphipod

Pecos amphipod

Mexican long-nosed bat

Mexican blindcat

Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly

Western yellow-billed cuckoo

Bald eagle (delisted)

Northern aplomado falcon

Peregrine falcon (delisted)

Black-footed ferret

Southwestern willow flycatcher

Big Bend gambusia

Pecos gambusia

Texas hornshell

Socorro isopod (or Socorro sowbug)

Jaguar

Gulf Coast jaguarundi

Red knot

Canada lynx

Devils River minnow

Rio Grande silvery minnow

New Mexico meadow jumping mouse

Preble's meadow jumping mouse
- Ocelot

Mexican spotted owl

Piping plover

Comanche Springs pupfish

Leon Springs pupfish

Jemez Mountains salamander

Pecos bluntnose shiner

Pecos assiminea snail

Alamosa springsnail

Chupadera springsnail

Koster's springsnail

Phantom springsnail

Roswell springsnail

Socorro springsnail

Least tern

Greenback cutthroat trout

Diamond tryonia

Gonzales tryonia

Phantom tryonia (or Cheatum’s snail)

Golden-cheeked warbler

Gray wolf

Mexican gray wolf

PLANTS:

- Texas ayenia

Zapata bladderpod

Kuenzler hedgehog cactus

Lee pincushion cactus

Lloyd's mariposa cactus

Bunched cory cactus

Nellie cory cactus

Sneed pincushion cactus

Star cactus

Tobusch fishhook cactus

Terlingua Creek cat's-eye

Ashy dogweed

Guadalupe fescue

Zuni fleabane

Holy Ghost ipomopsis

Walker's manioc

Hinckley oak

Todsens pennyroyal

Davis' green pitaya

Little Aguja pondweed

Sacramento prickly poppy

Texas snowbells

Pecos sunflower

Sacramento Mountains thistle

Gypsum wild-buckwheat

EXCERPT

One region across two nations issues a clarion call to mitigate biological annihilation

By Subhankar Banerjee

I sing praises of profusion before I speak of species in peril.

- Did you know that New Mexico ranks third nationally (after California and Arizona) in the United States in diversity of wild birds?

A “desert wasteland” to some—New Mexico harbors 544 wild bird species, which is nearly half of the national avian diversity. How does New Mexico’s diversity of wild birds compare to some of the most biologically diverse places around the world—say, the Western Ghats in India or the Yasuni National Park in Ecuador? The Western Ghats and the Yasuni provide home to 508 and 596 wild bird species respectively.

- Did you know that New Mexico ranks third nationally in the United States in diversity of native mammals? With 179 native mammal species, New Mexico trails behind California and Texas, while the Western Ghats and the Yasuni provide home to 139 and 173 wild mammal species respectively.

- Did you know that New Mexico is home to more than a quarter of the native bee species in the U.S.? Of the 4,000 species of native bees that live in the U.S., New Mexico is home to about 1,100, which is more than 5% of the global diversity of bees.

- Did you know that New Mexico ranks fourth nationally (after California, Texas, and Arizona) in overall diversity of wild species?

We are yet to publicly acknowledge and celebrate such profusion of life. What we do speak about, however, reads like a litany of social tragedies. New Mexico ranks among the worst nationally—in poverty, education, environmental injustice, child welfare, opioid crisis,...—a consequence of the long history of colonial violence and capitalist exploitation. I also did not raise the questions on ecological vitality of my home state until two years ago when I began to think seriously about *Species in Peril Along the Rio Grande*.



CATALOG

Published by 516 ARTS, the exhibition catalog for *Species in Peril Along the Rio Grande: Contemporary Artists Respond* features a land acknowledgement by Rosie Thunderchief, preface by Suzanne Sbarge, essays by Subhankar Banerjee, Josie Lopez, PhD, and Laura Paskus, along with artists’ statements and biographies. It is available for purchase from 516 ARTS in person, by phone at 505-242-1445 or online at 516arts.org/store. (\$25)

“Artists cannot change the world...alone. But when they make a concerted effort, they collaborate with life itself.”
—Lucy R. Lippard, from *Weather Report: Art and Climate Change*

“Ultimately, it is the political, fiscal, and economic environment that greatly influence a country’s commitment to conserving nature—or not.” —Perna Singh Bindra, from *The Vanishing: India’s Wildlife Crisis*

LEFT: List information provided by the Center for Biological Diversity • Male Jaguar, photo courtesy of BLM
ABOVE: Cannupa Hanska Luger, *(Be)Longing* (detail in progress), 2019

Main Exhibition Opening

Saturday, September 28 at 516 ARTS
5-6pm Member Preview / 6-8pm Public Celebration



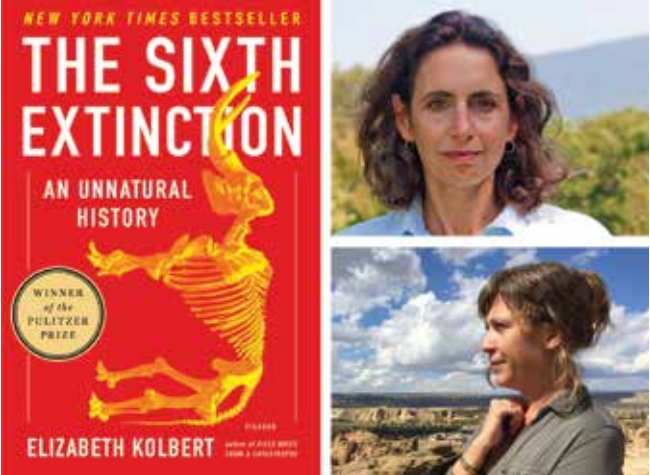
OPENING ADDRESS & FORUM:
Kierán Suckling, Cannupa Hanska Luger & Curators

Sunday, September 29, 2pm

Presented by 516 ARTS

In conjunction with the opening of the exhibition *Species in Peril Along the Rio Grande: Contemporary Artists Respond*, the public is invited to an opening address and discussion. Beginning with an invocation by **Brophy Toledo**, Cultural Leader, Jemez Pueblo, the opening address is by **Kierán Suckling**, Co-founder & Executive Director of the Center for Biological Diversity. Kierán writes and lectures on the threats to, preservation of, and relationships between cultural and biological diversity, and maintains the most comprehensive endangered species research and management database in the United States. The discussion includes artist **Cannupa Hanska Luger**, who has created a life-sized buffalo skeleton for the exhibition, and co-curators **Josie Lopez**, PhD, Curator of Art, Albuquerque Museum and **Subhankar Banerjee**, Lannan Chair, Art & Ecology Program at UNM.

LOCATION: Albuquerque Museum
2000 Mountain Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM • Free
Event info: 505-242-1445 • 516arts.org
Venue info: 505-243-7255 • cabq.gov/museum



CONVERSATION:
Elizabeth Kolbert & Laura Paskus

Thursday, October 3, 7pm

Presented by 516 ARTS & Lannan Foundation

516 ARTS, in partnership with Lannan Foundation, welcomes Pulitzer prize-winning author **Elizabeth Kolbert** in conversation with New Mexico journalist **Laura Paskus**. Kolbert is the author of *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, a book about mass extinctions that weaves intellectual and natural history with reporting in the field. It was a New York Times 2014 Top Ten Best Book of the Year and is number one on the Guardian’s list of the 100 Best Nonfiction Books of all time, and won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize in the General Nonfiction category. Paskus has been writing about environment issues in New Mexico for 17 years, reporting for magazines, newspapers, and public radio, focusing in particular on climate change, water, energy and southwestern rivers. A former archaeologist and tribal consultant, she currently hosts a monthly show on New Mexico PBS, *Our Land: New Mexico’s Environmental Past, Present and Future*. Her book, *At the Precipice: New Mexico’s Changing Climate*, is forthcoming from UNM Press. Ticketholders are invited to a reception and booksigning with Elizabeth Kolbert and Laura Paskus at 516 ARTS after their talk.

LOCATION: KiMo Theatre
423 Central Ave. NW, Albuquerque, NM
Tickets: \$10 general / \$8 516 ARTS members / \$6 students
available at kimotickets.com

Lannan

Photo of Elizabeth Kolbert by Nicholas Whitman



PUBLIC FORUM & ACTIVITIES:
Encuentro de Semillas // Gathering of Seeds

Saturday, September 21, 9:30am-4:30pm

Presented by SeedBroadcast, UNM Land Arts of the American West, UNM Art & Ecology, & Albuquerque Museum

In the last century over 90% of all domesticated food plants and their seeds have gone extinct. This accounts for thousands of years of relations from seed to seed between people, plants, and the land, as co-evolving agri-Culture, biodiversity, and rooted sustenance. *Encuentro de Semillas // Gathering of Seeds* is an entire day dedicated to these agri-Cultural relationships as the exhibition *Seed: Climate Change Resilience* comes to a close and SeedBroadcast, along with community partners and local farmers, share strategies for seed resilience and calls-to-action. In addition to many performative, hands-on activities, the event includes an in-depth panel discussion about bioregional and indigenous arid-land agriculture, climate change, and seeds with: **Aaron Lowden**, Director of Acoma Ancestral Lands Program and Youth Farm Corp; **Beata Tsosie-Peña**, Environmental Justice Program Coordinator for Tewa Women United; **Ron Boyd**, Farmer in La Villita, NM at Mergirl Gardens; **Don Bustos**, Farmer in Española, NM at Santa Cruz Farms; and **Joy Hought**, Director of Native Seeds/SEARCH. The conversation is moderated by **Rowen White**, a Akwesasne Mohawk Seed Keeper, Director and Founder of Sierra Seeds.

