

Carnegie Museum of Art

Carnegie Museum of Art Presents *Widening the Lens: Photography, Ecology, and the Contemporary Landscape*

Launching May 11, 2024, the project is comprised of an exhibition, podcast series, extensive public programming, and a new publication examining ecological stories through the lens of the camera

Pittsburgh, PA (May 1, 2024) – [Carnegie Museum of Art](#) presents [Widening the Lens: Photography, Ecology, and the Contemporary Landscape](#), a major project examining environmental history and change through the lens of the camera. The project consists of an exhibition featuring nearly 100 works by 19 artists, **on view from May 11, 2024, to January 12, 2025**, in the museum’s Heinz Galleries, a [podcast](#) premiering on June 26, 2024, an extensive suite of public programming, and a fully illustrated publication, offering visitors multiple entry points into the American landscape. *Widening the Lens* is the fourth iteration of the Hillman Photography Initiative, Carnegie Museum of Art’s ongoing series that invites audiences to experience new ideas about art and photography.

The exhibition features a diverse selection of artworks that defy traditional concepts of photography, including three new commissions, ranging from classic black-and-white photographs to immersive installations, that depict nuanced relationships between humans and their environment. Arranged by four through lines that examine the past, present, and possible futures, *Widening the Lens* showcases artists and artworks that find alternative ways of engaging with the environment and potential paths forward to positively affect ecology and the landscape. *Archive* interrogates colonial legacies of classification and representation through artworks by A.K. Burns, Raven Chacon, David Hartt, Edra Soto, Dionne Lee, and Xaviera Simmons. *Remembering* explores nature as a memorial landscape charged with the complexity of human identity and relationships with work by David O. Alekhuogie, Melissa Catanese, Sky Hopinka, Mark Armijo McKnight, and Erin Jane Nelson. *Pathfinding* examines human adaptability, complicity, and paralysis in the environment with contributions by Sam Contis, Justine Kurland, Victoria Sambunaris, and Chanell Stone. *Horizon* considers environmental anxiety, anticipation, and possibility through the work of Cyprian Gaillard, Lucy Raven, Tomás Saraceno, and Fazal Sheikh.

“Carnegie Museum of Art is committed to creating space for expansive inquiry into the art and ideas that shape our time, and *Widening the Lens* addresses one of the most critical issues facing the world today: our relationship to our environment,” says Eric Crosby, Henry J. Heinz II Director, Carnegie Museum of Art, and Vice President, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh.

“The project explicitly looks at how the camera can act as a tool to question inherited narratives about people and ecology, and foreground stories that are often overlooked or excluded,” says Dan Leers, Curator of Photography at Carnegie Museum of Art. We are thrilled to bring together many artists and thinkers who have catalyzed their creative agency to ask challenging questions and envision possible futures.”

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A key component of the project is a [six-episode podcast series](#) hosted by Venus Williams, **launching June 26, 2024**, featuring the voices of 20 renowned artists, writers, and scholars. The synergistic partnership between Carnegie Museum of Art and Williams came to fruition through a mutual interest in increasing access to art, engaging new and diverse perspectives, and provoking discussion around the exhibition's timely, critical themes. Williams, an avid collector of contemporary art with a particular interest in promoting and preserving the legacies of artists of color, was drawn to the partnership as an opportunity to expand her knowledge of the photographic medium and engage a wide array of audiences who might not otherwise interact with a museum. Further details on the podcast, including the full list of participants, can be found at carnegieart.org/widening-the-lens/podcast. The podcast will be available for download on Amazon, Anchor, Apple, Google, Spotify, or wherever you listen.

"I'm honored to partner with Carnegie Museum of Art on *Widening the Lens*, a deeply meaningful project that integrates art, environment and intentional storytelling," says Venus Williams. "The participating artists and thinkers you'll hear on the *Widening the Lens* podcast reflect diverse, global perspectives and a vast range of backgrounds and experiences; I am proud to help amplify their voices as they prompt us to consider new and alternative ways of relating to our landscapes through photography."

A range of public programs begins on **Saturday, May 11, 2024**, activating the project within and beyond the museum. Visitors are invited to join artists, ecologists, and poets to locate themselves and their histories within the space.

- **10:30 a.m.:** Saretta Morgan and Natalie Diaz will perform a walking poetry reading and performance that offer reflections on the geological history of the building's architecture.
- **noon:** Raven Chacon creates a sonic performance in the Hall of Sculpture, combining voice, electronics, and field recordings from a variety of sources, including the Grand Canyon, Standing Rock during the NODAPL movement, and windmills in the Samí territory of northern Norway.
- **1 p.m.:** Patty Krawec, author of *Becoming Kin: An Indigenous Call to Unforgetting the Past and Reimagining Our Future*, and her son Ben Krawec, an arboriculturalist and student of ecological restoration, lead a nature walk around the museum **to draw** awareness of the diversity of local ecology within urban environments.

For additional details on programming and events, please visit carnegieart.org.

A catalogue accompanying the exhibition will be published, serving as an extension of the project and offering ecology and photography enthusiasts an opportunity to experience *Widening the Lens* beyond the walls of the museum. Mirroring the four organizing rubrics of the exhibition, the catalogue features texts, interviews, and visual representations by interdisciplinary contributors, including Rachael Z. DeLue, T.J. Demos, Patty Krawec, Drew Lanham, An-My Lê, Lucy Lippard, Lee Mary Manning, Saretta Morgan, and Lucy Raven, among others. The publication will be available in the museum's store and online at the time of the exhibition's opening.

Widening the Lens: Photography, Ecology, and the Contemporary Landscape is organized by Dan Leers, curator of photography, with Keenan Saiz, project curatorial assistant.

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About Hillman Photography Initiative

Since its start in 2013, the Hillman Photography Initiative has showcased dynamic new artworks, exhibitions, publications, online experiences, and conversations transforming our relationship to the photographic medium. The Initiative connects Carnegie Museum of Art with diverse audiences to exchange new ideas about photography, presenting a series of programs centered around a concept or theme in which photography impacts our contemporary world. For each program, Carnegie Museum of Art collaborates with artists and creative thinkers to create innovative and insightful projects.

About Carnegie Museum of Art

Carnegie Museum of Art creates experiences that connect people to art, ideas, and one another. The museum is committed to global engagement and regional advancement. We champion creativity and its importance to society with experiences that welcome, inspire, challenge, and inform. Our core activities—collecting, conserving, presenting, and interpreting works of art—make those experiences possible. Our collection of over 34,000 works emphasizes art, architecture, photography, and design from the 19th century to the present. In addition, the museum houses the archive of more than 70,000 images by Pittsburgh photographer Charles "Teenie" Harris, whose work comprises one of the most detailed and intimate records of Black life in America. Through its programming, exhibitions, and publications, Carnegie Museum of Art frequently explores the role of art and artists in confronting key social issues of our time, combining and juxtaposing local and global perspectives. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Museum of Art was founded by industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie in 1895. To learn more, please call +1 412.622.3131 or visit carnegieart.org.