

FACT SHEET: COOL STORIES FOR WHEN THE PLANET GETS HOT II

COOL STORIES FOR WHEN THE PLANET GETS HOT II is a compilation of 17 short videos and animations by international artists who won the second short video and animation contest on Global Warming launched by **ARTPORT_making waves** in spring 2009.

The finalists are: Fernando Acquarone (BR/IT), Michael Alstad (CA), Monika Bravo (CO/US), Rob Carter (UK/US), Baptist Coelho (IN), Meredith Drum (US), Joshua Frankel (US), Anita Glesta (US), Nan González (VE), Richard Jochum (AT/US), Matthew Kluber (US), Katja Loher (CH/CN), Lydia Moyer (US), Henrique Roscoe (BR), Soledad Salamé (CL/US), Michael Wyshock (US), and Marina Zurkow (US).

The winner who will receive an artist residency at **La Alquería de los Artistas**, donated by the Foundation **INSPIRARTE** in Valencia, Spain (www.fundacioninspirarte.org) will be announced at the following event:

COOL STORIES FOR WHEN THE PLANET GETS HOT II

Award Ceremony, Screening and Panel Discussion in conjunction with Art 40 Basel
Panel organized by Oliver Orest Tschirky, Independent Curator and Critic

Friday, June 12, 2009, 8:00PM

FOCUS09

Voltahalle Basel

Voltastrasse 27

4056 Basel / Switzerland

www.focus09.ch

THE JURY

Pilar Algarra, Publisher and President, Foundation InspirArte, Spain
Sally Berger, Assistant Curator, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art, New York
Javier Duero, Art Critic and Curator, Madrid, Spain
Anupam Poddar, Collector and Curator, New Delhi, India
Lyle Rexer, Art Critic and Curator, New York
Randy Jayne Rosenberg, Curator and Director, Art Works for Change, Oakland, CA, US

THE DVD COMPILATION

Produced in collaboration with **FilmAnnex** (www.filmannex.com).

Nan González, Titans of the Ice, 2009 (2:33)
Joshua Frankel, Just in Case, 2008 (1:00)
Michael Wyshock, Extra Value Meal, 2009 (1:29)
Michael Alstad, Methane, 2007 (2:00)
Katja Loher, Is There No More Spring When The Bees Leave The Flowers, 2009 (2:55)
Rob Carter, Metropolis, 2008 (3:13)
Marina Zurkow, The Poster Children, 2009 (3:00)
Lydia Moyer, Mountain Loop, 2008 (2:45)
Richard Jochum, Halt, 2007 (1:06)

Monika Bravo, *La ILLA HA ILLA´LLAH*, 2009 (2:16)
Matthew Kluber, *So Much Water So Close To Home*, 2008 (2:20)
Baptist Coelho, *Something Terrible Has Happened*, 2009 (3:00)
Henrique Roscoe, *Human Nature*, 2008 (1:00)
Soledad Salamé, *Fusion*, 2006 (2:59)
Meredith Drum, *Dead Horse Bay*, 2009 (3:00)
Anita Glesta, *Meltdown*, 2009 (3:00)
Fernando Acquarone, *Iceclock*, 2008 (0:38)
Total ca. 40 minutes

ABOUT THE WORKS

The artists used a wide variety of techniques, ranging from footage found on popular websites like Flickr and YouTube, to cartoon-like formats of Asian scroll paintings to animated, hand drawn elements, and experimental filmmaking.

While Soledad Salamé's painting-like *Fusion* reveals the beauty and preciousness of water, Anita Glesta (*Meltdown*) and Matthew Kluber (*So Much Water So Close to Home*) explore water as a seductively beautiful yet disturbing and threatening element when contaminated.

In a simple yet impacting snapshot, Fernando Acquarone captures the speed of melting ice in *Iceclock*; in Nan González's powerful audio-visual experience, *Titans Of The Ice*, icebergs come crushing down to classical aria; and in Marina Zurkow's *The Poster Children*, an animated Arctic dystopia unfolds on a slow-moving stage of icebergs and e-waste.

