

out of the blue



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 3, 2009

out of the blue

an exhibition about weather + the creative process

Curated by Amy Lipton, Joy Episalla and Joy Garnett

<http://outoftheblueproject.org>

February 17 –April 17, 2009

OPENING RECEPTION: February 17, 6-8pm

Participating artists:

Stephen Andrews, Michele Araujo, Robert Bordo, Diane Burko, Christos Dikeakos/Robert Smithson, John Dougill, Joy Episalla, Joy Garnett, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Jacqueline Gourevitch, Erik Hanson, Geoffrey Hendricks, J.J. L'Heureux, Bill Jones, Zoe Leonard, Frank Moore, Jaanika Peerna, Andrea Polli, Hunter Reynolds, Austin Thomas, Bing Wright, Carrie Yamaoka, Andrea Zittel

Gallery Bergen

Bergen Community College

400 Paramus Road

Paramus, NJ 07652-1595

t. (201) 447-7100; (201) 689-7057

Directions: <http://www.bergen.cc.nj.us/pages/1690.asp>

Gallery Hours:

Tues, Thurs, Fri: 11am-6pm

Wed: 11am-8pm

Sat, Feb 28 & Mar 28: 11am-2pm

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Amy Lipton <amy@ecoartspace.org>

BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE – *out of the blue*, an exhibition featuring artwork inspired by weather, geological and atmospheric conditions, will open at Bergen Community College's Gallery Bergen (400 Paramus Road, Paramus) on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 6 p.m. An opening reception will kick-off the exhibition (6-8pm), which will run through Friday, April 17, 2009.

Curated by **Amy Lipton** and artists **Joy Episalla**, and **Joy Garnett**, *out of the blue* presents works by 24 prominent artists from New York City, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, London, Toronto and Vancouver.

The exhibition focuses on the dynamics of human creativity as a metaphor for geological and atmospheric phenomena. Treating issues of weather both literally and symbolically, *out of the blue* approaches the creative process as a kind of weather system.

Ideas, like hurricanes, seem to come "out of the blue," though they arrive through a combination of complex forces. Through metaphors provided by art, *out of the blue* leads us through the tangle of influences—both innovative and destructive—that humans exert upon one another and the environment. Understanding and cultivating these influences and relationships is the key to our cultural vitality in a world where technological hubris and political arrogance can overshadow tolerance and collaboration.

out of the blue generates its own weather conditions, a storm of intertwined processes—artistic, social, political, atmospheric, and geological. As we influence one another, we in turn affect our culture and the environment, and creativity itself becomes a force of nature.

Gallery Bergen, the 2,250 square foot art exhibition space located on the third floor of the College's high-technology and arts building, West Hall, is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursdays from noon to 8 p.m., and Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m.

Including the opening reception, Gallery Bergen is a free exhibit open to the public.

ABOUT THE CURATORS

Amy Lipton has been active as a curator since she opened a gallery in New York's East Village in 1986. She was the owner and director of Amy Lipton Gallery until 1995. In 1999 Lipton became Curator for ecoartspace, a New York and California based non-profit organization dedicated to raising environmental awareness through the arts. In June 2002, her curatorial project *Ecovention*, with an accompanying 160-page catalogue opened at the Contemporary Art Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 2003-04 Lipton was Guest Curator of *Imaging the River* at the Hudson River Museum in Yonkers, NY. In 2008 she curated "E.P.A.", (Environmental Performance Actions) at Exit Art in NYC. Lipton was Curator at Abington Art Center in Jenkintown, PA from 2004 – 2007, where *Out of the Blue* was first held. She was Director of The Fields Sculpture Park at Omi International Arts Center in Ghent, NY from 2007 - 2008.

Joy Episalla is a New York-based artist who works in the interstices between photography, video and sculpture. She works with the mutability of photographed and filmed images, intervals of time and spatial volume. Episalla's work has been exhibited in the US and internationally including the Wexner Center for the Arts; The Contemporary Art Center, New Orleans; Aeroplastics Contemporary, Brussels, Belgium; and Studio 1.1, London. She is a 2003 recipient of the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Award. She was a participant in Fenenin El-Rahhal (Nomadic Artists), 2006 International Artists Summit, Western Desert, Egypt. A long time AIDS activist, she is on the board of Treatment Action Group (TAG) and the Gesso Foundation. She is a founding member of *fierce pussy*, the lesbian public art collective. Most recently, Episalla's solo exhibition *168 sand* was at the Carrie Secrist Gallery, Chicago in 2008.

