



COOL STORIES FOR WHEN THE PLANET GETS HOT III

COOL STORIES FOR WHEN THE PLANET GETS HOT III is a compilation of 19 short videos and animations by artists from around the globe who won the third short video and animation contest on Climate Change launched by **ARTPORT_making waves** in the spring 2011. This year's competition was honoring the International Year of the Forests. All the videos are between 30 seconds and 3 minutes long. The final winner, Sergio Sotomayor, will receive a 3-week artist residency at Guapamacátaro in Michoacán, Mexico (guapamacataro.org). The previous two editions were shown at prestigious festivals, art fairs, and cultural institutions worldwide.

THE FINALISTS

artquadrat (Gema and Monica del Rey, Spain), Anna Beata Barańska (Poland), Andrea Bianconi (Italy/USA), Oscar Boyson (USA), Annie Briard (Canada), Baptist Coelho (India), Sergio Cruz (Portugal/UK), Lesser González Alvarez (USA), Guillermo Hermosilla Cruzat (Chile), IngridMwangiRobertHutter (Germany/Kenya), Richard Jochum (Austria/USA), Wojtek Klakla & Pierre-Alain Morel (Poland/Switzerland), Lemeh42 (Italy), Eva Marosy-Weide (Australia), Lukáš Matejka (Slovakia), Tricia McLaughlin (USA), Sergio Sotomayor (Spain), Emma Wieslander (Sweden/UK), Sharon Zhuxiaoyuan (USA/China).

THE JURY

Mahen Bonetti, Founder & Director, African Film Festival, Inc., New York
Kathleen Bühler, Curator Contemporary Art, Kunstmuseum Bern, Switzerland
Fred Casco, artist/editor/curator, Adviser Visual Arts Cultural Ministry Paraguay. Asunción
Isa Cucinotta, Programming Associate at Film Society of Lincoln Center, New York
Javier Duero, Art Critic and Curator, Madrid, Spain
Alicia Marván, Program Director, Guapamacátaro Arts & Ecology Residency, Mexico
Macu Morán, Director VideoArtWorld, Madrid, Spain
Lyle Rexer, Curator and Critic, New York
Sabine Maria Schmidt, Curator Folkwang Museum. Essen, Germany

PREMIERE & AWARD CEREMONY

COOL STORIES FOR WHEN THE PLANET GETS HOT II

Thursday, June 16, 2011, 18:30-20:00

Swiss Architecture Museum (S AM)

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COMPILATION DESCRIPTION

1. Tricia McLaughlin, *History of the World, 2008 (3:30')*

In this fantasy animation, Moai sculptures turn into macho stone biker apes. They race around, driving deep lines into the earth with their motorcycles. These lines give “birth” to a grass creature which proceeds to fold the ocean into an airplane that chases the biker apes and leads them into the same ocean the water airplane was made from. What the biker apes create leads to their very demise. Under water they are reunited with discarded Moais. From here the cycle starts again. Mother Nature has a way of continuing life in different forms. In this case, she has help from mechanical inventions that alter the Earth, the motorcycle and the airplane.

2. Sergio Sotomayor, *Wood II, 2010 (3:00')*

Sotomayor's ode to wood is also a subtle criticism of the belief system since the Industrial Revolution that there is unlimited economic and social growth. The results are out-of-control exploitation of the planet's resources and unprecedented contamination. Here, wood represents the return to life by something that seems inert: with choreographic synchronicity, square blocks of wood fall from the sky, gather on the ground, shiver from the impact, only to suddenly disperse again in a spatial dance that defies gravity. Sotomayor's message is that inside every being that ever lived there is a genetic code capable of recreating what it once was and allowing it to evolve beyond space and time.

3. IngridRobertMwangiHutter, *Reviving The Fittest, 2011 (2:50')*

We follow a group of youth scurrying furtively through the woods, as if they were doing something forbidden. The video starts in grainy black and white, morphing into sharper color images, and we hear the ominous, cracking sound of falling trees. A young woman who was sleeping on the ground awakens and joins the group. Suddenly, we realize that the youth are magically re-erecting fallen trees. A small child is watching and joins the woman to lie down on the ground. We feel like voyeuristic, skeptical adults watching the naive attempt of children to save the world. Perhaps it was only a dream?