LOCATION: Albuquerque Museum
2000 Mountain Rd. NW, Albuquerque
505-243-7255 • cabq.gov/museum • Free

ALBUQUERQUE & JEMEZ PUEBLO, NM



WALK:
Indigenous Knowledge Walk at Jemez Pueblo

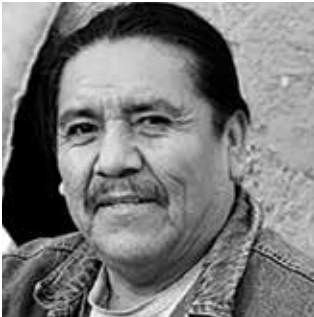
Saturday, October 12, 10am-1pm

Presented by 516 ARTS, Flower Hill Institute & Bear Paw Tours

Take a trip to Jemez Pueblo and experience a walk through the Red Rocks to the river and a traditional lunch with **Brophy Toledo**, who is a Cultural Leader serving the Pueblo of Jemez for over four decades. The Red Rocks is generally known as a large escarpment of rock that towers nearly 50 feet and casts a wide shadow. The area consists of low impact trails that are easily walked by hikers of all levels. The tour guide, Joseph “Brophy” Toledo is a Cultural Leader and has an international reputation of a consummate teacher. Brophy has led many dignitaries and heads of State from all across the world on tours as well as people ranging from very young to seniors. The teachings go beyond the cultural aspects of the landscapes into the universe above, under day and night skies, and to the subterranean and ground level fauna and flora. The tour—which includes discussion of winged, finned, and four-legged beings, and a diversity of plant life—is interactive and full of both serious and lighthearted conversational teachings. Water, snacks and other amenities are located at the Walatowa Convenience Store just a short walk away.

LOCATION: Meet at Red Rocks, Jemez Pueblo (mile marker 7 on New Mexico highway 4)
Register: 505-242-1445 • 516arts.org
Fee: \$35 / \$30 516 ARTS members (includes lunch)

Red Rocks, Jemez Pueblo, photo by Roger Fragua



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ DAY EVENT:
Honoring Traditional Ecological Knowledge of the Rio Grande

Monday, October 14, 5-7pm

Presented by 516 ARTS, Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, Flower Hill Institute, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center & Southwest Conservation Corps – Ancestral Lands Program

Everyone is invited to the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge for a provocative and honest conversation exploring what it means to reclaim “Columbus Day” as “Indigenous Peoples’ Day.” We gather in sincerity to open space for meaningful dialogue about species in peril, tribal sovereignty and trust responsibility. In this way we Honor Native Land, people, plants and animals along the Rio Grande. Speakers include **Eddie Paul Torres** (former Governor, farmer and rancher, Isleta Pueblo), **Brophy Toledo** (Cultural Leader, Jemez Pueblo), **Roger Fragua** (Jemez Pueblo) and **Stephanie Oyenqu** (Education Coordinator, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center), among others, and is moderated by **Rosie Thunderchief** (Valle de Oro/ Ancestral Lands Tribal VISTA, Navajo (Diné, Pawnee, Arapaho & Cheyenne, Ho-Chunk, Lakota). The evening culminates with a special performance of Animal Dances by youth from Jemez Pueblo.

LOCATION: Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
7851 2nd St. SW, Albuquerque, NM
Event info: 505-248-6667 • 505-242-1445
friendsofvalledeoro.org • 516arts.org • Free

“Native/Indigenous Americans see the world through multi-dimensional lenses, everything is connected, everyone interwoven in the web of life. All life begins in water. Fed with mountain snow melt and monsoon rains, our sacred river is and has been a ribbon of life for thousands of years.” —Rosie Thunderchief

Brophy Toledo • Rosie Thunderchief • Michelle Otero • Amaris Ketcham

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY:
Field Murals & Poetry at the Refuge

Saturday, October 19, 2-4pm

Presented by 516 ARTS, Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge & Friends of Valle de Oro

Join artists **Francesca Searer**, **Nani Chacon**, **Erin De Rosa**, **Jessica Chao**, and **Haley Greenfeather English** for a tour of Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge Field Murals, followed by a poetry walk through the Bosque with Albuquerque Poet Laureate **Michelle Otero** and **Amaris Ketcham**, who has done a poetic inventory analogous to a “scientific inventory” of the Rio Grande’s biodiversity. V. B. Prices says, “Ketcham’s poems, like wild landscapes and cities, are to be experienced as one would blaze a trail, keeping track of scat and paw prints and herbs and hobos, noting each leaving of identity and imagination.” The field murals are a collaborative art project sponsored by the Bernalillo County Public Art Program. Each of the murals represent different ecosystems/habitats being developed throughout the Refuge, showcasing the future of the land through artistic interpretations of the flora and fauna that will consider these sites home. The tour departs the Refuge parking lot at 2pm to caravan through the fields and then participants can park by the Bosque for the poetry walk to the river.

LOCATION: Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
7851 2nd St. SW, Albuquerque, NM
Event info: 505-248-6667 • 505-242-1445
friendsofvalledeoro.org • 516arts.org • Free



DRAWING SESSIONS:
Tracing Disappearances: Drawing Imperiled Species

Wednesdays, October 23, 30 & November 6, 5:30-8:30pm

Presented by Harwood Art Center, UNM Museum of Southwestern Biology & 516 ARTS

The Rio Grande region is rich in biodiversity, yet its eco-systems, plants, and animals have been put in peril by human intervention and climate change. Join us for three drawing sessions in the Museum of Southwestern Biology at UNM to draw diverse specimens from the museum’s vast research collection. Learn about the biology of the region by observing taxidermy of birds and mammals, dry mounted plants and insects, reptiles, and amphibians. The Museum of Southwestern Biology has world-class collections, as the 2nd largest mammal collection in the world, and the largest collections in the region for fishes, reptiles and amphibians, birds, and plants. The astounding diversity of form and function that is found within the cabinets and jars of the museum is a seldom tapped resource for artistic inspiration and learning regarding the remarkable aesthetics of natural history. During each session, there is a short tour of the division’s collection guided by a monitor, followed by time to draw from a selection of specimens. **Session I:** Birds & Mammals • **Session II:** Plants & Insects • **Session III:** Fishes, Reptiles, & Amphibians

LOCATION: Museum of Southwestern Biology
CERIA building, UNM
Fee: 3 sessions: \$50 / 1 session: \$25 (10% discount for Harwood & 516 ARTS members)
Register: 505-242-6367 • harwoodartcenter.org
Venue Info: msb.unm.edu

“As we dig deeper into the fragility of life around and across the Rio Grande, El Río Bravo continues to trace its own path deep within our understanding of life. We are all species along our shared river, there is no longer time to think of us and them, of humans and flora and fauna, we are all in peril together.” —León De la Rosa

laura c carlson, Study for *Quadrula Couchiana*, 2019, pencil on paper, 12 x 12 inches • View from the Santa Fe Bridge, US/Mexico border, El Paso / Ciudad Juárez



POETRY & PUBLIC FORUM:
Species in Peril on the Borderlands

Friday, November 15, 6pm

Presented by 516 ARTS & UNM Art & Ecology Program

The US–Mexico borderlands, one of the most biologically diverse places in North America, traverse six eco-regions and provide home to 1,506 native terrestrial and freshwater animal and plant species, including 62 species listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered, or Vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. The proposed expansion of the “Wall” threatens not only human communities but also the incredible diversity of life and bi-national investment in conservation. This event begins with a poetry performance by **León De la Rosa**, PhD, professor in the Departamento de Arte at IADA and UACJ and is followed by a panel discussion on the history and ecological vitality of the borderlands and the threats facing the region, featuring: **Michael P. Berman**, exhibition artist; **Robert Peters**, PhD, Defenders of Wildlife and author of *In The Shadow of the Wall*, on how the border wall will affect wildlife; **Ma. Eugenia Hernández**, PhD, professor, UACJ in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico; and **Sam Truett**, PhD, borderlands historian and UNM Professor of History.