Joy Garnett studied painting at L'Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris and received her MFA from The City College of New York. She appropriates news and documentary images from the Internet and re-invents them as paintings. Her subject is both the content of these found images and the digital image itself as cultural artifact in an Internet-driven culture. She most recently curated the exhibition "Things Fall Apart" at Winkelman Gallery, NY (Jan 16-Feb 21, 2009). Recent exhibitions include solo shows at Winkelman Gallery, NY (2008) and "Strange Weather" at the National Academy of Sciences, Washington DC (2007), and group exhibitions "That Was Then... This Is Now," at P.S.1/MoMA, and "Image War" organized by the Whitney Museum of American Art (2006). She is a 2004 recipient of a grant from the Anonymous Was a Woman foundation, and currently serves as arts editor for the scholarly journal *Cultural Politics*. She is represented by Winkelman Gallery, New York City

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Stephen Andrews lives in Toronto, Ontario. His work deals with memory, identity, the body and the body politic. He has exhibited his work in Canada, the US, Brazil, Scotland, France, India and Japan. He is represented in the collection of The National Gallery of Canada, as well as many other public and private collections. Recent solo exhibitions include Paul Petro Gallery (Toronto), Platform Gallery (Seattle), Cue Art Foundation and Participant,, New York City. His work is currently featured in Forum expanded at the 59th Internationale Filmfestspiele Berlin.

Michele Araujo is an artist living and working in Brooklyn. She is the recipient of grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and Art Matters, and was an artist-in-residence at both Yaddo and Braziers (UK). She is the co-founder of Four Walls, an alternative artist space in Hoboken, NJ.

Robert Bordo was born in Montreal and has lived in New York since 1972, exhibiting there regularly with Brooke Alexander, Tibor de Nagy and Alexander and Bonin galleries since 1987. He has also exhibited with Galerie René Blouin, Montreal and Rubicon Gallery, Dublin. In 2007 he was awarded a Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship. His most recent one person show: "its' always raining" was held at Alexander and Bonin in September - October 2008. He is on the full- time faculty of the Cooper Union School of Art.

Diane Burko is a Philadelphia-based painter and photographer, whose practice has been about exploring the natural landscape. She collects archival images or her own aerial photographs as source material. Burko's many awards include 2 NEAS and 2 PCA grants, a Lila Acheson Wallace Giverny residency and one at the Rockefeller Center in Bellagio and a grant from the Leeway Foundation. Her work is in the collections of The Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Art Institute of Chicago amongst others. She is represented by Locks Gallery, Philadelphia, PA.

Christos Dikeakos was born in Thessaloniki, Greece and moved to Canada in 1955, earning a BA in Fine Arts at the University of British Columbia in 1970. Since the late 1960s, Dikeakos' practice has played an important role in the rise of conceptual and post-conceptual photography in Vancouver. He has participated in seminal moments of Vancouver's contemporary art history, including **Robert Smithson's** *Glue Pour* in 1970. His work is included in the collections of the National Gallery of Canada, the Vancouver Art Gallery and the Vorres Museum of Contemporary Art, Athens, Greece. He is represented by Catriona Jeffries Gallery, Vancouver, BC. *Glue Pour* was executed in 1970 beside a road cut in the woods at the University of British Columbia. It involved poring 500 pounds of water-soluble, bright orange glue down the incline of rock and soil, which dissipated in the rain over the course of several hours. The project was witnessed by Lucy Lippard, Smithson's wife the artist Nancy Holt, Vancouver writer Dennis Wheeler and Vancouver photographer Christos Dikeakos, who documented the event.

John Dougill has served as an inspirational teacher at the Royal College of Art, London, and Central Saint Martins from the sixties onwards: "Heaven and Earth is a term which seems to sum up the nature of my obsessions at the moment. I am making images and objects about the sky, and I like to re-visit the sea. Much of the work is direct and matter of fact, but at other times it seems to go its own unexpected way. I like work which holds it's own on it's own terms, but also work which tries to say something about the real world and I try to inhabit both of those positions." Dougill lives and works in London.

