



International Center of Photography

Contact: Communications Department
212-857-0045 info@icp.org

news release



Ecotopia: The Second ICP Triennial of Photography and Video

On view from
September 14, 2006
through
January 7, 2007

Media Preview
September 12, 2006
9:30 - 11am

RSVP:
info@icp.org
212.857.0045

Mary Mattingly
The New Mobility of Home (The Nobility of Mobility), 2004
© Mary Mattingly
Courtesy Robert Mann Gallery

Nearly forty contemporary artists from fourteen countries respond to the challenges of global environmental change in *Ecotopia: The Second ICP Triennial of Photography and Video*. The exhibition is on view from September 14, 2006 to January 7, 2007, at the International Center of Photography (1133 Avenue of the Americas at 43rd Street). Filling ICP's entire gallery space and including over 100 photographic, video, and installation works, *Ecotopia* will introduce striking new perspectives on humanity's increasingly fraught relation to the natural world and to the planet that sustains us. At the same time, the exhibition will serve as a critical survey of current artistic trends.

Ecotopia is organized by ICP's four senior curators—Brian Wallis, Edward Earle, Carol Squiers, and Christopher Phillips—and assistant curator Joanna Lehan. The exhibition encompasses an unusually broad spectrum of recent works that respond to environmental concerns such as deforestation, global warming, and species extinction. Large-scale color landscape photographs will examine new ways of translating the experience of place, and harrowing photojournalistic accounts will detail the global traffic in endangered species. Video installations as well as artists' web sites will explore alternative futures for the earth and its inhabitants.

The ICP Triennial is the only recurring exhibition in the United States that specializes in international contemporary photography and video. The Triennial not only provides an unparalleled opportunity for U.S. audiences to encounter new works by recognized figures but also to discover exceptional artists who have not yet received wide attention in this country. Building on the critical and popular success of *Strangers*, the first ICP Triennial (2003), *Ecotopia* will demonstrate ICP's commitment to highlighting innovative work that speaks to the most important issues of our time.

Exhibition Highlights

Robert Adams will present a selection of photographs, for the most part previously unexhibited, from the series “Turning Back.” These works portray the bleak aftermath of the clear-cutting of Oregon forests. Of this series, Adams says, “I felt that I was reporting on a slaughter.”

For his current project “American Power,” **Mitch Epstein** has made large-scale color photographs that depict scenes associated with the production of energy in the United States—a country that consumes a disproportionate amount of the world’s natural resources.

Mary Mattingly’s staged color photographs conjure up a post-catastrophe world where high-tech nomads that she calls “navigators” roam the earth, which has become a water-bound Eden.

Sam Easterson attaches tiny, custom-made video cameras to a remarkable variety of animals and insects. The resulting short videos offer unexpected and sometimes hilarious visions of the natural world seen from the perspective of these creatures.

Clifford Ross uses a self-designed camera that enables him to make enormous and richly detailed color landscape photographs. For this exhibition, he will show a new work, a spectacular six-by-ten-foot photograph of Mount Sopris in Colorado.

Amphibious (Login-Logout), a short film by **Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla**, follows six tortoises perched on a log that is drifting down the Pearl River in southern China. Glimpses of the massive construction underway on the riverbanks hint at the environmental degradations that have accompanied China’s rapid entry into the global economy.

In the video *Otolith* (2003), the **Otolith Group** (Kodwo Eshun, Anjalika Sagar, Richard Couzins) combines its own video footage with archival film to suggest how our planet’s recent history will appear to a new breed of space-dwelling humans who can no longer function in earth’s environment.

Imported Crows is a riveting documentary short by Croatian filmmaker **Goran Dević**. It examines the efforts of the townspeople of Sisak, Croatia, to combat a population of crows—originally brought in to control unwanted insects—that has grown to alarming proportions. The film obliquely addresses the recent history of the Balkans, demonstrating how the region’s unresolved ethnic tensions have been displaced onto the natural environment.

Mark Dion’s installation *Bureau of Wildlife Surveillance*, created especially for this exhibition, presents a mock government office that uses cameras linked to heat sensors to spy on the nocturnal activities of animals.

Marine Hugonnier’s video installation *The Last Tour* takes the viewer on a fictional final tour of the breathtaking nature park around the Matterhorn before the Alpine peak is permanently closed to visitors.

Diana Thater’s video installation *Perfect Devotion* presents a group of domesticated tigers frolicking in a swimming pool on the grounds of a California rescue compound. Thater’s use of obsolescent film materials and techniques parallels the almost certain extinction of wild tigers in the near future.

In **Wang Qingsong**’s monumental photographic triptych *Come Come*, hundreds of banner-carrying protestors stage a mock demonstration in the dried-up bed of the former Grand Canal. The banners contrast China’s tumultuous past with its consumption-obsessed present.