4. Anna Beata Barańska , *Man Belongs to Earth, 2009 (3:00')*

This animation made in the traditional technique of pencil drawing on paper and computer montage illustrates the disastrous consequences and reasons of climate change. The video looks similar to a conventional commercial but the “advertisements” expose the problems of climate change. A man is passively watching all the disasters passing by him. The artist proclaims: solutions exist!, and the man starts acting: he hands a famished child some bread, picks up garbage, etc. The final “ad” is an excerpt of Chief Seattle's letter to the U.S. President, saying that Earth doesn't belong to Man but Man belongs to Earth.

5. Emma Wieslander, *Dirty, Dirty Trees, 2011 (3:00')*

A woman is washing birches in the Swedish countryside. Equipped with gloves, a bucket of water, and a latter, she is humming to herself in this idyllic nature setting. She attempts to make the trees cleaner and healthier as well as prettier. She diligently scrubs the “schmutz” off the rind—a greenish algae that is growing on them—a silly action, desperately trying make the rind look white and thus to restore the—falsely—perfect image of nature.

6. Andrea Bianconi, *FightingNature, 2011 (2:25')*

The artist, dressed as a boxer, is fighting a leaf dangling from a thread against a green background. He jumps around and hits the leaf until he exhausts himself in this ridiculous act trying to defy a fragile piece of nature. In the end, the leaf falls off. But the boxer is out of the picture too. The boxing match symbolizes our continues struggle with the meaning of life, exploring questions like, What makes humans want to change everything that nature intended? Why are we so aggressive with the environment?

7. Sharon Zhuxiaoyuan, *Erosion, 2011 (1:51')*

The slow-moving horizontal scroll of a painted animation shows polar bears caught on a shrinking ice plateau. The camera follows the base of the plateau to the sinister bottom of the ocean. The mood of this animation in dark blue hues with a sorrowful sound is ominous, sad. An eery, almost stoic calm settles into our mind as we are watching the seemingly unstoppable demise of the polar bears...

8. Richard Jochum, *Rear Window View (3:00')*

Living in ever bigger cities and urban spaces has made nature a particularly important topic of Jochum's artistic practice. The simple view from the rear window of his sister's house shows nothing but nature; as boring and suspenseful as it can get. As a reminder of what his sister can see every day, Jochum recorded her rear window

view over the course of one year with one picture each day. The outcome is a contemplative, silent piece about time, nature, and change.

9. Baptist Coelho, No Go, 2011 (3:00')

The increase of mining coal, in order to meet the growing demand for energy, is causing immense harm to the environment. The video, *No Go*, captures the devastation of our forests through the symbolic unravelling of a green crochet blanket over a rough surface of coal. We only see the arms of a man dressed in an impeccable suit pulling the thread from the blanket, until the coals lie menacingly bare. This act of transformation reflects on the sustainability of our forests and our lives.

10. Lukáš Matejka, Breathing exercise on a green meadow: 20M, 2008 (1:00')

Dry sarcasm rules this one-minute video of a man trying to blow off the puffy head of a dandelion flower. However, the seeds don't disperse in the wind as one would expect, but a telephone mast in the background starts bending from the current. The work is a comment on the fragility of manmade creations and the resistance of nature.

11. Eva Marosy-Weide, Situation Normal, 2009 (3:00')

We follow an unsteady camera as it moves through the woods. We hear the person's breathing and footsteps. The image is made up of three parts: the left and right sides are in black and white and are connected by a narrow stripe of video shot in color in the middle. *Situation Normal* imparts a sense of stasis from a rapid and haphazard movement that seems to go nowhere. The surrounding forest is pleasant, yet promising leads are not taken up, the camera pans past the obvious trails and pushes cross country, turning in on itself. We cannot see what lies ahead.

12. Sergio Cruz, Exotica, 2009 (3:00')

Tracing a path from ancient customs to contemporary social interaction, and from natural surroundings to urbanism in Africa, this film demonstrates the unifying force of music and dance. It is the result of a collaboration between Sergio Cruz and the Portuguese choreographer Miguel Pereira during a three-week artistic residence in Maputo (Mozambique) in March 2008.

13. Annie Briard, A Plant Wedding, 2008-2009 (3:00')

How do we reconnect with nature when our surrounding environment is synthetic? *A Plant Wedding* draws attention to this dilemma through the strange tale of a lonely girl's love affair with her house plant in a moving, hand-crafted clay puppet animation.

14. artalquadrat (Gema and Monica del Rey), Healing, 2008 (2:57')

The forest is the setting where two people seek to reconnect with earth and fresh air. Through physical and symbolic actions they gather the energy of the forest, its strength and poetry. This is a contribution to the need to heal our relationship with nature.