Felix Gonzalez-Torres (1957-1996) was a Cuban artist who grew up in Puerto Rico before moving to New York City. Gonzalez-Torres's work subtly combines personal experiences and ideas from art theory with political points of view. His installations of piles of paper and sweets indicate a direct connection with the Conceptual and Minimal Art of the 1960s. He had his first solo show at Andrea Rosen Gallery in 1990, where he continued to show his work until his death from AIDS. His estate is represented by Andrea Rosen Gallery, where the Felix Gonzalez-Torres Foundation is also located.

Jacqueline Gourevitch began her "Cloud Paintings" in the mid 60's. Her paintings of clouds have evolved from direct observation and the close scrutiny of a life-long painter. Duration and change revealed over time are deeply imbedded in her process. She has had over 30 solo shows and her work is in the collections of The Wadsworth Atheneum, The Menil Collection, The Museum of the City of New York, and the DeCodova Museum, among others. She has received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Connecticut Commission on the Arts. In 2004 she received an Academy Award in Painting from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Gourevitch lives and works in New York City.

Erik Hanson is a New York-based conceptual artist who apprehends non-visual sensual phenomena and translates/transforms them using visual means. His work has been exhibited throughout the US and internationally, including PS1 Contemporary Art Center, The New Museum for Contemporary Art, The Sculpture Center, Marion Boesky Gallery, Caren Golden, Debs & Co., John Connelly Presents, White Columns, (all in NY), Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, SF, Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans, and galerie s & h de buck, Ghent, Belgium. His most recent show was in March 2008 at 11 Rivington in NYC.

Geoffrey Hendricks lives and works in New York and Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. Often referred to as "Cloudsmith," he has been active with Fluxus since the mid-sixties. He uses sky imagery to describe changes, shifts and the passage of time, a form of reflection, a vocabulary he builds and attaches to objects. Hendricks lives and works in New York and Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. For his recent solo exhibition at Pavel Zoubok Gallery, NY, *Continuing Sky Dialogues*, Hendricks installed a wall of watercolors of sky painted at his farm in Nova Scotia, Canada, together with old roof slates taken from his early 19th century townhouse in New York, as well as other works and assemblages and weathered objects.

JJ L'Heureux attended the San Francisco Art Institute and is based in Venice, CA. She has traveled extensively in Africa, South America, the Galapagos Islands, North America, Tierra del Fuego, across the Southern Ocean and into the Antarctic wilderness. Her photographs of Antarctica were shot over the course of five different expeditions spanning five years, in which she was a passenger on Russian icebreakers.

Bill Jones is a photographer and installation artist. His work is concerned with the subject of light as physical phenomena and metaphorical figure. His work has been shown widely in the US and internationally including a mid-career retrospective at the International Center of Photography, NY; PS1 Contemporary Art Centre, The Brooklyn Museum, The Jewish Museum, San Francisco MOMA; The High Museum, Atlanta; The Milwaukee Art Center; Musee d'Art Moderne, Paris; Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, UK. Jones' work from the permanent collection of The Art Gallery of Ontario (Toronto) was included in the 2008 grand re-opening; his most recent solo exhibition was at Paul Petro Gallery in Toronto: Bill Jones & Suzy Lake: Suzy Lake as Patty Hearst, Nov-Dec, 2008.

Zoe Leonard was born in 1961 in Liberty, New York, and now lives and works in New York City. She has exhibited internationally since 1990, including recent solo presentations at Dia:Beacon (2008); Dia at the Hispanic Society, NY (2008); the Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio (2007); Paula Cooper Gallery, New York City (2003); Centre National de la Photographie, Paris (1998); Kunsthalle Basel (1997); and the Renaissance Society at the University of Chicago (1993). In 2007, Leonard was the subject of a 20-year career retrospective at the Fotomuseum Winterthur, in Winterthur, Switzerland, which is traveling to the Museo Nacional Reina Sofia in Madrid, the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich, and the Museum Moderner Kunst in Vienna.

Frank Moore (1953-2002) was born in New York and grew up on Long Island and in the Adirondacks. From his earliest youth, he had a strong interest in nature and he became an avid gardener and naturalist. In addition to creating paintings, he designed sets and costumes and collaborated with several major choreographers and ballet companies. After his diagnosis with HIV, which he lived with for 17 years, his work increasingly grappled with issues of environmental degradation, bioethics, and the health care system. He became a noted AIDS activist, working with Visual AIDS on the launch of the Red Ribbon Project. His first solo show was at the Clocktower in Tribeca in 1983, and he had several one-man exhibitions at Sperone Westwater Gallery. He was included in the 1995 Whitney Biennial and he had a mid-career retrospective in 2002 at the Orlando Museum of Art and the Albright Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo. His work is represented in the collections of those museums, as well as in the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney, and the New York Public Library.