LOCATION: 516 ARTS
516 Central Ave. SW, Albuquerque, NM
505-242-1445 • 516arts.org • Free



SOUND ART PERFORMANCE:
**There Must Be Other Names
for the River**

Saturday, November 16, 7pm (doors open at 6pm)

Presented by 516 ARTS, National Hispanic Cultural Center
& UNM Art & Ecology Program

Artists **Marisa Demarco**, **Dylan McLaughlin** and **Jessica Zeglin**, present a score for six singers performing a composition based on streamflow data from the river known today as the Rio Grande. Each singer channels the river, representing a point where flows were observed and recorded. Arranged in the shape of the water body within the performance space, the singers’ voices change in intensity with the flows and distort over time as human interference is felt along the length of the river. After embodying past decades, the singers project possible futures for the voice of the river and the bodies through which its waters flow. The artists say, “The Rio Grande is itself a living being who has experiences over time including birth, growth, and possibly death... By listening and embodying, can we change our relationships with the river and see beyond its uses to humans? Can we hear the river as more than a resource?”

LOCATION: National Hispanic Cultural Center, Salon Ortega
1701 4th St. SW, Albuquerque, NM • Free
505-246-2261 • nhccnm.org / 505-242-1445 • 516arts.org

“The Rio Grande was born approximately 5 million years ago, growing to its current length 1 million years ago. It is itself a living being who has experiences over time including birth, growth, and possibly death, as climate disruption and water overuse force startling changes and threaten the existence of many beings that depend on this lifeline in the desert.” —Marisa Demarco, Dyan McLaughlin & Jessica Zeglin



PANEL DISCUSSION:
**Restoration and Resilience:
Reclaiming Cultural Ecosystems**

Wednesday November 20, 5:30-7pm

Presented by Indian Pueblo Cultural Center

In this quarter’s Counter Narrative Panel Discussion, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center would like to bring together voices from our communities to discuss the importance of natural ecosystems that surround our homes and have laid the foundation for our ways of life. Since time immemorial, our people have recognized the balance of nature. As we face unprecedented changes to climate and ecosystem, we must find ways to maintain our way of life.

LOCATION: Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Silver & Turquoise
Banquet Rooms, 2401 12th St. NW, Albuquerque, NM
505-843-7270 • indianpueblo.org
Fee: \$10 suggested donation



PANEL & BOOKSIGNING:
**Global Perspectives:
Bathsheba Demuth & Joe Cook**

Thursday, December 5, 6pm

Presented by 516 ARTS & UNM Art & Ecology Program

516 ARTS welcomes historian **Bathsheba Demuth**, PhD, in conversation with biologist **Joe Cook**, PhD. This final public forum, moderated by co-curator **Subhankar Banerjee**, looks beyond the Rio Grande to the larger context of the global crisis. Demuth is author of the new book *Floating Coast: An Environmental History of the Bering Strait*, a groundbreaking exploration of the relationship between capitalism, communism, and Arctic ecology since the dawn of the industrial age. Demuth reveals how people have turned ecological wealth in a remote region into economic growth and state power for more than 150 years. Through the lens of the natural world, she views human life and economics as fundamentally about cycles of energy, bringing a fresh and visionary spin to the writing of human history. Cook is a Regents’ Professor of Biology and Curator of Mammals at the Museum of Southwestern Biology at UNM. His research is both local and international, providing training in conservation and molecular evolution of mammals. Over the past three decades, Cook led international field projects and worked with communities, resource managers, scientists, and citizen scientists—from Alaska and Siberia to across Latin America—to build Archival Observatories that explore relationships between environmental change, conservation, management, and human health. In 2016, Cook received the Joseph Grinnell Award from the American Society of Mammalogists. In 2019, he will conduct research in Ecuador as a Fullbright scholar.

LOCATION: 516 ARTS
516 Central Ave. SW, Albuquerque, NM
505-242-1445 • 516arts.org • Free



TALK:
Bird Conservation in New Mexico

Thursday, December 12, 5-7pm

Presented by Audubon New Mexico & 516 ARTS

Each year, over 18,000 Sandhill Cranes winter along the Rio Grande in one of the largest gatherings in North America. Conservation of this river is essential for Cranes, other birds, and the people that rely on the water to survive. New Mexico is home to over 500 different bird species, from the tiny Calliope Hummingbird, to our state’s mascot, the Greater Roadrunner. Overall, New Mexico has some of the highest avian biodiversity of any state in the US. Join **Jon Hayes**, Executive Director of Audubon New Mexico, for an informal talk about the unique avian diversity found in the Land of Enchantment by discussing the species assemblages of three different habitat types: Piñon-Juniper Woodlands, Riparian Forests, and Grasslands. Hays explains the unique conservation challenges that each of these systems face and presents solutions that Audubon is pursuing to conserve the species that occupy these habitats. Celebrating 25 years as the state office of the National Audubon Society, Audubon New Mexico’s mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth’s biological diversity.

LOCATION: 516 ARTS
516 Central Ave. SW, Albuquerque, NM
Event Info: 505-983-4609 • nm.audubon.org
Venue Info: 505-242-1445 • 516arts.org
Free

LEFT: There Must be Other names for the River, 2019, performance featuring singers Monica Demarco, Ryan Dennison, Ken Cornell, Antonia Montoya, Mauro Woody and Jessica Chao • RIGHT: Virgil Ortiz, Cochiti Pueblo, Clay Buffalo

Bathsheba Demuth, Joe Cook • Single Sandhill Crane, photo by Tara Tanaka



Partners & Venues

NATIONAL

Center for Biological Diversity
Defenders of Wildlife

NEW MEXICO

ALBUQUERQUE

516 ARTS
Albuquerque Museum
Audubon New Mexico
Bernalillo County Public Art Program
Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program
City of Albuquerque Open Space
Harwood Art Center
KiMo Theatre
Lannan Foundation
National Hispanic Cultural Center
New Mexico BioPark Society
SeedBroadcast
Sierra Club of the Rio Grande
Southwest Conservation Corps - Ancestral Lands Program
University of New Mexico:
Art & Ecology Program
Maxwell Museum of Anthropology
Museum of Southwestern Biology
Office of the Provost & Academic Affairs
Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge & Friends of
WildEarth Guardians

CARLSBAD

Carlsbad Museum & Art Center
Juntos Art Association

JEMEZ PUEBLO

Bear Paw Tourism
Flower Hill Institute

LAS CRUCES

City of Las Cruces
Creative Media Institute
Cruces Creatives
Southwest Environmental Center
Senator Tom Udall's Office
Rio Grande Theater
University Art Museum at NMSU

ROSWELL

Roswell Museum & Art Center

TAOS

BioSTEAM Lab
Taos Land Trust

TEXAS

Ballroom Marfa
El Paso Museum of Art
Rubin Center for the Visual Arts at UTEP

COLORADO

RedLine Contemporary Art Center, Denver

MEXICO

El Museo de Arte Cuidad Juárez
Visual Arts Program, Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez

Featured Programs Calendar

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque:

Saturday, September 21, 2:30pm Public Forum
Encuentro de Semillas // Gathering of Seeds
at Albuquerque Museum (See page 11)

OPENING WEEK EVENTS:

Saturday, September 28 Opening Reception
Species in Peril Along the Rio Grande: Contemporary Artists Respond, 5-6pm Member Preview / 6-8pm Public Reception,
at 516 ARTS (See page 10)

Sunday, September 29, 2pm Opening Address
Kierán Suckling, Cannupa Hanksa Luger & Curators
at Albuquerque Museum (See page 10)

Thursday, October 3, 7pm Conversation & Booksigning
Elizabeth Kolbert & Laura Paskus, at KiMo Theatre,
with reception & booksigning at 516 ARTS (See page 10)

Monday, October 14, 5-7pm Indigenous Peoples Day event
Honoring Traditional Ecological Knowledge of the Rio Grande,
at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (See page 12)

Saturday, October 19, 2-4pm Outdoor Event
Field Murals & Poetry, at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
(See page 12)

Friday, November 15, 6pm Public Forum
Species in Peril on the Borderlands
at 516 ARTS (See page 13)

Saturday, November 16, 7:30pm Performance
There Must Be Other Names for the River
at the National Hispanic Cultural Center (See page 14)

Wednesday, November 20, 7pm Panel Discussion
Restoration & Resilience: Reclaiming Cultural Ecosystems, at
Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
(See page 14)

Thursday, December 5, 6pm PUBLIC FORUM & Booksigning
Bathsheba Demuth & Joe Cook: *Global Perspectives*
at 516 ARTS (See page 15)

Thursday, December 12, 5-7pm Talk
Bird Conservation in New Mexico, at 516 ARTS (See page 15)

Jemez Pueblo:

Saturday, October 12, 10am-1pm Walk
Indigenous Knowledge Walk, at Jemez Pueblo (See page 11)

Las Cruces:

Wednesday, November 20, 7pm Lecture
Subhankar Banerjee: *Multispecies Justice in the Age of
Biological Annihilation & Climate Breakdown* at Rio Grande
Theater (See page 21)

Roswell:

Friday, November 8, 5:30pm Opening Reception
A Line in the Sand: Wildlife of the Borderlands, at Roswell
Museum & Art Center (See page 22)