In *La Illa Ha Illa' Llah*, Monika Bravo lyrically arranges footage of a Tornado, suggesting an eerily devotional whirling dervish dance by Mother Nature. Other artists explore the human hand in the destruction of the planet. Lydia Moyer's animated *Mountain Loop (Remix)* responds to strip mining, in which mountains are leveled in order to remove their valuable resources. Rob Carter's animation *Metropolis*, made from images printed on paper, suggests the frailty of urban planners' dream and our paper-thin significance. Michael Alstad juxtaposes harrowing images of factory farms with jolly children's song in *Methane*, illustrating how the meat industry is destroying biodiversity. In Meredith Drum's experimental film *Dead Horse Bay*, dancers clad in astronauts uniforms move around silently in a landfill while a voiceover narrates the consequences of plastic waste in oceans.

Other artists opted for sarcasm and humor. In *Halt*, Richard Jochum literally saws himself off a branch he sits on; and in Baptist Coelho's comic farce, *Something Terrible Has Happened*, a determined businessman senselessly digs one air vent after another into a green landscape. Joshua Frankel's animation, *Just in Case*, is a sarcastic take on the fatalistic it's-not-my-problem attitude.

Abstract animations like Henrique Roscoe's *Human Nature* illustrate innate destructive forces, and the hand-drawn images juxtaposed with film footage in Michael Wyshock's *Extra Value Meal* let us glimpse at the impact of our eating habits on the environment. In Katja Loher's *Is There No More Spring When The Bees Leave The Flowers*, humans become part of a machine with

synchronized movements as they work around the clock to keep nature balanced and to allow mankind to survive on our planet at its current numbers.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Fernando Acquarone

Fernando Acquarone is a native of Rio de Janeiro and lived in New York from 2006-07. After saying good-bye to his economic studies in Canada, he returned to Brazil to attend an advertising school, where he soon got into linear and non-linear editing for the communications department. Before graduating, Fernando had already edited numerous music videos, TV shows and documentaries for Brazilian TV, and did cinematography for Fashion TV London and Nike.com. He graduated from the directing program at New York Film Academy and is currently working for Fabrica, Benetton's audio-visual research center in Treviso, Italy.

Michael Alstad

Michael Alstad is a Toronto based artist and curator working in installation and digital media. Much of his work explores the relationship between technology and the environment. He is a founding member of the Canadian artist collective Year Zero One. Michael has coordinated several site-specific/locative media projects in Toronto including The Bank of Symbiosis, The Hoarding Project, The Transmedia video billboard exhibitions, Teletaxi, Geostash and Terminal Zero One. His web/video/interactive works have been included in many international media arts festivals and online exhibitions. www.michaelalstad.com

Monika Bravo

Originally from Colombia, Bravo lives and works in New York. She studied fashion design and photography. Lured by philosophical questions, her work is influenced by Jungian psychology, Zen and Daoists practices. Her large body of work, both meditative and investigative, ranges from moving images, photo objects to video interactive installations. Along with industrial materials, sound and technology, she creates objects /environments that allude to recognizable landscapes thus examining the notion of time and space. She has exhibited worldwide in solo shows and group exhibitions. She is represented by Bryce Wolkowitz Gallery, New York. <http://monikabravo.com>

Rob Carter

A visual artist who creates re-constructed imagery of architecture and landscape, using photography and video animation. Rob Carter received his BFA from the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art (Oxford, 1998). In August 2000 he relocated to New York to attend Hunter College, receiving his MFA in 2003. Since then he has exhibited his work in numerous locations in Europe and the USA. In May 2008 he opened a solo show in Madrid at Galería Fruela and a second solo exhibition in October at the Pastificio Cerere, Rome. In the same year he attended the Art Omi Residency, became a West Prize finalist, and was awarded a Marie Walsh Sharpe studio space for 2008-09. This October he will premier a new cut-paper animation at the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City. He currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New

York. www.robcarter.net

Baptist Coelho

Baptist Coelho is a practicing visual artist, currently living in Mumbai, who is exhibiting his work throughout India and internationally. His first international solo-exhibition was in England; entitled *air(edge)air*, 2006. Baptist received his Master of Arts Degree in 2006 from BIAD in the UK and in 2007 he was awarded the "Promising Artist Award"; given by ART India and the Visual Arts Gallery, (India Habitat Centre), in Delhi. In 2008 he was invited to be the Guest Editor of *New Media Art for "I"*, a Quarterly Newsletter of the Visual Arts; produced by the India Habitat Centre, in Delhi.