Jaanka Peerna works at the crossroads of digital and traditional media, often dealing with the themes of water, simplicity and silence. She has an MFA in intermedia design from SUNY New Paltz and has worked as a teaching artist at Dia Beacon and the Visual Thinking Strategies project of the Soros Foundation. Peerna has had solo exhibitions in New York and Tallinn, Estonia, her native country. Recent exhibitions include the Triennial of Photographic Arts at the Center of Photography in Woodstock, and a drawings exhibition at Galerie Lavignes Bastille in Paris.

Andrea Polli is a digital media artist living in New York City. Her work addresses issues related to science and technology in contemporary society, her projects often bringing together artists and scientists from various disciplines. She has exhibited, performed, and lectured nationally and internationally. Polli is currently working in collaboration with meteorological scientists to develop systems for understanding storms and climate through sound. For this work,

she has been recognized by the UNESCO Digital Arts Award. A member of the steering committee for New York 2050, a wide-reaching project envisioning the future of the New York City region, she is currently working with city planners, environmental scientists, historians and other experts to look at the impact of climate on the future of human life both locally and globally.

Hunter Reynolds is an AIDS activist, visual and performance artist who was one of the founding members of ACT-UP and ART-Positive. He has performed extensively nationally and internationally in the Patina du Prey Memorial Dress. Selected exhibitions include The Schwulen Museum Germany; Thread Waxing Space, White Columns, Marianne Boesky Gallery and Paula Cooper Gallery (all in New York); 1997 Documenta, Kassel; and the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco. His solo show, "The Moon Over Gerhard," was held at Mary Goldman Gallery, LA in 2004.

Austin Thomas is a New York-based artist who builds structures known as "perches," which are both functional and aesthetic objects that invite viewers to experience art in ways that extend beyond the object itself. She is a recipient of a Smack Mellon Artist Studio Program, an LMCC studio residency, and Public Arts Fund Commission. Her work has been featured at The Drawing Center, Murray Guy, The Sculpture Center, Debs & Co., Sara Meltzer Gallery, Art in General (all in NYC), and at the Corcoran Biennial, Washington, DC. Thomas runs the social exhibition space and salon, Pocket Utopia, in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn, New York.

Bing Wright was born in Seattle and is a New York-based photographer. His work has been exhibited widely including at the Queens Museum of Art, Lucas Schoormans Gallery, Lipton Owens Company, Pace Wildenstein McGill, Julie Saul Gallery, Amy Lipton Gallery, White Columns, (all in New York); Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson; Rena Branston Gallery, San Francisco; Linda Farris Gallery, Seattle. He is represented by Paula Cooper Gallery, New York City.

Carrie Yamaoka lives and works in New York City. She has had numerous solo shows including at Debs & Co., New York, and Aeroplastics Contemporary, Brussels. Her work has been included in exhibitions in the US and internationally, including at Artists Space, New York; the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art; Bard College; "Vanishing Point" at the Wexner Center, "Mirror, Mirror" at Mass MOCA, and in "Extreme Abstraction" at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, NY. For over a decade, Yamaoka has made paintings of reflective mylar encapsulated in resin. The artist works with a reflective ground that is empty of content but full of incident. The site in which the work is situated, the passing viewer, the ambient light in the room, serve alternately -- and simultaneously -- as subject and reflected object. Air bubbles, liquid sluices and other artifacts of production reveal a layered archaeology of process while forming loci for an otherwise shifting and fluid gaze.

Andrea Zittel was born in Escondido, California, in 1965. She received a BFA in painting and sculpture in 1988 from San Diego State University, and an MFA in sculpture in 1990 from the Rhode Island School of Design. In 2005 she received the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Lucelia Artist Award. Zittel currently lives in California and New York and is represented by Andrea Rosen Gallery and Sadie Coles HQ. Zittel's sculptures and installations transform everything necessary for life--such as eating, sleeping, bathing, and socializing--into artful experiments in living. Blurring the lines between life and art, Zittel's projects extend to her own home and wardrobe. Seeking to attain a sense of freedom through structure, Zittel is more interested in revealing the human need for order than in prescribing a single unifying design principle or style.
