

## Press Release

### For Immediate Release

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Museum of Sonoma County Presents  
**[Nature Abstracted](#)**  
***Chiyomi T. Longo, Bob Nugent, and Younhee C. Paik***  
**June 17 – November 5, 2023**

Santa Rosa, CA – (April 17) The Museum of Sonoma County (MSC) is pleased to announce the exhibition ***Nature Abstracted: Chiyomi T. Longo, Bob Nugent, and Younhee C. Paik*** on view June 17 - November 5, 2023. This exhibition features three Bay Area artists who make abstract art inspired by nature. Through their different styles and techniques, the artists demonstrate their deep shared love and respect for the environment and humanity's relationship to the natural world.



## A Space to Rest, Reflect, and Become Restored

At its heart, *Nature Abstracted* invites the public to explore the beauty of nature through the lens of three unique Bay Area artists. Given the trauma woven into our lives, the exhibition will feature artworks selected for their beauty, expressive emotion, and transformative quality, brought together to create a contemplative and restorative gallery environment.

Museum director and curator Jeff Nathanson commented, “An exhibition of reflection and beauty will be a welcome addition to our gallery schedule, which of late has primarily addressed a range of socio-political, cultural, and historical topics.”

The artists have distinctly different approaches, yet Longo, Nugent, and Paik are connected by an intuitive and spiritual approach to their creative practice and process. Their paintings provide viewers with a visceral experience of the transformative and healing power of nature, all reflecting a depth of emotions inspired and informed by the artists' personal experience.

Approximately 30 works will be featured, giving each artist the space for a broad exploration of their works, which in turn offers visitors a deeper perspective on their vision and journey. This is the first exhibition at the Museum of Sonoma County for the three acclaimed Bay Area artists.

(Above image: Younhee C. Paik, "17 Days at the Baltic Sea," 2014, Oil and Mixed Media on Canvas and Aluminum, 91" x 195")

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## The Artists

- **Chiyomi Taneike Longo's** work is inspired by the beauty of the natural world and her paintings often feature colors and organic shapes that evoke a sense of movement and energy. She was born in Japan, received her MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute, and has been a Santa Rosa resident for over three decades. Critic Peter Frank described Longo's work as "...an art of lucidity and concentration invested in striking passion and sensuousness."
- **Bob Nugent**, who lives and works in Healdsburg, divides his time between Sonoma County and Brazil. Much of his work is informed by his time in the rain forest, his relationship with the indigenous people who inspire him, and his exploration of shamanism. Nugent describes his process by using the Portuguese word "Sentido", that has to do with experiencing things with all one's senses. The work also reflects his dismay over the tragic environmental impact of modern "progress." Nugent received his MFA from UC Santa Barbara.
- **Younhee Chung Paik**, a Korean-born artist who divides her time between Oakland, New York, and Seoul, also received her MFA from the SF Art Institute. Her titles often describe her intimate relationship with nature: "Chorus of Trees," "Ancient River," "Tide and Dream." Inspired by a forest of trees, a flowing creek, a lone boat on an ancient sea, Paik's artwork explores nature, spirituality, history, and culture with an adventurous exploration of techniques and scale. Paik's process often is about the use of light and she states, "without darkness there is no light. So instead of starting with a white canvas, I start with a dark color and paint light onto the dark painting."

## Programs and Events

### "Nature Abstracted" Exhibition Opening Day

**Saturday, June 17, 2023**

**Hours:** 11 am – 5 pm

**Reception for the Artists:** 3 pm – 5 pm

The public is invited to immerse themselves in the serene abstract representations of nature. Chiyomi T. Longo, Bob Nugent, and Younhee C. Paik will be on hand to meet visitors and answer questions. Light refreshments and beverages will be served. **FREE and open to the public.**

### FREE Family Days on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays

July 8, August 12, September 9, and October 14, 2023

**Hours:** 11 am – 5 pm

**FREE art-making activities:** 12 – 2 pm

Additional public programs related to the exhibition will be posted: [www.museumsc.org/events](http://www.museumsc.org/events)

## **Museum of Sonoma County**

425 Seventh Street  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
707-579-1500  
[www.museumsc.org](http://www.museumsc.org)

## **Museum Hours**

Wednesday - Sunday, 11 am – 5 pm

## **Admission**

Adults: \$7  
Seniors 62+, Students, People with Disabilities: \$5  
Museum Members: FREE  
Children 12 & under: FREE

*Through Museums for All, those receiving food assistance (SNAP benefits) can gain free admission for up to four (4) people to the Museum of Sonoma County simply by presenting their EBT card.*

(The above pricing is *reduced admission* and applies when one building is closed. Admission is subject to change when museum renovations are completed in August 2023).

## **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.

*To support this and other upcoming exhibitions contact: Deidre Hopp [dhopp@museumsc.org](mailto:dhopp@museumsc.org) 707.579.1500 ext 104.*

Exhibition Images ([click here](#) to download)



**Chiyomi T. Longo** "Sound of the Earth #42," 2016, Oil on Canvas (diptych) 60" x 88"



**Chiyomi T. Longo** "Dialogue #3", 2014, Oil on Canvas, 52" x 52"



**Bob Nugent** "Jardim Inhotim 35" (Inhotim Garden), 2018, Oil on Linen, 50" x 70"



**Bob Nugent** "Perdido II" (Lost), 2020, Oil on Linen, 48" x 64"



**Younhee C. Paik** "Spinoza Spring Blossoming," 2014, Oil on Canvas, 90 x 120"