Taos:

Sunday, September 22, 5-8pm Public Art Launch
Pollinator Concentrator: Focusing the Unseen, at Rio
Fernando Park (See page 22)

MEXICO

Friday, November 8, 2pm Mural Launch
*Both Sides of the River: Endangered Species in the
Borderland*, at Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez
(See page 18)

Saturday, November 9, 7pm Opening Reception
Desierto.Arte.Arquivo, Centro Cultural de las Fronteras, UACJ,
Ciudad Juárez (See page 19)

TEXAS

September 27 & November 2 Exhibition & Events
Alebrijes by Colectivo Última Hora, at El Paso Museum of Art
(See page 18)

Thursday, September 26, 5-7:30pm Mural Launch
*Both Sides of the River: Endangered Species in the
Borderlands*, at the Rubin Center for the Visual Arts, El Paso
(See page 18)

Through October 27 Exhibition
Candelilla, Coatlicue, and the Breathing Machine
at Ballroom Marfa (See page 20)

Friday, November 15, 6-9pm Opening Reception
Solange Pessoa, at Ballroom Marfa (See page 20)

COLORADO

Tuesday, December 3, 5:30pm Talk
Regan Rosburg: *Art and Grief: the Rio Grande Watershed*
at RedLine Contemporary Art Center, Denver (See page 23)



MURALS:

Both Sides of the River: Endangered Species in the Borderlands

EL PASO DEDICATION: **Thursday, September 26, 5-7:30pm**

JUÁREZ DEDICATION: **Thursday, November 8, 2pm**

Presented by Center for Biological Diversity's Endangered Species Mural Project, Rubin Center for the Visual Arts at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) & Visual Art Program at Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez

Both Sides of the River/Ambos Lados del Río - Endangered Species in the Borderlands/Especies en Peligro en la Zona Fronteriza is a cross-border mural collaboration between U.S. artists **Jaque Fragua** and **Dose** (of Jemez Pueblo and Albuquerque) and Mexican artists Juan Carlos Reyes aka "**Waka**" and **Laura Meneses** of Ciudad Juárez. The project is producing two murals focusing on the endangered species of the Rio Grande borderlands, located at two universities in the twin border cities of El Paso and Ciudad Juárez. They reflect the interconnectedness of border communities of endangered wildlife and culture across the river that both unites and divides them.

LOCATIONS:

EL PASO: Rubin Center for the Visual Arts at UTEP
500 West University Ave., El Paso, TX
915-747-6151 • rubin.utep.edu

CIUDAD JUÁREZ: Ciudad Universitaria, UACJ
Av. Jose Jesús Macias Delgado Núm. 18100
32000 Cd Juárez, Chihuahua, MX
Info: Centro Cultural de las Fronteras, UACJ
uacj.mx/DGDCDC/Paginas/CCF.aspx • 656-639-8870 & 8872
(exact wall location to be announced)

Info on Center for Biological Diversity's Endangered Species Mural Project: diversity.org/murals



EXHIBITION & EVENTS:

Alebrijes by Colectivo Última Hora

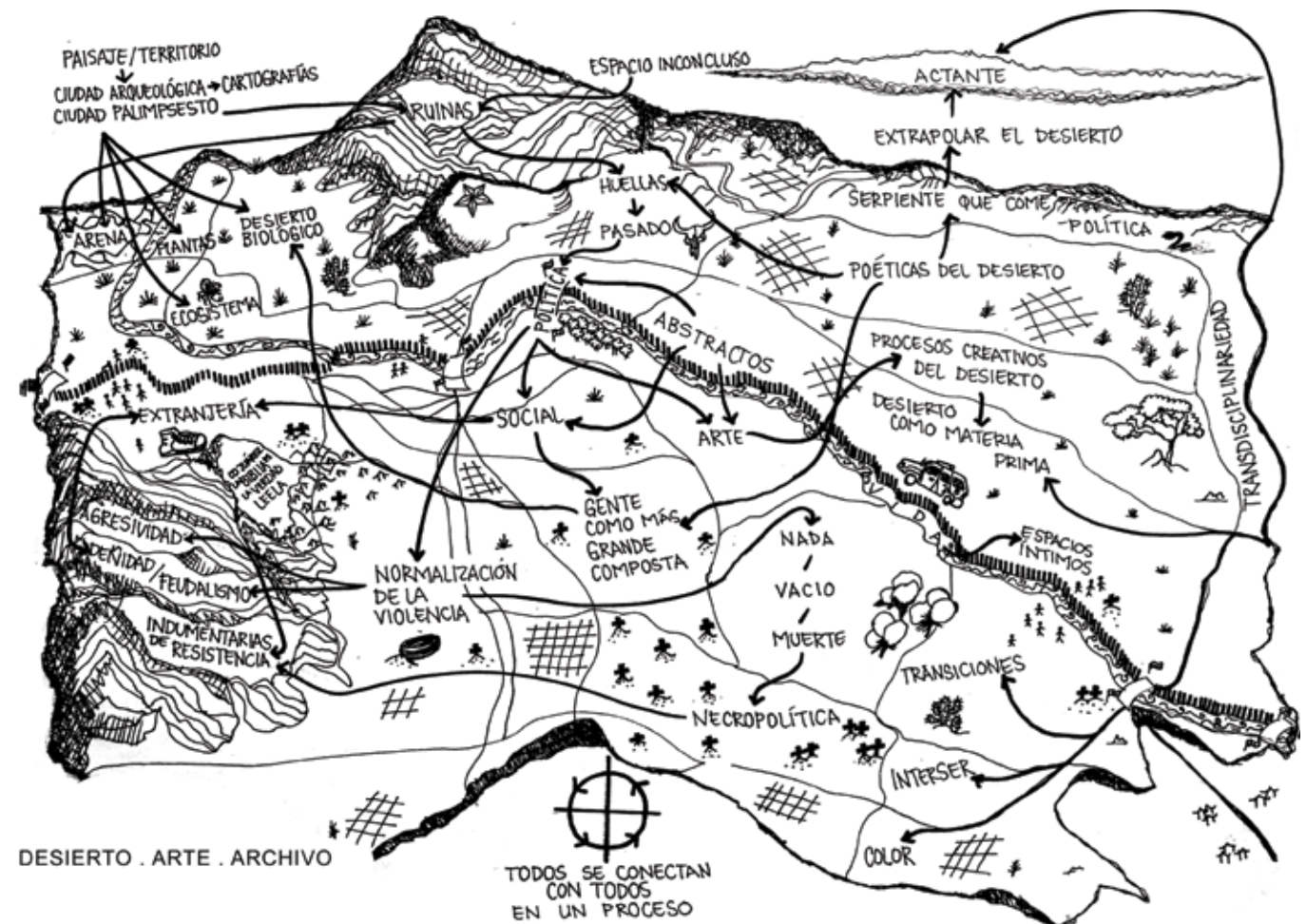
EXHIBITION: **Beginning Friday, September 27**

DESFILE DE ALEBRIJES: **Saturday, November 2, 5-6pm**

Presented by El Paso Museum of Art

Visit the El Paso Museum of Art (EPMA) for the unveiling of its monumental, regionally-inspired *alebrijes*—sculptures of fantastical animals that blend imagined and real species—created by Mexico City-based artists Colectivo Última Hora. *Alebrijes* are a Mexican folk tradition begun in the 1930s and continued today by artisans who render *alebrijes* in different sizes and media, inspired by various sources. This fall, EPMA celebrates the Rio Grande region's culture and biodiversity in exhibitions and by commissioning Colectivo Última Hora to produce large-scale *alebrijes* based on the flora and fauna of the area. Visitors are invited to tour EPMA's newly installed galleries to view landscape paintings and photographs featuring the Rio Grande region's historical and present-day species and plant life, by early Texas artists Manuel Acosta, Fern Thurston, and Leon Trouset, and contemporary artists Carmen Lomas Garza and David Taylor. All are invited to participate in a culminating Day of the Dead *desfile*, or parade, through the El Paso Downtown Arts District, which last year involved 10,000 participants and this year features Colectivo Última Hora's large-scale, hand-crafted *alebrijes* inspired by the species of the Rio Grande.

LOCATION: El Paso Museum of Art
One Arts Festival Plaza, El Paso, TX
915-212-0300 • epma.org • Free



The exhibition *Desierto.Arte.Archivo* is the result of a series of individual and collective arts-based inquiries into the aesthetic, biological and political nodes that have shaped our desert into its current form. Participating artists walked the desert's terrain, documented it as a place, engaged it as a learning site, and searched for insights and souvenirs as they mapped their commitment to a horizontal life where all desert dwellers (mineral, biological and cultural) commingle and inform each other. *Desierto.Arte.Archivo* is coordinated by Gracia Chavez-Ortiz, León De la Rosa-Carrillo and Ma. Eugenia Hernández-Sánchez from the Art Department at UACJ and it features the work of Cassandra Adame, Alejandra Aragón, Alba Naiky Arreola-Cepeda, Alejandra Carrillo-Estrada, Octavio Castrejón, Enrique Casaña-Díaz, Paloma Galavíz, Pilar García, René López, Martín Luna, Andréa Magallanes, Laura Meneses, Paola Nayely Mendoza, Abril Meléndez, América Pérez, César Ponce, Ángel Rangel, Juancarlos Reyes, Alexandra Rodríguez, Janette Terrazas Islas, and Marcia I. Santos.