Meredith Drum

Meredith Drum is a cinema artist who creates experimental narrative fiction and alternative essay forms as well as journalistic short form videos. Her work has recently screened at the Bronx Museum of the Arts, Galapagos Art Space, Anthology Film Archives, Participant Inc., Monkey Town, Fales Library and Archive at NYU and has been published on the New York Times Magazine Online and Good Magazine Online. She is also a creative writer, with poems and stories published by in several literary journals, including *Ploughshares* and *Pierogi Press*. www.meredithdrum.com

Joshua Frankel

Joshua Frankel is an animator, filmmaker and visual artist. Originally trained in painting and drawing, in 2001 Joshua began creating animation and visual effects, mostly for TV commercials. After four years of shilling SUVs, shampoo and sugar water he quit his job and made his first short film, *Bicycle Messengers*, which fused the aesthetics of his paintings and drawings with photo-real visual effects techniques. Since then Joshua has been working in a variety of media, attempting to use the powers he has acquired in advertising for good, rather than evil. In 2008 Joshua was commissioned to create a series of animations and short films for Barack Obama's presidential campaign. Joshua has also created animation for three Hollywood blockbusters, two musicals and an opera. His art has shown in galleries in London, New York and The Berkshires. His films have shown in festivals around the world. <http://joshuafrankel.net>

Anita Glesta

Anita Glesta has exhibited extensively in New York and internationally. Her multi channel video installation "Expulsion," referring to the quattrocento fresco by Masaccio, just premiered in New York gallery Five Myles. She is currently commissioned to create a permanent outdoor integrated landscape sculpture for the Federal Census Bureau Building in Washington DC. Glesta has worked on several large-scale projects, such as the three-acre park Yurong Water Gardens of Cook and Phillip Park in Sydney. She has been the recipient of a Pollock/Krasner grant and a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship. The project *Gernika/Guernica (Desde El Cielo Hasta El Fondo)* was shown as a two part installation in NYC at White Box and through the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council at Chase Manhattan Plaza in June 07. In 09/10 she will show at the Museo Nacional in La Paz, Bolivia, and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Villa Croce,

Genoa, Italy. www.anitaglesta.com

Nan González

Since 1977, Nan González has had several solo exhibitions in Caracas, Venezuela. She has also been in numerous group shows in Argentina, Brazil, France, Peru, and the USA, namely the Biennial of Young Artists, Lieu Grand Palais, Paris, France (1982); Bienal de Perú, Museo de la República, Lima (1987); Biennial of Young Artists, Museum of Modern Art, Paris, France, Terre-Terre, Centro de Arte Baie Saint Paul, Canada (1992); II and III Bienal Barro de América, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Caracas Saña Imber and Museo Alejandro Otero respectively, Caracas (1995 and 1998); Ecoperformía and Video Hábitats, Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas (1997 and 2000, respectively); Vidéo Femmes, Galería Iturralde, Los Angeles, USA (2002); Bienal de La Habana, Cuba and as a special guest at the II Salón Exxon Mobil, Galería de Arte Nacional, Caracas (2003), I Bienal Fin del Fin del Mundo, Ushuaia (2007). <http://nangonzalezvideo.blogspot.com/>

Richard Jochum

Richard Jochum is a Visiting Scholar and Artist in Residence at Teachers College/Columbia University since 2004. He works as a media artist since the late 1990s setting up exhibitions and screenings all over the world. Richard received his MA in philosophy from the University of Innsbruck, Austria, and his PhD from the University of Vienna dealing with strategies of coping with complexity in contemporary philosophy. He got his MFA in sculpture and media art from the University of Applied Arts in Vienna before he moved first to Berlin and later to New York. Richard's art practice is accompanied by lectures in the field of contemporary art practice and cultural theory. He has been awarded several grants and prizes. One of his most recent public art projects—30 light boxes with photographs as a flip book—will be on display in the Arlberg tunnel along the Austrian railroad from June 2009. <http://richardjochum.net>

