

Anderson Ranch Arts Center Presents

***A tree is not a forest***

**An Exhibition Exploring the Interplay of Art, Science and the Environment  
Featuring Artists Suzanne Anker, Catherine Chalmers, Mark Dion,  
Jody Guralnick, Pamela Longobardi and Fred Tomaselli**

**On View August 15 – September 15, 2017  
Opening Reception Tuesday, August 15 from 5 – 7 PM**



Detail from *Prophetic Objects series* (2014) by Pamela Longobardi

**Aspen/Snowmass, Colorado (August 8, 2017)**—This summer Anderson Ranch Arts Center will present *A tree is not a forest*, an exhibition highlighting the interplay between art and science through the work of artists whose practices are inextricably connected to scientific concepts and processes: **Suzanne Anker, Catherine Chalmers, Mark Dion, Jody Guralnick, Pamela Longobardi and Fred Tomaselli**. The works on view speak to the intrinsic ties between art, science, evolution and the environment, and seek to elucidate the mutual relationship between the human and natural worlds.

The exhibition's title addresses the distance between the perception of oneself as an individual and the acknowledgment of the world as an interconnected series of symbiotic relationships –

what Martin Luther King referred to our “inescapable network of mutuality”. Curator Jody Guralnick, whose work is also on view in the exhibition, states: “Increasingly as an artist I feel the call to stewardship, especially here within the context of our fragile mountain environment. We can either be detached from the processes of life on earth or we can closely follow and engage with these processes. The artists in this exhibition each challenge the viewer to consider that essential relationship, often utilizing scientific methods of observation, experimentation and adaptation in the creation of their work.”

*A tree is not a forest* will include works by **Suzanne Anker**, a Bio Art pioneer and Chair of the School of Visual Arts’ Fine Art Department, where she oversees the Bio Art Lab, a unique platform that encourages the cross-pollination between the arts and the sciences. Anker’s work, which explores the relationship between art and the biological sciences, ranges from digital installations to plants grown by LED lights. **Catherine Chalmers’** videos of leafcutter ants, filmed during the months the artist spent in Costa Rica, document the complex dynamics of these insects and in doing so reflect aspects of human group dynamics. **Mark Dion**, whose work challenges the distinction between “objective” scientific methods and “subjective” influences, will present a suite of eight offset lithography prints made in Holland. **Pamela Longobardi**, founder of The Drifters Project, will present works from her *Prophetic Objects* series (2014) – large-scale photographic portraits of plastic objects found in the ocean, juxtaposed with a site photo and a forensic ID tag that describes the conditions of find and the ‘prophecy’. **Fred Tomaselli**, who uses plant parts in his complex collage works, will present *Brain with Flowers* (1990-1997), a resin panel that features marijuana leaves, blotter acid and pills. **Jody Guralnick’s** *Botany Book* (2017), a tabletop sized work comprised of natural materials sourced from the valley surrounding Anderson Ranch and preserved in porcelain and wax, will also be on view.

Anderson Ranch will host an opening reception for *A tree is not a forest* on August 15, 2017 from 5 – 7 PM in the Patton Malott Gallery, including a gallery talk at 6 PM.

The exhibition will be on view from August 15 – September 15, 2017.

### **About Suzanne Anker**

Suzanne Anker is a visual artist and theorist working at the intersection of art and the biological sciences. Her work has been exhibited widely nationally and internationally including at the Walker Art Center, the Smithsonian Institute, the Phillips Collection, MoMA P.S.1, the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Medizinhistorisches Museum der Charite, the Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe, the Center for Cultural Inquiry in Berlin, the Pera Museum in Istanbul, the Museum of Modern Art in Japan, and the International Biennial of Contemporary Art of Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. Her books include *The Molecular Gaze: Art in the Genetic Age*, co-authored with the late sociologist Dorothy Nelkin (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 2004) and *Visual Culture and Bioscience* (University of Maryland and the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, D.C., 2009). Her writings have appeared in *Art and America*, *Seed Magazine*, *Nature Reviews Genetics*, *Art Journal*, *Tema Celeste* and *M/E/A/N/I/N/G*.