EXHIBITION:

Desierto.Arte.Archivo

November 9, 2019 – January 24, 2020

OPENING RECEPTION:

Saturday, November 9, 7pm

Presented by the Visual Arts Program at Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez in collaboration with El Museo de Arte de Ciudad Juárez

LOCATION: Centro Cultural de las Fronteras UACJ, Sala Oro Anillo Envolvente Jose Reyes Estrada, 445, Zona Pronaf, Zona Pronaf Condominio La Plata, 32315 Cd Juárez, Chih.
01 656 639 8872 • ledelaro@uacj.mx
<https://desierto.art.blog> • Free



EXHIBITION:
Candelilla, Coatlicue, and the Breathing Machine

Through October 27, 2019

Presented by Ballroom Marfa

Candelilla, Coatlicue, and the Breathing Machine features newly commissioned and existing works by **Beatriz Cortez**, **Candice Lin**, and **Fernando Palma Rodríguez**. The title refers to a facet of each artist’s sculptural contribution to the show, which range from wax pours to robotic storytellers to provisional shelters and beyond. The varied installations and objects from these three artists weave together a conversation about the animate qualities of land; human and non-human migrations and cross-pollinations and the simultaneous existence of past, present, and future. Each artist spent time in Marfa and around Big Bend, and these particular experiences and responses are reflected in the commissioned pieces. Altogether the exhibition puts these three important artists and their distinct bodies of work in conversation with and about lands, plants, and histories particular to U.S./Mexico border in West Texas.

LOCATION: Ballroom Marfa
108 East San Antonio St., Marfa, TX
432-729-3600 • ballroommarfa.org • Free

Fernando Palma Rodríguez, *Tocihuapapalutzin (Our revered lady butterfly)*, 2012 , microcontrollers, wood, aluminum, courtesy the artist, Ballroom Marfa, and House of Gaga, photo by Alex Marks • Solange Pessoa, *Série Botânica*, 2018, oil on canvas 44.5 x 46.25 x 2 inches



EXHIBITION:
Solange Pessoa

November 15 – March, 2020

OPENING RECEPTION:
Saturday, November 15, 6-9pm

Presented by Ballroom Marfa

Ballroom presents the first solo museum exhibition in the United States of noted Brazilian artist Solange Pessoa. Her work spans the mediums of painting, drawing, installation, sculpture, and video. The exhibition includes new work that responds to the cultural and natural landscape in West Texas and the human and natural history of the Trans Pecos region. Pessoa’s large-scale installations take on an animal physicality — long, snaking coils of fur or bulbous feathered forms that succumb to gravity. Her paintings and drawings elegantly distill the graphic essence of leaves, plants, flowers, and animals through bold monochromatic shapes that allude to modernist paintings and ancient pictographs. Her sculptures, which often include actual foliage and organic materials, also resonate with these diverse forms.

LOCATION: Ballroom Marfa
108 East San Antonio St., Marfa, TX
432-729-3600 • ballroommarfa.org • Free

Solange Pessoa, *Série Botânica*, 2018, oil on canvas 44.5 x 46.25 x 2 inches



CITY OF LAS CRUCES PROCLAMATION:
Species in Peril Along the Rio Grande Awareness Month

Monday, November 4, 1pm

A proclamation by **Ken Miyagishima**, Mayor of the City of Las Cruces, in collaboration between the City of Las Cruces, the University Art Museum at New Mexico State University (NMSU), The Department of Art at NMSU, The College of Arts and Sciences at NMSU, The Southwest Environmental Center, Cruces Creatives, New Mexico State University Climate Change Education Seminar Series and Las Cruces Arts & Cultural District recognizes November as a community commitment and regional collaboration month aiming to raise awareness and acknowledge our species in peril along the Rio Grande. This month-long designation aims through public programming and community partnerships to encourage all citizens to take part in the events happening throughout the city to help effect change, formulate new questions, and work towards new models to mitigate the severity and damaging effects of climate change and species extinction in our Rio Grande community at large.

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, City Hall
700 N. Main St., Las Cruces, NM
575-541-2067 • las-cruces.org • Free

Subhankar Banerjee, *Dead piñon where birds gather in autumn*, from *Where I Live I Hope to Know*, New Mexico, 2009, photograph

LECTURE:
Subhankar Banerjee: Multispecies Justice in the Age of Biological Annihilation & Climate Breakdown

Wednesday, November 20, 7pm

Presented by New Mexico State University Climate Change Education Seminar Series, the University Art Museum at New Mexico State University, The College of Arts & Sciences at NMSU & Senator Tom Udall

Join artist, public scholar, and conservationist, **Subhankar Banerjee** for a talk about his role as a co-curator of the exhibition *Species in Peril Along the Rio Grande* and his ongoing engagements with New Mexico, the Pacific Northwest, and Alaska’s Arctic. In all three places, he has witnessed extreme impacts of climate breakdown and biological annihilation. He will also speak about campaigns for multispecies justice and his recent research on the global biological crisis. Banerjee serves as Lannan Chair and Professor of Art & Ecology at the University of New Mexico.

LOCATION: Rio Grande Theater
211 N. Main St. Las Cruces, NM
misage@nmsu.edu • 575-646-2545 • Free

TAOS, NM



PUBLIC ART:
**Pollinator Concentrator:
Focusing the Unseen**

September 22, 2019, 5-8pm

Presented by Taos Land Trust & STEMarts Lab

Pollinator Concentrator is an ecological art project and dialogue between an artist and an entomologist responding to the biological crisis of pollinator loss and role of pollinators in the Rio Grande watershed. Come celebrate the unveiling of **Ana MacArthur’s** interspecies, site-specific installation at the Rio Fernando Park for the first launch of the new BioSTEAM Lab. MacArthur’s installation employs a large parabolic concentrator as surface for tiles depicting pollinators and as a metaphor for both “focusing” on diversity/loss and broadcasting this DNA information to far away distances as would a satellite dish. The tile images function as a “book” for educational and conservation expansion by any visitor viewing the work. After sunset during opening and specific evenings, a UV lighting element within the dish will be activated to attract hidden insects.

LOCATION: Rio Fernando Park
410 La Posta Rd., Taos, NM
575-751-3138 • taoslandtrust.org • Free

Ana MacArthur installing *Pollinator Concentrator*, an interspecies site specific installation at Rio Fernando Park, Taos, NM, 2019 • Illustration of Rattlesnake, *Crotalus molossus*, by J. H. Richard from “Reports of explorations and surveys, to ascertain the most practicable and economical route for a railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean,” 1855

ROSWELL, NM



EXHIBITION:
**A Line in the Sand:
Wildlife of the Borderlands**

November 9, 2019 – May 24, 2020

OPENING RECEPTION:
Friday, November 8, 5:30pm

Presented by Roswell Museum & Art Center

The political boundary between the United States and Mexico has an unstable history, with both the location and the importance of the border shifting across this remote region over time. If not for the geographers, surveyors, and scientists sent to map the border, the secretive animals of the mountains, deserts, and rivers might have evaded notice for a long time. Instead, over the course of the 1800s many expeditions passed through this region, collecting and illustrating the animals they discovered. Co-curated by **Aubrey Hobart**, **Tracy Diver**, and **Alexis Harrison**, this exhibition explores the stories of some of these animals, from the observations of early explorers to contemporary artistic representations of these same species, with notes on the current state of scientific knowledge about each, and thoughts on how the changing nature of the border may affect the wildlife living along it.