Matthew Kluber

Matthew Kluber holds a master of fine arts degree from the University of Iowa and a bachelor of fine arts degree from the Rhode Island School of Design. He currently teaches at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa and has taught at the University of Iowa, Iowa State University and was Artist-in-Residence at the Des Moines Art Center, Des Moines, Iowa. Kluber has shown his paintings/ projections, digital work and drawings at galleries and museums including: The Micro Museum, Brooklyn, 123 Watts Gallery in New York City, Klein Art Works in Chicago, Rudolph Poissant Gallery in Houston, the Portland Museum of Art in Oregon, the Austin Museum of Art in Texas, the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art and Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, and at the Des Moines Art Center, the University of Iowa Museum of Art, and the Faulconer Gallery, Grinnell College. www.matthewkluber.com

Katja Loher

Working in various media and with a number of collaborators from around the world, New York-based, Swiss artist Katja Loher's explorations of language and visual form come together in an assemblage of present technologies and dramatic sculptures. Translating, in poetic metaphor, the "ambivalent relationships between power, freedom and dependency," she creates a powerful

visual platform that pulls the viewer out of his current perspective and provides a broader perspective with which to address existential questions and current concerns around the globe. Last year Loher created several objects that offered a broad view of human interference with ecologic systems and their artificial reproduction. A multi-awarded artist, Katja's video sculptures and installations have appeared at international galleries and institutions. In 2004, Katja Loher was the recipient of the TPC CreaTVty Award by the Swiss TV Production Center. In the past few years she received several artist awards, grants, and residences including in Berlin, New York, and Beijing. www.katjaloher.com

Lydia Moyer

Lydia Moyer's body of work draws alternately on her training in experimental video and documentary production, culminating in a hybrid of the two—a kind of poetic nonfiction. She is as interested in reading landscapes for insight into the values of the cultures that inhabit, protect, or otherwise exploit them. Moyer received a BFA from the New York State School of Art and Design at Alfred in 1999 and an MFA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2005, where she was a recipient of the Weiss Urban Livability Fellowship. Her work has been screened nationally and internationally in festivals and exhibitions including the Black Maria Film Festival in Jersey City, NJ, the Impakt Festival in Utrecht, the Netherlands, and the 700is Festival in Egilstaddir, Iceland, where she was awarded the film of the festival prize in 2006. She has been named a 2009-10 individual artist fellow in film and video at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, VA. She lives and works in rural Virginia. www.goodfornow.net

Henrique Roscoe

A Brazilian video artist and VJ, Roscoe has produced works for a number of Brazilian and international TV shows and video festivals, and music groups like Earth Wind and Fire. He produced video sceneries for the Las Vegas show "Raw Talent" (2008), and for Presseball and Darmstadt Unter Strom in Germany (2007/2008). He has played at many festivals, including Live Earth Rio (since 2004), Motomix (2006), Nokia Trends (2007), and Skol Beats (2007/2008). He has a video at the permanent gallery of the software Resolume, and since 2006, he sells video clips at the German label Showfootage. He is part of the first Brazilian VJs DVD, VJBR (2005), alongside 20 of the main living visual artists from Brazil. He is also the producer and curator of FAD (Digital Arts Festival). Roscoe was selected to participate in the following upcoming festivals and exhibitions: Computational Aesthetics (2009), Canada; AVIT Berlin; VIII International Digital Art Exhibit and Colloquium, CUBA; Videomedaja Festival, Serbia and Montenegro; II Off Cologne Film Festival, Germany; Saatchi Gallery, London. <http://hol.1mpar.com>

Soledad Salamé

Salamé, originally from Santiago, Chile, has been the recipient of several scholarships, awards, and grants, including the Pollock Krasner Grant. In 2001, she created a solo environmental installation in the National Museum of Bellas Artes in Santiago, Chile, entitled "In the Labyrinth of Solitude." From 1999-2000, she participated in "Latin American Still Life, Reflections of Time and Place" at the Katonah Museum of Art and El Museo del Barrio in NY. In 1995 she participated in "Latin American Women Artists, 1915-1995," which traveled to the Milwaukee Museum of Art, Denver Museum of Art, Phoenix Museum of Art, Miami Art Museum, and the National Museum of

