

Press Release

For immediate Release
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Images below



Museum of Sonoma County to Present *Landscape: Awe to Activism* February 16-July 19, 2020

(SANTA ROSA, CA)- January 17, 2020– The Museum of Sonoma County presents *Landscape: Awe to Activism*, curated by Jeff Nathanson. The exhibition will explore the evolution of landscape art, from artists awe-inspired by nature, to contemporary artists engaged in the creation of land art, to activists utilizing art to address important issues such as climate change, land rights, and border politics. Featuring over a dozen artists, *Landscape* opens on February 16, 2020 and runs through July 19, 2020, with an **opening reception on the evening of February 15** (details below).

Historical context for *Landscape* begins with 19th century California artists who were inspired to represent and interpret their appreciation of the natural beauty and majesty of the unblemished California landscape. Drawing from the Museum of Sonoma County's extensive collection, the exhibition will include 19th century California landscape paintings by significant artists such as William Keith, Thomas Hill, and R.G. Holdridge.

With the advancement of science, global exploration, industrialization, and the societal changes that have occurred, artists' relationship to the land, nature, and representation of landscape has shifted. 20th century artists began to explore new ways of interacting and engaging physically with the landscape through interventions and by creating conceptual earthworks. Included in *Landscape* will be a selection of works by Christo and Jeanne-Claude, whose *Running Fence* installation stretched through Marin and Sonoma Counties.

Contemporary artists have broken from traditional perspectives and embraced new concepts, concerned with important issues. Faced with the threat of climate change, some artists have chosen to comment on the human impact on the environment, using their art as a form of activism to draw public attention to the mounting environmental crisis. Others are addressing issues of space, borders, land ownership, and displacement, while others utilize technology and new approaches to create unique ways to view the landscape. Among them will be Diane Burko, known for her bold environmental activism, Richard Misrach and Chester Arnold addressing border politics,

Mercedes Dorame, a Native American artist concerned with the reclaiming of land, and Jeff Frost and Naomie Kremmer utilizing video in new and innovative ways.

Jeff Nathanson, the Museum's Executive Director and Curator of Art, says of the exhibition, "I was intrigued by the number of contemporary artists working with landscape themes to address important issues such as climate change and border politics, as well as utilizing new technologies. Tracing the change in the way artists and society relate to landscape and the environment is a fascinating realm to explore. We are excited to share this exploration with the public."

The wide range of artists in the exhibition include:

- Ansel Adams
- Brooks Anderson
- Chester Arnold
- Diane Burko
- Christo and Jeanne-Claude
- Maynard Dixon
- Mercedes Dorame
- Jeff Frost
- John Marshall Gamble
- Thomas Hill
- Elizabeth Hoen
- R.G. Holdridge
- William Keith
- Tony King
- Naomie Kremer
- Richard Mayhew
- Richard Misrach
- Sebastião Salgado
- Jack Stuppin
- Adam Wolpert
- William Morehouse
- William Wheeler

For more information, please visit our website: <https://museumsc.org/landscape/>

Programs and Events

Opening Reception

Saturday, February 15, 2020

4:00-6:00pm

Free with General Admission; Free for members, \$10 general, \$7 seniors, students and disabled.

Meet the artists, preview the new exhibition, and enjoy delicious drinks and hors d'oeuvres.

Public programs related to the exhibition will be posted on our website:

www.museumsc.org/events.

About the Museum of Sonoma County

Located in Downtown Santa Rosa on Seventh Street between A and B Streets, the Museum of Sonoma County (MSC) presents exhibitions of modern and contemporary art and local and regional history. MSC is open year-round with changing exhibitions, public programs, school tours, and special events. MSC preserves and manages a regional art and history collection of over 18,000 objects, the region's largest object documentation of Sonoma County's history and culture.

Mission

The Museum of Sonoma County engages and inspires our diverse community with art and history exhibitions, collections, and public programs that are inclusive, educational, and relevant.

Smithsonian Affiliate

The Museum of Sonoma County has been a Smithsonian Affiliate since 2009. Smithsonian Affiliations establishes long-term partnerships with museums, education and cultural organizations to facilitate the loan of Smithsonian artifacts and traveling exhibitions, as well as to develop innovative educational collaborations locally and nationally. Created in 1996 by an act of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, the program is overseen by the Smithsonian's Assistant Secretary for Education and Access and is one of the pillars of the Institution's national outreach efforts. There are more than 200 Smithsonian Affiliates in nearly every state, Puerto Rico and Panama. Affiliates represent the diversity of America's museum community—size, location and subject—and serve all audiences. More than 8,000 Smithsonian artifacts have been displayed at Affiliate locations for the past 20 years.

Museum of Sonoma County

425 Seventh Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
707-579-1500
www.museumsc.org

Admission

Adults: \$10.00
Seniors, Students, Disabled: \$7.00
Museum Members: FREE
Children 12 and under: FREE

Museum Hours

Open: Tuesday through Sunday, 11:00am-5:00pm

Closed: Mondays

Closed on the following holidays: New Year's Day, President's Day, Easter Sunday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas; please visit our website for additional closures

Images



Thomas Hill, *Indian Camp on the Merced River*, 1899, oil on canvas



Christo, *Running Fence, Project for Sonoma and Marin Counties, California*, 1974, collage with pencil, fabric, pastel, charcoal, crayon and staples



Diane Burko, *Grinnell Mt. Gould #2 1981 after Carl Key USGS*, 2009, oil on canvas



Jeff Frost, *20130130 Red Square in the Desert on its Side 6977.cr2*, 2013, photograph, paint