LOCATION: Roswell Museum & Art Center
1011 N. Richardson Ave., Roswell, NM
575-624-6744 • roswellmuseum.org • Free

DENVER, CO



TALK:
**Art, Grief and the Rio Grande
Watershed**

Tuesday, December 3, 5:30pm

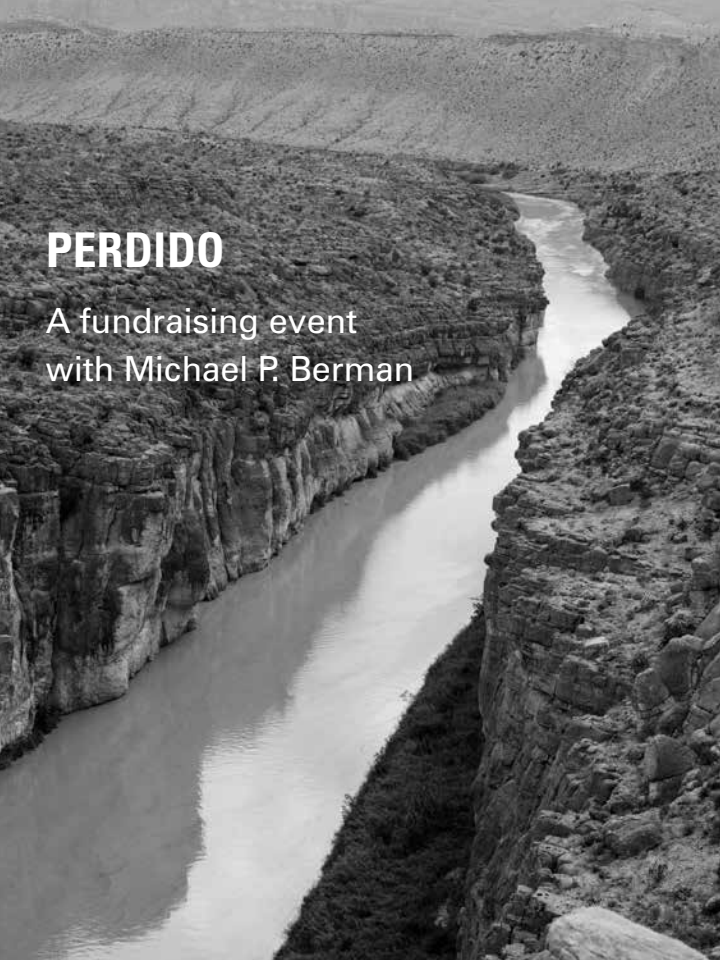
Presented by RedLine Contemporary Art Center

Redline resident artist **Regan Rosburg** is deeply concerned about the health of our world. In 2015, she moved away from statistics and warnings. She now focuses on Ecopsychology, using it to explore the psychological barriers that prevent us from implementing the necessary changes to remediate the crisis. Many of her artworks ask viewers to mourn contemporary human-caused catastrophes such as climate change, plastic pollution, and species loss. Her talk will explain how we experience ecological disintegration as relentless, overlapping, and abstracted. Rosburg will use the multifaceted, far-reaching ecological collapses of the Rio Grande Watershed as an example of the broader global crisis of Environmental Melancholia and Collective Social Mania. Courageously facing our pain, often through the symbolic works of artists, can catalyze the emotional empathy needed to move forward in social networks, politics, education, economics, and more. Rosburg teaches at the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design, as well as Metro State University. She is the Artistic Director of Cayo Art + Science Residency in Eleuthera, Bahamas.

LOCATION: RedLine Contemporary Art Center
2350 Arapahoe St., Denver, CO
303-296-4448 • redlineart.org • Free

Regan Rosburg, *Adieu* (detail), 2019, 3-D layered resin painting with wasp nest, mylar, and paint, 30 x 30 x 5 inches

PERDIDO
A fundraising event
with Michael P. Berman



Collect great art while supporting the arts and environmental activism!

For 516 ARTS’ 2019 Fall Fundraising Campaign during *Species in Peril Along the Rio Grande*, exhibition artist Michael P. Berman is gifting a limited number of prints and copies of his new book, *PERDIDO*, to support the work of 516 ARTS.

Join, renew, or grow your membership to the Friends of 516 ARTS at these levels and receive gift prints & books from the artist:

- **Individual:** receive 8.5 x 11” print
- **Supporter:** receive 17 x 22” print & a book
- **Contributor:** receive 22 x 30” print & a book

See inside back cover for membership fees. Visit the museum office upstairs to view the selection of prints at these sizes, and take prints with you on the spot. Additional fees apply for shipping and handling.

516 Central Ave. SW, Albuquerque, NM
Open Tue – Sat, 12-5pm
505-242-1445 • 516arts.org

We are the ancestors of the future

Viola Arduini talks with Nina Elder

There is hope and urgency for change sprouting from the ecological crisis we are facing. It is a movement that looks at the global, yet starts with and involves different local communities, each of them bringing important elements, needs, and forms of knowledge to the discourse. Similarly, with the *Species in Peril Along the Rio Grande* exhibition, we aim to initiate a dialogue that springs from the watershed we live on – the Rio Grande basin – and from there weaves threads to the rest of the continent and beyond.

At 516 ARTS, we acknowledge the current situation and need for change, and we seek to inspire activism and participation in response. We are working on educational initiatives that start here and now, and reach far in time and space, surviving the exhibition and its voices, echoing on after this project is over. In addition to creating engagement opportunities for the general public, we are working with two major learning communities, the University of New Mexico and Albuquerque Public Schools, to broaden and deepen the reach with the young people.

In order to further investigate these ideas, we had a conversation with artist, educator, and adventurer Nina Elder about her views on the role of creative practices in contributing to education and global change.

VA: *When you attended one of the meetings for Species in Peril Along the Rio Grande, you said, “I’m seeing meetings like this happening all over the country.” How do you see this project fitting into a change in consciousness that is taking place nationally?*

NE: In the meeting, we heard powerful wisdom shared by Brophy Toledo and Roger Fragua, elder culture bearers from Jemez. Receiving this knowledge was a broad group of artists, academics, arts administrators, and leaders from education, conservation, and civic organizations. While the form and content was completely unique, I see that this is part of a national and global trend. We are beginning to understand that the dominant culture is one of specializations and siloed knowledge. In looking to cultures that have successful and sustainable relationships to plants, animals, water, and earth,



it is clear that separating science, art, and spirituality does not benefit the larger systems that sustain us. Divisions must be challenged through unlikely alliances, or the friction between us will distract us from the larger work to be done.

VA: *What is the role of communities – both as learning and living ones – in the scenario of the current ecological crisis?*

NE: Beginning to understand that we all exist within ecologies is the most important lesson we can learn about ourselves and the way we are moving into the future. The very word “ecology” represents the act of living together. In Latin *oeco* means “coming together” which derives from Ancient Greek, which translates into “household.” When you imagine all that comes together to make a home — shelter, nourishment, a place to rest, a place to feel safe, a place to love and create and share — this is what we need to be protecting in this time of environmental precarity. To be great stewards, we must

cherish and protect natural ecosystems the way we do our homes and our communities.

VA: *What does “connecting” mean to you? How might fostering connections—among times, spaces and disciplines—allow for engagement and activism?*

NE: As the planet reacts to abuse from the dominant culture, we are inundated by scientific data that ranges from abstractly austere, to terrifying and paralyzing. We are only brought to action through things that touch our most inner being, things that catalyze our souls, hearts, and intellects. Science needs to stay objective, yet to bring our full selves into the scary future that is being revealed by climate science, we need emotions, connections, community, and creativity. If we don’t carve out spaces for diverse spiritual and aesthetic values, we lose sight of why we need to be environmental stewards. The Earth is home and we are the ancestors of the future. While it feels awkward and sometimes unprofessional, amplifying what makes us feel passionate, poetic, political, as well as practical, is the only way we can address the challenges of our time.

VA: *The Species in Peril Along the Rio Grande project is an experiment in artistic and scientific storytelling. How do you see storytelling as educational and creative tool?*

NE: There is an unnecessary schism between art and science that can be healed through storytelling. Both are experimental processes that help humans understand their place in the world. A desire to illuminate and share something unprecedented unifies these fields. Every geologist came home with pockets full of interesting rocks as a child. Every landscape painter has observed something entirely unique about their surroundings. A stargazer and an astrophysicist both have entirely valid observations of the cosmos. There is a sparkle beneath the surface that emerges when a person shares what they love, what they know, what they value, and especially what they have lost. With ecosystems in rapid decline, storytelling can pause time, allowing us to say, “This is important to me. I want to tell you about this. Will you listen? Will you help me remember?” As we bear witness to unprecedented change and loss, stories are our most valuable reliquaries, time capsules, eulogies, and archives.

Nina Elder holds an MFA from San Francisco Art Institute and a BFA from UNM. Her work focuses on changing cultures and ecologies. Through extensive travel and research, resulting in meticulous drawings and interdisciplinary creative projects, she promotes curiosity, exploration, and a collective sense of stewardship. Viola Arduini, an artist with an MFA from the UNM Art & Ecology Program, is the Education & Outreach Coordinator at 516 ARTS for *Species in Peril Along the Rio Grande*.