Participating Artists

Robert Adams (born 1937, U.S.; lives in the U.S.)

Doug Aitken (born 1968, U.S.; lives in the U.S.)

Allora & Calzadilla (**Jennifer Allora**: born 1974, U.S.; lives in the U.S. and Puerto Rico) (**Guillermo Calzadilla**: born 1971, Cuba; lives in the U.S. and Puerto Rico)

Wout Berger (born 1971, the Netherlands; lives in the Netherlands)

Adam Broomberg (born 1970, South Africa; lives in England) and **Oliver Chanarin** (born 1971, England; lives in England)

Patrick Brown (born 1982, England; lives in Australia)

Catherine Chalmers (born 1957, U.S.; lives in the U.S.)

Stéphane Couturier (born 1957, France; lives in France)

Lou Dematteis (born 1948, U.S.; lives in the U.S.) and **Kayana Szymczak** (born 1974, U.S.; lives in the U.S.)

Yannick Demmerle (born 1969, France; lives in Germany)

Goran Dević (born 1971, Croatia; lives in Croatia)

Mark Dion (born 1961, U.S.; lives in the U.S.)

Sam Easterson (born 1972, U.S.; lives in the U.S.)

Mitch Epstein (born 1952, U.S.; lives in the U.S.)

Joan Fontcuberta (born 1955, Spain; lives in Spain)

Noriko Furunishi (born 1966, Japan; lives in the U.S.)

Marine Hugonnier (born 1969, France; lives in England)

Francesco Jodice (born 1957, Italy; lives in Italy)

Harri Kallio (born 1970, Finland; lives in the U.S.)

Vincent Laforet (born 1975, Switzerland; lives in the U.S.)

Christopher LaMarca (born 1975, U.S.; lives in the U.S.)

An-My Lê (born 1960, Vietnam; lives in the U.S.)

David Maisel (born 1961, U.S.; lives in the U.S.)

Mary Mattingly (born 1978, U.S.; lives in the U.S.)

Gilles Mingasson (born 1965, France; lives in the U.S.)

Simon Norfolk (born 1963, Nigeria; lives in England)

The Otolith Group: Anjalika Sagar (born 1968, England; lives in England); **Kodwo Eshun** (born 1967, England; lives in England); **Richard Couzins** (born 1967, England; lives in England)

Sophie Ristelhueber (born 1949, France; lives in France)

Clifford Ross (born 1952, U.S.; lives in the U.S.)

Thomas Ruff (born 1958, Germany; lives in Germany)

Carlos Sanchez (born 1976, Canada; lives in Canada) and **Jason Sanchez** (born 1981, Canada; lives in Canada)

Alessandra Sanguinetti (born 1968, U.S.; lives in Argentina and the U.S.)

Victor Schrager (born 1950, U.S.; lives in the U.S.)

Simon Starling (born 1967, England; lives in Scotland)

Kim Stringfellow (born 1963, U.S.; lives in the U.S.)

Diana Thater (born 1962, U.S.; lives in the U.S.)

Wang Qingsong (born 1966, China; lives in China)

Public Programs

- *Ecotopia* Artists' Panel

Saturday, September 16th, 2-5pm

Panel discussion moderated by Chief Curator/Director of Exhibitions, Brian Wallis, and *Ecotopia* participants Allora & Calzadilla, Diana Thater and others.

At the School of the International Center of Photography

- *Ecotopia* Screenings at IFC Center

Sunday, September 17th, 1pm

The New York debut of *Ecotopia* participant Marine Hugonnier's trilogy of films, *Ariana*, *The Last Tour*, and *Travelling Amazonia*.

Monday, September 18th, 7pm

The New York debut of The Otolith Group's film, *Otolith*.

IFC Center 323 Sixth Avenue, 212 924 7771, www.ifccenter.com

- In Conversation

Evenings of discussion with ICP Staff and *Ecotopia* participants.

Friday, October 20th, 7pm

Ecotopia artist Mary Mattingly in discussion with Nayland Blake, Chair, ICP-Bard Program in Advanced Photographic Studies.

Friday, November, 10th, 7pm

Ecotopia artist Catherine Chalmers in conversation with Chief Curator/Director of Exhibitions Brian Wallis.

At the School of the International Center of Photography

- Selected Shorts: *Ecotopia: A Night of Fiction and Photography*

Wednesday, October 25th, 7pm

At Peter Norton Symphony Space, Broadway and 95th Street
<http://www.symphonyspace.org>

More event information available at www.icp.org

Publication

Ecotopia is accompanied by a 300-page catalogue containing 140 color plates; it is published by ICP/Steidl. The book includes a comprehensive roundtable discussion between ICP's curators and a diverse group of the artists in the exhibition, as well as multi-page sections devoted to individual artists. The book design is by Claas Möller and Sarah Winter/Steidl. (Paperback, \$35)

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