15. Lesser González Alvarez, Funerary Boat, 2011 (3:00')

Funerary Boat is a re-edited youtube video. In reverse, it resembles a voyage to the afterlife, or conversely, a ritual purging as we watch men sinking a black car into ice water (in the original video, the men pulled the car out of the water). It directs a comparison between extinct and active civilizations, forcing us to consider exaggerated materialism as a catalyst for global demise, or for potential purging of global irresponsibility.

16. Wojtek Klakla & Pierre-Alain Morel, Welcome to the Jungle, 2011 (1:57')

This short film, shot with a hidden camera at the Swiss Tropical Garden near Bern in Switzerland, raises questions about humans' attempt to protect and conserve nature. The artists argue that since nature isn't moralistic, it doesn't need to be protected. The principle is to survive, and that's neither good nor bad. Life is simply possible or impossible in certain circumstances. It is the human being that needs to be protected. The question however is, At what price? Is isolation the ultimate price to pay?

17. Oscar Boyson, The Value of Trees, 2011 (2:51')

This narrated docu-animation is a straightforward cost-benefit analysis of the urban forests that all too often find themselves a misunderstood line item on city budgets. Accompanied by an uplifting jazzy tune, the viewer is swayed by the actual \$ value that we normally never think of, for example savings resulting from the cooling effect of trees.

18. Guillermo Hermostilla Cruzat, Vosque, 2011 (3:00')

This video explores the automatic and autonomous conscience. What do we feel when we look at the images and listen to the sounds of three different atmospheres? Through silence and the absence of words, the observer becomes an interpreter and judge of what he is feeling.

19. Lemeh42, Per fare un tavolo (How to make a table), 2009 (2:31')

Inspired by a famous Italian song from the 80's, this animation takes an ironic look at the marketing strategies of industrial producers who are appropriating a famous popular song to make themselves known for their environmental responsibility.

ARTIST BIOS

artquadrat is made up of the visual artists and twin sisters **Gema and Mònica del Rey** who created the artist duo in 2002. They present works in video, installation, photography, both nationally and internationally. Their work is dedicated to two main topics: one is about their own personal world which involves autobiographical reflections, and the other is about being critical and socially committed artists. They were awarded with fellowships to study and research in Finland, Mexico, Austria, and the UK. They have participated in art competitions such as Open Artsway 2010 (UK), Il corpo solitario, 2003 (Italy), and Afetos roubados (Brazil) 2005-06. www.artquadrat.net/

Anna Beata Barańska was born in 1981 and graduated in painting in 2006 from the University of Marie Curie Skłodowska in Lublin where she works now. Barańska often collaborates with Michal Robert Barański to create her paintings and films. Her paintings were shown at the II Triennial of Polish Contemporary Painting; and her films at Athens VideoArt Festival, Greece, 2009; Kurye International Video Festival, Turkey, 2009; and In-Out Festival, Poland, 2009 and 2010. She has received several awards, including the EUROPRIX Multimedia Awards 2009--Quality Seal; Internauts Choice Award in the Green Heart Awards Competition, 2008, Poznań; COP 14 Conference; and the Grand Prix at the "Żywiec bez czadu" Ecology Film Festival, 2009.

Andrea Bianconi (Italy/USA, 1974), reconstructs the world by means of its very own ruins. His oeuvre is an incessant wandering amidst dreams, obsessions, risks, and an endless roaming among the fragments of life. A spectacle that is both delirium and destruction, assemblage and dis-assemblage: all this in order to reach an apparent reality: the "Fantasy Ridge dell'Everest" (as the artist himself calls it). Since he moved to New York in 2008, he has held many exhibitions around the world (e.g. Palazzo Reale, Milan, Italy; Volta Show, New York; Maraya Art Centre, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates; Kunsthal Charlottenburg, Copenhagen, Denmark; Contemporary Art Festival Tina B, Prague).

Oscar Boyson is a New York City based filmmaker. He recently produced the psychedelic western Canyon Candy for Mike Anderson and musical act Javelin, and is currently working on a tap dance musical about a domestic dispute. He has worked on projects featured on HBO, the Sundance Film Festival, and MTV. www.oscarboyson.com

Annie Briard is a Canadian interdisciplinary artist questioning our dissociated relationship to the environment and each other. She produces open-ended fables in fantastical universes providing personal experiences for the viewer and often taking the form of animated video installations. Since 2008, she has exhibited at the National Film Board of Canada, Art Souterrain, HTMIles Festival and the Three Shadows Art Centre in Beijing, China, amongst others. She has done performances and residencies at the Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, Nuit Blanche Montréal, White Rabbit Arts Festival, and is represented in Montreal by Joyce Yahouda Gallery. www.anniebriard.com