Education Initiatives

COLLEGE EDUCATION:

UNM Students & Teachers

516 ARTS and UNM Office of the Provost & Academic Affairs have teamed up to offer a unique learning initiative for UNM students and faculty in conjunction with *Species in Peril Along the Rio Grande* during the fall 2019 semester. Each of the artists in the exhibition offers a different entry point in the story of the Rio Grande and the human impact on the ecology of the region and the planet. UNM instructors and students are invited to examine some of the issues and understand what is important and how to intervene. Class involvement could range from a simple exhibition tour and response assignment to a more complex class project or interaction with the exhibition and related programs. For information & to sign up, contact: Viola Arduini, 516 ARTS, 505-242-1445, viola@516arts.org

K-12 EDUCATION:

Schools & Community Groups

516 ARTS is offering exhibition tours and curriculum materials for teachers and students from public and private schools as well as community groups and youth organizations. Related field trips to The City of Albuquerque Open Space and Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge can also be arranged. To schedule a customized tour for your school or group, contact: Viola Arduini, 516 ARTS, 505-242-1445, viola@516arts.org or sign up at 516arts.org/education.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL:

BioSTEAM Lab Online

The BioSTEAM Lab at Taos Land Trust is offering a free online curriculum tool for middle and high school teachers. This innovative curriculum can be used on its own in the classroom or coupled with field trips to the Rio Fernando Park at Taos Land Trust, where students can learn about pollinators and biodiversity loss through the new interspecies site-specific installation, *Pollinator Concentrator* by artist in residence Ana MacArthur (see page 22). Culturally responsive STEAM activities align with Next Generation Science and P21 Standards. Contact: Agnes Chavez, learn@sube.com stemarts.com/taoslandtrust

“We are only brought to action through things that touch our most inner being, things that catalyze our souls, hearts, and intellects. Science needs to stay objective, yet to bring our full selves into the scary future that is being revealed by climate science, we need emotions, connections, community, and creativity.” —Nina Elder

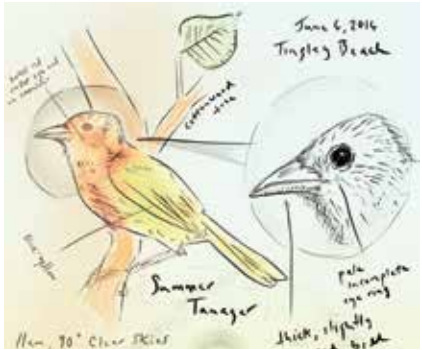


EXHIBIT:
Intertwined: The Mexican Wolf, the People and the Land Through October 26

Perhaps no other animal in North America has been as controversial as the gray wolf, which once numbered in the millions on this continent. Massive reductions of wolf populations began with the arrival of European settlers. Today, wolves continue to be central in debates about the American ecosystem. Preservationists and environmentalists usually argue for their protection and renewal, while ranchers and their advocates often argue for reduction if not their elimination. The exhibition investigates the biology and history of the Mexican Wolf, focusing on the human/wolf relationship.
Location: Maxwell Museum
500 University Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM
505-277-4405 • maxwellmuseum.unm.edu • Free

OUTDOOR ARTWORKS:
Contemplation Stations September – December
Artist Basia Irland presents Contemplation Stations, a series of sculptures sited along the riparian corridor within the Bosque. People are invited to sit quietly in them and observe the Río Grande and a variety of species that are in peril, including the river itself.
Location: Rio Grande sites near City of Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, NM
505-897-8831 • kswanson@cabq.gov • Free

WALK:
Bosque Wild First Sundays each month
Join a local naturalist for a guided walk into the riverside forest and discover this world away from the city.
Location: City of Albuquerque Open Space Visitor Center
6500 Coors NE, Albuquerque, NM
Free / registration recommended one month in advance
505-897-8831 • cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/open-space/open-space-visitor-center

CALL FOR ENTRIES:
Día de los Muertos Ofrenda Exhibit & Community Ofrenda
Deadline to submit proposals: September 4
Each year the National Hispanic Cultural Center works with schools and community organizations to host an exhibit of ofrendas (altars) in celebration of Día de los Muertos. This year we are seeking installations that will raise awareness about species in peril in our region. Please fill out the form online to apply. The NHCC reserves the right to review all submissions to ensure their support with the NHCC mission. We will notify you if your submission has been approved, and provide you with installation information.
Register your group or school at nhccnm.org/events
505-246-2261 • nhccnm.org • ElenaD.Baca@state.nm.us • Free

MURAL:
MESA Mural Project September 6 – November 30
Cruces Creatives presents a new mural created by Raquel Madrigal and Henry Hartig featuring the acequias of Las Cruces, water-flow, and the disappearing fish of the Rio Grande. Acequias, an ancient irrigation method created to meet needs for local agriculture and the growing population of Las Cruces, have become one of the sources leading to the mass die-off of the fish depicted in this mural. It is created as part of *Art/Agriculture/Environment*, an exhibition of local artists focusing on sustainable farming practices in our communities and their positive effects on our environment.
Location: Cruces Creatives, 205 E. Lohman Ave., Las Cruces, NM
575-448-1072 • crucescreatives.org • Free

ARTS EVENT:
Save the Wildlife Troupe Maskmaking & Dance Saturday, September 21, 10am-noon
Save the Wildlife, Art and Ecology Project, an interactive installation and off-the-wall performance. Created by the JUNTOS Art Association, it raises attention and awareness of the natural world with mask-making and dance to celebrate and give homage to the native and endangered species of the US-Mexico Borderland environment.
Location: Carlsbad Museum & Art Center
418 West Fox St., Carlsbad, NM • 575-887-0276 • Free

WALKS:
Future of the Bosque Saturday, September 28, 10am & Saturday, November 9, 1pm
Join hike leader Richard Barish of Sierra Club / Bosque Action Team for an easy walk to enjoy the bosque and to learn about the fate of the cottonwood canopy (as large die-offs of cottonwoods are likely in coming years), what we can expect in the bosque in the future, and what we can do to ensure that the bosque continues to be good habitat and a great place to enjoy nature in the middle of the city.
Hike locations: 505-232-3013 • richard.barish@gmail.com • Free

VOLUNTEER SERVICE EVENT
Build Your Refuge Day Saturday September 28, 10am-2pm
Location: Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
7851 2nd St. SW, Albuquerque, NM
505-248-6667 • fws.gov/refuge/valle_de_oro • Free

FAMILY PROGRAM:
¡Vamos al Museo y Afuera! Saturday, October 5, 10:30am-12pm
The National Hispanic Cultural Center presents a morning of art-making and exploration for children of all ages and families of all sizes! Albuquerque Water Authority educators provide engaging activities about the Rio Grande watershed with their Rio Van. Together with NHCC staff, participants will create their own artistic tributes dedicated to the species in peril in our region for a Community Día de los Muertos Ofrenda.
Location: NHCC, Domenici Education Building
1701 4th St. SW, Albuquerque, NM
Free / \$5 suggested donation / Pre-register: nhccnm.org/events
505-246-2261 • nhccnm.org • ElenaD.Baca@state.nm.us

COMMUNITY EXHIBIT:
Día de los Muertos Ofrenda Exhibit October 7 – November 8
An exhibit of *ofrendas* (altars) created by community organizations and schools in remembrance and dedication of loved ones and species in peril.
Location: NHCC, Domenici Education Building
1701 4th St. SW, Albuquerque, NM
505-246-2261 • nhccnm.org • Free

EXCURSIONS:
Bosque Study Trips Saturdays, October 12 & November 2, 8am-noon
The Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP) is leading a series of educational study trips into the Bosque where participants will look for and identify local plant and animal species, learn about how the Rio Grande’s riparian forest is changing, and what these changes mean for the imperiled species that call it home. Participants learn survey techniques for listed species such as the Threatened Yellow-billed Cuckoo, how to assess habitat suitability, and what they can do to help with conservation efforts. Ecology and conservation inform place-based explorations of art and expression while in the field, giving participants a unique opportunity to creatively merge art and science while immersed in Albuquerque’s natural spaces. Space is limited. Register by October 10 for October 12, and by October 31 for November 2.
Location: Open Space Bosque, Albuquerque, NM
Free / Pre-register: alex.levine@bosqueschool.org • bemp.org

TOURS:
Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge Saturdays, October 12 & November 9 & December 14, 9am-10am
7851 2nd St. SW, Albuquerque, NM • Free / RSVP Required
505-248-6667 • fws.gov/refuge/valle_de_oro

WALK:
Nature Walk to the Rio Grande Saturday, October 12, 10:30am-noon
Enjoy a leisurely exploration of the Middle Rio Grande Bosque ecosystem with one of the RGNC volunteer naturalists. Search for signs of animal life and discover how the Bosque and the Rio Grande provide habitat. The walk is about 1.5 hours. The mostly flat, sandy trail is just under one mile. Wear a hat and sunscreen and bring a water bottle. This walk is appropriate for adults and children. Meet your guide just west of the RGNCSF parking lot at the bench and bulletin board.
Location: Rio Grande Nature Center
2901 Candelaria Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM
Fee: \$3 Park Day-Use Fee • 505-344-7240

LEFT: From *Intertwined: The Mexican Wolf, the People and the Land* exhibit at Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, UNM • Mask making with JUNTOS Art Association • *By the Dam*, mural design featuring Longnose Gar, Bluegill & River Carpsucker, Cruces Creatives • RIGHT: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow, photo by Joel Lusk • Alex Levine, Bird journal entry • Snow Geese at refuge wetland, photo by Jessie Jobs, 2016, Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge

EDUCATION PROGRAM:

Birds and Breakfast
Saturdays, October 19 & November 16, 8am-11am
Location: Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
7851 2nd St. SW Albuquerque, NM
Free / Breakfast included / RSVP required
505-248-6667 • fws.gov/refuge/valle_de_oro

OUTDOOR WORKSHOP:

Bird Journaling with Alex Levine
Saturday, October 26, 8-11am
Create your own birding field journal while learning about local bird species. Observe and identify local birds, create illustrations featuring field markings and unique avian behaviors, and hone observational skills to write meaningful entries and reflections. With nearly half of the world’s bird species in decline, there has never been a more important time to learn more about our beautiful feathered friends. Space is limited, Register by October 18.
Location: Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
7851 2nd St. SW Albuquerque, NM
Free / Pre-register: alex.levine@bosqueschool.org
bemp.org

EDUCATION ACTIVITY:

Rio Grande Silvery Minnow
Saturday, October 26, 2-4pm
The public is invited to an educational panel with local biologists knowledgeable about the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow. The event starts at the Valle de Oro Center with information sharing and visuals, followed by an excursion to the river to continue the discussion. Open to students and anyone interested in learning more about this little fish struggling to survive in our river.
Location: Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
7851 2nd St. SW, Albuquerque, NM
505-248-6667 • fws.gov/refuge/valle_de_oro • Free

WORKSHOP:

Extinct Species Altar Mixed Media Workshop
Saturday, October 26, noon
NMSU University Art Museum’s OutsmART Art children’s work-shops and the Southwest Environmental Center offer a workshop for all ages to create masks and altarpieces with paper, yarn, and other media that pay homage to and recognize our extinct and nearly disappeared Rio Grande species. The final works will be presented on November 1 as a large alter during the Old Mesilla Dia de los Muertos celebration.
Location: Devasthali Hall, 1308 University Ave., Las Cruces, NM
575-646-2545 • misage@nmsu.edu • Free

EXHIBIT:

Extinct Species Altar
Friday – Sunday, November 1-3
Following an extinct and endangered species mask making event, a collaboration between the University Art Museum’s OutsmART Art children’s workshops and the Southwest Environmental Center, masks and altarpieces will be presented to pay homage to and recognize our extinct and nearly disappeared Rio Grande species.
Location: Mesilla Plaza for Dia de los Muertos Celebration
2170 Calle De Parian, Las Cruces, NM
575-522-5552 • wildmesquite.org • Free

FILM SCREENING:

Call of Life: Facing the Mass Extinction
Tuesday, November 12, 7pm
Southwest Environmental Center and Creative Media Institute present Call of Life: Facing the Mass Extinction is the first feature documentary to investigate the growing threat to Earth’s life support systems from this unprecedented loss of biodiversity. Through interviews with leading scientists, psychologists, anthropologists, philosophers, and indigenous and religious leaders, the film explores the causes, the scope, and the potential effects of the mass extinction. The film also looks beyond the immediate causes of the crisis to consider how our cultural and economic systems, along with deep-seated psychological and behavioral patterns, have allowed this situation to develop, continue to reinforce it, and even determine our response to it.
Location: Creative Media Institute Theatre
2915 McFie Circle, NMSU, Las Cruces, NM
575-646-2545 • Free

FESTIVAL:

32nd Annual Festival of the Cranes
November 20-23
Celebrate the return of the sandhill cranes to their winter home. Rated among the top wildlife, birding, and photography events in North America, this nationally recognized Festival offers over a hundred and thirty events in four days.
Location: Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge
San Antonio, NM • fws.gov/refuge/Bosque_del_Apache

BIRD COUNT:

Audubon New Mexico’s Christmas Bird Count
December 14, 2019 – January 5, 2020
The public is invited to participate in Audubon’s 119th Christmas Bird Count.
nm.audubon.org/conservation

VOLUNTEER SERVICE EVENT:

Christmas Bird Count
Saturday, December 21, 7am
Location: Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
7851 2nd St. SW, Albuquerque, NM
Email to sign up: valledeor@fws.gov
505-248-6667 • fws.gov/refuge/valle_de_oro

INTERNATIONAL:

350.org

Amazon Watch
amazonwatch.org

Bird Life International
birdlife.org

Extinction Rebellion
rebellion.earth

Greenpeace
greenpeace.org

Humanities for the Environment
hfe-observatories.org

International Union for Conservation of Nature, Red List initiative
iucnredlist.org

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
ipbes.net

National Humanities Center
nationalhumanitiescenter.org/beyond-despair-focus-on-environmental-humanities

Survival International
survivalinternational.org

Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network
whsrn.org

World Wide Fund for Nature
worldwildlife.org

US-Canada “Arctic Refuge” (Letter)
thelastoil.unm.edu/arctic-refuge-protectors-teachers-and-scholars-letter

US-Mexico “Border Wall” (Letter)
academic.oup.com/bioscience/article/68/10/740/5057517

Wildlife Conservation Society
wcs.org

NATIONAL:

Alaska Wilderness League
alaskawild.org

Gwich’in Steering Committee
ourarcticrefuge.org

American Rivers
americanrivers.org

Center for Biological Diversity
biologicaldiversity.org

Endangered Species Coalition
endangered.org

Defenders of Wildlife
defenders.org

Earthjustice
earthjustice.org

Indigenous Environmental Network
enearth.org

The Nature Conservancy
nature.org/en-us

Oceana
oceana.org

Rainforest Action Network
ran.org

Trout Unlimited
tu.org

NEW MEXICO:

Amigos Bravos
amigosbravos.org

Audubon New Mexico
nm.audubon.org

Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program
bemp.org

City of Albuquerque Open Space Alliance
cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/open-space

Environmental Education Association of New Mexico
eeanm.org

Flower Hill Institute
flowerhill.institute

Flowering Tree Permaculture Institute
floweringtreetpermaculture.net

Friends of the Bosque Del Apache
friendsofbosquedelapache.org

Native Plant Society of New Mexico
npsnm.org

New Mexico Acequia Association
lasacequias.org

New Mexico BioPark Society
bioparksociety.org

New Mexico Wild
nmwild.org

SeedBroadcast
seedbroadcast.org

Sierra Club - Rio Grande Chapter
riograndesierraclub.org

Southwest Environmental Center
wildmesquite.org

Tewa Women United
tewawomenunited.org

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge
fws.gov/refuge/valle_de_oro
friendsofvalledeoro.org

WildEarth Guardians
WildEarthGuardians.org

TEXAS:

Big Bend Conservation Alliance
bigbendconservationalliance.org

Borderlands Research Institute
bri.sulross.edu

Rio Grande Joint Venture
rgjv.org

COLORADO:

Colorado Native Plant Society
conps.org

Colorado Wildlife Habitat Protection Program
cpw.state.co.us

Environment Colorado
environmentcolorado.org

MEXICO:

Fundación Conciencia Biológica
concienciabiologica.org

Profauna Chihuahua
facebook.com/profaunaChih

Pronatura México
pronatura.org.mx

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BACK COVER:
Nina Elder, *Interrupted Ecosystem: Rocky Mountain Piñon* (detail), 2019, charcoal, graphite, ash, and dirt on paper, 4 x 5 feet

Program guide design by Suzanne Sbarg
Printed by Starline Printing

516 ARTS

Contemporary
MUSEUM

art&ecology

Species in Peril Along the Rio Grande is organized by 516 ARTS in partnership with the Art & Ecology Program at the University of New Mexico. 516 ARTS is a non-collecting contemporary art museum in Downtown Albuquerque that celebrates thought-provoking art in the here and now. Our mission is to connect contemporary artists and diverse audiences. 516 ARTS presents relevant exhibitions and public programs, which feature a mix of local, national, and international artists and inspire curiosity, risk-taking and creative experimentation. Founded in 2006, 516 ARTS engages with current issues with an emphasis on the environment and immigration.

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button on our website at 516arts.org

SPECIES IN PERIL

Along the Rio Grande

Exhibition & Regional Collaboration

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2019

art&ecology

OPENING EVENTS

Saturday, September 28

OPENING RECEPTION:

**Species in Peril Along the Rio Grande:
Contemporary Artists Respond**

5-6pm: Member Preview & Talks

6-8pm: Public Celebration

Refreshments from Slate Street Café and

High & Dry Brewing

Free • at 516 ARTS, 516 Central Ave. SW, Albuquerque

Sunday, September 29, 2pm

OPENING ADDRESS & PANEL:

**Kierán Suckling, Cannupa Hanksa Luger,
Dr. Josie Lopez & Subhankar Banerjee**

Free • at Albuquerque Museum, 2000 Mountain Rd. NW,
Albuquerque

Thursday, October 3, 7pm

CONVERSATION:

Elizabeth Kolbert & Laura Paskus

Presented in partnership with Lannan Foundation
at the KiMo Theatre, 423 Central Ave. NW, Albuquerque

followed by reception & booksigning at 516 ARTS

TICKETS: \$10 general / \$8 members / \$6 students,

available at kimotickets.com