### **About Catherine Chalmers**

Catherine Chalmers holds a B.S. in Engineering from Stanford University and an M.F.A. in Painting from the Royal College of Art in London. She has exhibited her artwork around the world, including MoMA P.S.1, MassMoca, Kunsthalle Vienna, and MOCA Taipei, among others. Her work has been featured in the New York Times, Washington Post, Time Out New York, ArtNews, Artforum and on PBS, CNN, NPR, and the BBC. Two books have been published on her work: *Food Chain* (Aperture 2000) and *American Cochroach* (Aperture 2004). Her video "Safari" won Best Experimental Short at SXSW Film Festival in 2008. In 2010 Chalmers received a Guggenheim Fellowship and in 2015 she was awarded a Rauschenberg Residency. She lives in New York City.

### **About Mark Dion**

Born in 1961 in New Bedford, Massachusetts, artist Mark Dion examines the ways in which dominant ideologies and public institutions shape our understanding of history, knowledge, and the natural world. Appropriating archaeological, field ecology, and other scientific methods of collecting, ordering, and exhibiting objects, Dion creates works that question the distinctions between "objective" ("rational") scientific methods and "subjective" ("irrational") influences. Dion has received numerous awards including the Joan Mitchell Foundation Award (2007) and the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Lucida Art Award (2008), and has had major exhibitions at the British Museum of Natural History in London (2007), the Museum of Modern Art, New York (2004) and the Tate Gallery, London (1999), among others.

### **About Jody Guralnick**

Jody Guralnick has lived in Aspen for 30 years. She has been represented by the David Floria Gallery, and has shown work nationally and internationally, including the Flomenhaft Gallery in New York, the National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China, and closer to home, the Aspen Art Museum, the Denver Contemporary Biennial, the Boulder Art Museum, as well as a visiting Artists residency at the American Academy in Rome. She holds degrees from St. Martin's School of Art in London and Pratt Institute in New York.

### **About Pamela Longobardi**

Pamela Longobardi's parents, an ocean lifeguard and the Delaware state diving champion, connected her from an early age to water. After discovering mountains of plastic on remote Hawaiian shores in 2006, she founded the *Drifters Project*, centralizing the artist as culture worker, activist, and researcher. Now a global collaborative entity, Drifters Project has removed tens of thousands of pounds of material from the natural environment and re-situated it as communicative social sculpture. Winner of the prestigious Hudgens Prize and Distinguished Professor at Georgia State University, Longobardi has been featured in National Geographic, SIERRA magazine, the Weather Channel and in exhibitions around the world.

### **About Fred Tomaselli**

Fred Tomaselli has shown his work in museums, biennials and galleries around the world, including MoMA, MoCA, and SFMoMA. Solo museum shows include the Whitney Museum at

Philip Morris, S.I.T.E. Santa Fe, The Albright Knox Gallery, The Fruitmarket Gallery, The Irish Museum of Modern Art, Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Aspen Art Museum, The Brooklyn Art Museum, the Orange County Art Museum and the Toledo Art Museum. A native Californian, he has lived in Brooklyn since 1985. His work is represented by White Cube, London and James Cohan Gallery, New York.

### **About Anderson Ranch Arts Center**

Founded in 1966, Anderson Ranch Arts Center is a premier destination in America for art making and critical dialogue, bringing together aspiring and internationally renowned artists to discuss and further their work in a stimulating environment. Nestled in the Rocky Mountains of Aspen/Snowmass, Colorado, the Ranch hosts extensive workshops for every day, emerging and established artists in eight disciplines, including Photography & New Media, Ceramics, Painting & Drawing, Furniture Design & Woodworking, Sculpture, Woodturning, Printmaking and Digital Fabrication.

In addition to the Summer Series: Featured Artists & Conversations, the Ranch also hosts engaging events throughout the year including the annual Recognition Dinner honoring the National Artist Award, Service to the Arts Award and Extraordinary Leadership Award recipients and the Artists-in-Residence Program, fostering artistic growth for emerging and established visual artists. In 2016 Anderson Ranch celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, furthering its mission to enrich lives with art, inspiration and community.

Learn more at [www.andersonranch.org](http://www.andersonranch.org) or [970/923.3181](tel:9709233181).

Join the conversation on social media by mentioning Anderson Ranch Arts Center and using the hashtag **#AndersonRanch** when posting.

# # #

Follow us on [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

Visit us at <http://www.andersonranch.org>

### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Katrina Weber Ashour, +1 212 627 1653, [kweber@fitzandco.art](mailto:kweber@fitzandco.art)

Ellen Dulsky Watkins, +1 646 589 0929, [ewatkins@fitzandco.art](mailto:ewatkins@fitzandco.art)