Baptist Coelho has provided an articulate voice to unspoken stories while collaborating with people from various cultures. His work, which often contends with conflict, emotion, environment, history and gender, has been exhibited in galleries and institutions; including Essl Museum, Austria; Gwangju Museum of Art, South Korea and the Devi Art Foundation, India; amongst others. Coelho's videos have been screened worldwide, including MAC, Lyon; Reykjavik Art Museum, Iceland, MuVIM, Valencia; National Art Gallery, Islamabad; East End Film Festival, London. Coelho was awarded the "Promising Artist Award", 2007 and the Johnson Prize Fund, 2006. The artist lives and works in Mumbai, India. www.filmannex.com/BaptistCoelho

Sergio Cruz was born in Portugal and lives in London as an artist/filmmaker. His art practice includes

performance, encounters, occurrences, and live events that explore the human's engagement with a place. Sergio's films have won several awards and have been broadcast internationally on television (i.e. as part of the British Channel 4 Three Minute Wonder series) and screened at film festivals and art galleries, including the group exhibition Figuring Landscapes held at the Tate Gallery, London and the solo show at the Art Claims Impulse Gallery in Berlin.

Lesser González Alvarez is a Cuban-born multimedia artist. He is a member of the Wham City collective, and Floristree, a D.I.Y. arts venue featured in Rolling Stone and named one of the 10 Greatest New Music Venues of the 21st Century. His work imparts the quotidian with spiritual, surreal, and often paranormal narratives. His videos, stop-motion animations, photographs, digitally rendered images, sculpture, and computer assisted paintings explore the role of technology and consumerism in the perceptible/imperceptible universe. Lesser has shown at Moma PS1, and has been featured in Esopus, Flaunt, The Believer, Nylon and Readymade. www.lessergonzalezalvarez.com

Guillermo Hermosilla Cruzat (veterraga) always takes a camera with him; the reality he lives in produce the images, from poetry the content. For him, video art has always aspects of experiment, poetry, and chance, and its expression involves body, mind, and universe. In 2010 he was selected for a screening at the Festival Internacional de Arte Contemporaneo de Barcelona (Spain), Exhibition Transnational Temps Spill>>Forward (New York), Brasil em Chile festival Chile en Brasil (Fortaleza. Brasil). He was born in 1966, in Valdivia, Chile.

Ingrid Mwangi, born in Nairobi of German and Kenyan parentage, and Robert Hutter, a German native (both 1970), explore the notion of race, gender and cultural heritage through photography, performance, video, and installation. After working together and marrying, Mwangi and Hutter merged their names and biographies to become one artistic identity, **IngridMwangiRobertHutter**. The collective creates provocative, physically demanding, and at times unsettling work, often using their own bodies to explore human condition. Their work has been featured in solo exhibitions in Belgium, Egypt, Italy, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Tanzania, and the United States. It was included in group exhibitions like "Africa Remix: Contemporary Art of a Continent" (2004), "DAKART Biennale of African Contemporary African Art" (2006), "Global Feminism" (2007), "Rebelle: Art and Feminism 1969-2009" (2009); 25th Bienal de São Paulo and the 52nd Venice Biennale. www.ingridmwangi.de

Richard Jochum is a post-minimalist sculptor and media artist with a strong focus on video, video installation, performance and conceptual photography. He has shown his work in more than 100 exhibitions worldwide. His most recent solo exhibitions (2011) have been on display in Vienna (Kuenstlerhaus), Appenzell (Tanzsaal) and Bregenz (Kuenstlerhaus) with group shows at the Austrian Cultural Forum in New York (Alpine Desire), at the AllanNederpelt Gallery and the Dumbo Arts Center (Brooklyn), among others. His work is being represented by Gallery Bundo (South Korea) and Gallery Lindner (Vienna). He teaches intermedia at Columbia University in New York. <http://richardjochum.net>.