Women in The Arts, Washington, DC. In 1990, she was commissioned to create the set designs for the Baltimore Opera's production of "Carmen". Her work is represented in private and public collections, including the National Museum of Women in the Arts, The Baltimore Museum of Art, and the University of Essex, UK. Currently living in Baltimore, Salame's most recent exhibition, entitled "Where do You Live" was on display at the Contemporary Museum.
www.soledadsalame.com

Michael Wyshock

Michael Wyshock has been working with experimental video and animation since 2002. His artwork has been exhibited internationally. He was recently awarded a Pollock-Krasner Award, a Full Fellowship from the Vermont Studio Center, a Creative Research Grant from State University of New York, and the Dr. Benjamin Bevins Alumni Award from Florida State University. He was teaching drawing, animation, and video at the State University of New York in Oneonta and lives now in Arkansas. He says: "My first video 020102 (2002) was made because I wanted to rework paint sliding down a surface in a way that disregarded gravity. Today I still call my video pieces Moving Paintings because they are constructed in the same way I make large paintings stretched on canvas. I layer imagery in responses to content as it develops. This process is useful to me because it allows new shapes formed out of echoes of previous compositions intended to take you on a visual journey through their timing, overlapping, and structure." <http://www.wyshock.com>

Marina Zurkow

Marina Zurkow makes psychological narratives about humans and their relationship to animals, plants and the weather. These take the form of multi-channel videos, customized multi-screen computer pieces, animated cartoons, interactive mobile works, and pop objects. Since 2000, she has exhibited at The Sundance Film Festival, The Rotterdam Film Festival, Res Fest, Ars Electronica, Creative Time, The Kitchen, The Walker Art Center, the Brooklyn Museum, The National Museum for Women in the Arts, and Eyebeam, among other venues. Her videos have been broadcast on MTV, FujiTV and PBS. She is a 2005 NYFA Fellow, a 2003 Rockefeller New Media Fellow, and a 2001 Creative Capital grantee. Zurkow is represented by Bryce Wolkowitz Gallery in New York. She teaches at NYU's Interactive Telecommunications Program (ITP), and lives in Brooklyn. <http://www.o-matic.com>

ABOUT ARTPORT

"ARTPORT BUILDS BRIDGES NOT ONLY BETWEEN DIFFERENT CULTURES, BUT BETWEEN THE ARTS, SCIENCE, AND POLITICS. I AM DELIGHTED TO BE PART OF SUCH A VISIONARY PROJECT." SANTIAGO CALATRAVA

ARTPORT is an international arts exchange project based in New York and Valencia, Spain, which promotes the cross-fertilization of art, science, and politics through exhibitions and residencies worldwide. Current projects explore causes and effects of, and solutions to, Global Warming. **ARTPORT** aims at becoming a global trademark for sustainable networks of artists, curators, galleries, art collectors, and critics to promote a true globalization of the artistic dialogue, giving a voice to promising artists from all over the world. The collaborative programs will bring forward new and exciting ways to create awareness of current global issues and



inspire positive changes across borders. **ARTPORT** was founded by two international curators, Corinne Erni and Anne-Marie Melster, and is based in Valencia, Spain, and New York City, U.S.

The first edition of **COOL STORIES FOR WHEN THE PLANET GETS HOT** was launched by **ARTPORT** at **Scope Basel** in 2007 and subsequently screened at international art fairs, festivals, and prime venues like Lincoln Center New York.

ARTPORT is a fiscally sponsored project of the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA), a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. In Spain, it is supported by Fundación Pere Compte Valencia, a foundation that conserves the patrimony and environment in the Region of Valencia.

ABOUT FOUNDATION INSPIRARTE

The 3-months artist residency for the winning artist is offered by the Foundation **INSPIRARTE** at **La Alquería de los Artistas**. La Alquería is located in a beautiful nature reserve near Valencia and serves as a center for creation and artistic experimentation that will host international artists of all disciplines, and connect them to Spanish arts institutions. www.fundacioninspirarte.org

ABOUT FOCUS09

FOCUS is an art and culture project that launches at Voltahalle Basel, from June 1–14, 2009. It is a platform for contemporary art with an emphasis on Africa during Art 40 Basel, the world's biggest art fair. It is also designed as a lab to develop the concept for a new art fair next year, FOCUS10. www.focus09.ch