

Going Green II

Crossing Art's Second Annual Juried Exhibition of 2012.

Exhibition Dates: June 14 – August 14, 2012

Press Preview: Thursday, June 14th, 2-4 PM

Opening Reception: Saturday, June 16th, 3-6 PM

Featured Artists: Elly Cho, Peter Hiers, Callie Danae Hirsch, Marietta Patricia Leis, Christina Massey, Yeon Ji Yoo, Lorin Roser and Nina Kuo.

Crossing Art, in conjunction with the 2012 Queens Art Express (QAX) of Queens Council on the Arts (QCA), will hold their Second Annual Juried Exhibition, *Going Green II*. The opening reception will take place on Saturday, June 16th, featuring a special live performance. All proceeds from the opening event will be donated to QCA who provides support to both individuals and art organizations that host culturally diverse programs which benefit the community.

Eight artists were chosen by jurors, consisting of gallery owners, curators, writers and a representative of environmental preservation, who selected from a pool of over 70 submissions world wide. *Going Green II* is composed of artworks that range from painting, photography and sculpture, to video and large-scale installations created by the elected artists, **Elly Cho, Peter Hiers, Callie Danae Hirsch, Marietta Patricia Leis, Christina Massey, Yeon Ji Yoo, Lorin Roser and Nina Kuo**. The finalists of *Going Green II* create overlapping visual dialogues that juxtapose human interactions with natural elements found in the urban and rural landscapes. Whether relating to the past, present, or future, each artist individually addresses and utilizes the environment as the essence of their subject.

To embrace the environmental elements in their purest forms, **Callie Danae Hirsch's** featured series, *Nature's Pulse*, captures an endless array of rhythms and colors found in nature. Subtly unearthing her naturalistic sense, each patterned work employs a pointillism technique of organic dancing forms, in warm, inviting hues that bring her paintings to life. While Hirsch's intent is to demonstrate how humans overlook nature, **Elly Cho** takes this concept a step further in her video installation, *Visual Kinematics: a State of Art*, an active landscape stripped away of its natural colors and substituted with solely black and white. Void of color, the powerful atmospheric sounds of the trees slowly swaying back and forth have the ability to engulf the spectator into a trans-like state. It is at that point Cho attempts to inspire viewers to reflect on the past and present of their own cultural landscape, hoping to stimulate their awareness to the environment around them through this temporal moment. Remnants of environmental self-awareness is evident with **Yeon Ji Yoo's**, *In the Darkness* series, a body of works including biomorphic, life-size sculptures dressed in nurse logs, moss and other natural elements, where in she seeks to investigate the grotesque, yet beautiful cycle of decay into transformed organic matter. Yoo's investigation is an artistic response to pose questions, not answers as to which "side" is winning in terms of the actions and consequences caused by human interference of this natural process. **Marietta Patricia Leis**, in her *Green* installation extends Yoo's visual dialogue with monochromatic paintings, poetry texts plates, videos, and hollow, pseudo-food sculptures that convey a paradox in an unequal world of abundance verses scarcity.

Steering away from the past purities of nature, **Peter Hiers** and **Christina Massey** both feature wall reliefs that are constructed from recycling man-made found objects and materials. Hiers takes a functional "object" and creates an aesthetically appealing form when he brings together fragments of exploded tire rubber gathered from highways. Massey's oeuvre consists of re-using and re-purposing her pre-existing works to lead each series into an ever-changing progression of new series mutating one into the other. On display, *Meat Market*, *Stretched* and *Business & Pleasure*, all consist of found-collared shirts, whether affixed to canvas or as a hanging sculpture, they are repeatedly cut, torn and sewn or woven to question the finality of art. **Lorin Roser**, the animator/composer, and **Nina Kuo**, the painter/artistic director, contemplate cultural distortions through visual animations and emotion driven sound narratives in their unique 3D Animated Videos, *Bubbling Pond* and *Manchu Couple–Storm in a Bottle*. Their collaborative works reveal an impact of emotion and imaginary narratives that reveal how invented memories of past-lost landscapes are transformed into futuristic

scenes.

While raising issues about the current trends and future fate of the global environment, *Going Green II* continues to explore how contemporary artists integrate natural systems and resources with human patterns to celebrate continuity, uniqueness and place making in their work. Although the finalists vary in their techniques and approaches, together they form a compatible unison that navigates contemporary meanings of “green”, whether relating to past, present and/ or what the future holds for the environment.

For questions or additional information, please contact Maria Boobis at maria@crossingart.com.

An extended Thank You to the participating Jurors:

Catherine Lee, Owner, Crossing Art, New York & Shanghai

Hong Yee Lee Krakauer, Executive Director of the Queens Council on the Arts

Regina Forlenza, Visitor Services Coordinator of the Queens Botanical Garden

Derrick Meade, Freelancer at Metropolis Magazine and Open Space Institute McHenry Award Grantee at the Glynwood Institute for Sustainable Food and Farming

Brian Tate, President of The Tate Group and Co-Developer/ Producer of QAX 2012

Maria Boobis, Assistant Director, Crossing Art, New York