Wojtek Klakla studied at Cracow Academy of Fine Arts (Poland) and at Bern University of the Arts (Switzerland). Since 1997 he has been living and working in Fribourg, Switzerland. In his work he employs different types of media across various disciplines including painting, drawing, performance, text, and video. His work has been shown in many solo and group shows in Switzerland, Germany, Poland and France and can be found in several private and public collections. Klakla is represented by Galerie Bagnato in Konstanz, Germany. www.klakla.ch

Pierre-Alain Morel creates images that increase his level of consciousness and his pleasure to live. He mostly works in painting and sculpture. Working in video art allows him to have a more representative take on reality. He collaborates with art galleries where his work is regularly exhibited and with architects for artistic creations in new areas. www.pierre-alainmorel.ch

Lemeh42 was founded by Michele Santini and Lorenza Paoloni. Santini graduated in 2004 in English Literature at the Bologna University (Italy), and Paolini graduated in 2005 in New Media at the Bologna Academy of Fine Arts. Paolini studied sculpture, became passionate about photography, and started realizing short narrative sequences of photos using her sculptures. Santini was inspired by literature to create his first photographic works. Sharing a profound passion for art and literature, they decided to work together in 2004 after collaborating on a 'photomotion'.

Eva Marosy-Weide is an Australian photomedia and video artist. She has been exhibiting since 1996 in solo and group shows and video festivals in Australia, USA, and Europe. Her works have been selected for numerous art awards including The International Photography Awards, The Alice Prize, The Blake Prize, and Josephine Ulrick Photography Prize. Her visual work is underpinned by a poetic narrative that reveals the undertow in our

connection to place identity and place.

Lukáš Matejka, born in 1987, lives and works in Trenčín and Banská Bystrica (Slovakia). He studied Intermedia and Digital Media at the Academy of Fine Arts. He creates works in video, film, net-art, multimedia projects, interactive installations and graphic design. He produces under his own brand, AKJETAM PRODUKT. Matejka is founder, coordinator and curator of the Videoart match project. He participated in numerous exhibitions, workshops, and festivals such as Azyl, Early Melons, IFF Bratislava, New Media Explorer, Images contre nature, Minimotion, Videomedeja, Sehnsuechte, and the First Video Art Festival in Syria.

Tricia McLaughlin is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship for her work in fantasy architecture in the form of 3D design, animation and sculpture. She has also been awarded two grants from the Jerome Foundation (Travel Grant, 2006 and Media Arts Grant, 2004) and an Artist's Fellowship for Video from New York Foundation for the Arts. In 2006 she completed a 9 x 90 foot animation of a virtual aquarium for a permanent public art commission at the City of Virginia Beach Convention Center. Her work has been exhibited in the US, Canada, England, Germany, Spain, Russia, Chile, South Korea and Japan. She lives and works in New York, NY, USA. Currently she is an Assistant Professor of Animation and Electronic Media in the Visual Arts Department at the State University of New York College at Old Westbury. www.triciamclaughlin.net

Sergio Sotomayor (Winner of Cool Stories III) is a visual artist and researcher. He graduated in agricultural engineering from the University Miguel Hernández of Alicante. His poetic visual language explores the boundaries between art, science, and philosophy in conceptual and multidisciplinary art. Sotomayor is interested in the intersection of biology and technology, focusing on the origins and developments of life, consciousness, language and meaning. He explores complex evolutionary processes and the influence of technology. His work has won awards such as Best Emerging Artist Prize 2008 by the Madrid Association of Art Critics, artist residency Casa de Velázquez in Madrid, training and production grant at the Pilar and Joan Miró Foundation in Mallorca, production award at Photographica 09. He has exhibited at art fairs and video art festivals such as SCOPE (Miami), ARTEBA (Buenos Aires), ESTAMPA, JUSTMAD (Madrid), FILE (Sao Paulo), ZOOM IN (Zamora), OPTICA (Gijón, Madrid, Paris), LOOP (Barcelona) and MANIFESTA 8. www.sergiosotomayor.com

Emma Wieslander, born in Lund, Sweden, lives and works in the UK. In 2007 she received a Master in Photography from the Royal College of Art, London. Wieslander uses contemporary and historical ideas about landscape, nature and the environment as the center of her practice, working mainly in photography and video. Recent shows and screening include; GSK Contemporary; Art of a Changing World at the Royal Academy of Art, London, Internationale Fotografie II: into LANDSCAPE at Galerie Helmut Hartman, Vienna, transmediale 09 – deep north, Berlin, International Film Festival Rotterdam, The Netherlands, and Anticipation at Ultralounge Gallery, London. www.emmawieslander.com

Sharon Zhuxiaoyuan creates digital artwork that relates to nature, the environment, and humanity. These take the form of animation videos, 3D computer graphics, interactive navigation and stereo sound tracks. Since 2009, her work has been exhibited at SoFA gallery, the CAVE art, and she participated in several telematic concerts with IUPUI and NYU. She is currently pursuing her MFA degree at Henry Radford Hope School of Fine Arts at Indiana University.