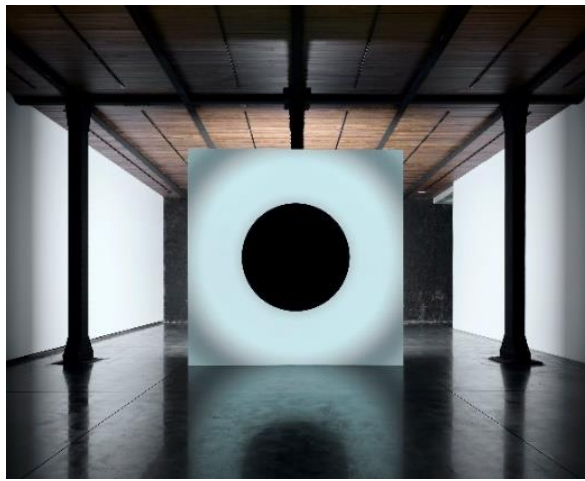


# HAMMER NEWS RELEASE

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## Hammer Museum Presents *Breath(e): Toward Climate and Social Justice*, Part of Region-wide Initiative PST ART: Art & Science Collide

On View September 14, 2024–January 5, 2025,  
Featuring More Than 100 Works by 25 Artists



(Los Angeles, CA) —The Hammer Museum is pleased to announce [\*Breath\(e\): Toward Climate and Social Justice\*](#), a groundbreaking exhibition that centers environmental art practices addressing the climate crisis and anthropogenic disasters, and their inescapable intersection with issues of equity and social justice. Part of Getty’s region-wide initiative [\*PST ART: Art & Science Collide\*](#), *Breath(e)* is curated by artist **Glenn Kaino** and guest curator **Mika Yoshitake** and features more than 100 artworks by 25 international artists. The sprawling exhibition will fill the majority of the Hammer’s galleries and outdoor spaces, and includes specially commissioned works by **Mel Chin**, **Ron Finley**, **Cannupa Hanska Luger**, **Garnett Puett**, and **Lan Tuazon**. The exhibition will be on view at the Hammer from September 14, 2024, through January 5, 2025, and is presented in partnership with **Conservation International**.

Hammer Museum director **Ann Philbin** said, “When I first began talking with Glenn Kaino and Mika Yoshitake about an exhibition that would respond to the climate crisis, it was 2020—at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the racial reckoning in the United States in the wake of the murder of George Floyd. Both the metaphorical and the literal practice of breathing—the *right* to breathe—was at the top of our minds. *Breath(e)* poignantly and intelligently spotlights the work of artists who address the urgent concerns of climate and social justice.”

Images (L-R): Garnett Puett apisculpture, Cochection, New York, July 1986. Photo: Gillian de Seve; Ryoji Ikeda, *point of no return*, 2018. DLP projector, computer, speakers, paint, HMI lamp. Dimensions variable. Concept/Composition: Ryoji Ikeda. Programming: Tomonaga Tokuyama. Photo: Takeshi Asano; © Ryoji Ikeda; courtesy of Hiroasaki Museum of Contemporary Art; LaToya Ruby Frazier, *Moses West Holding a “Free Water” Sign on North Saginaw Street between East Marengo Avenue and East Pulaski Avenue, Flint, Michigan*, 2019. Archival pigment print on Hahnemühle FineArt Baryta. 40 × 30 in. (101.6 × 76.2 cm). © LaToya Ruby Frazier; courtesy of the artist and Gladstone Gallery

*Breath(e)* spotlights 25 intergenerational and transdisciplinary artists whose practices encompass photography, multimedia, augmented reality, painting, living organisms, and more. The exhibition seeks to address the existential dangers posed by the climate crisis and to advocate for a nonhierarchical worldview influenced by ancestral indigenous knowledge, which envisions all elements of nature as one family rather than as materials for use and exploitation by humankind.

A number of artists have created works commissioned specially for *Breath(e)*:

- Multidisciplinary artist and enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes of Fort Berthold, **Cannupa Hanska Luger's** site-specific, multi-part installation *Sovereign* relates to his ongoing Future Ancestral Technologies, which blends indigenous wisdom with science-fiction speculations.
- **Garnett Puett**, a sculptor and fourth-generation beekeeper, creates "Apisculptures" in collaboration with a bee colony. Puett has created a structure in which visitors may safely enter and witness the bees' gradual creation of a sculpture.
- Inspired by systems aesthetics, maintenance, and feminist ecological art of the 1960s, Filipino artist **Lan Tuazon** will present an outdoor installation made from five techniques of material invention using sculpture as a test-site of repair. Tuazon's work considers how plastic waste operates within the circular economy and invites viewers to donate their own plastics to be shredded and made part of the installation. In this work, sustaining change can be a few acts that serve ecological beliefs.
- Environmental activist **Ron Finley**, also known as the "Gangsta Gardener," will present a large-scale garden installation outside of the museum's bookstore and galleries.
- Known for his commitment to making socially engaged conceptual art that addresses the most urgent issues of our time, **Mel Chin's** project *IOV* (Interpretation of Vision, pronounced "eye of") attempts to dismantle division and promote empathy, which he considers the first step in a collective undertaking to fight climate change and persistent social injustice. This multi-stage commission began with an open call for stories from people whose lives were changed by an extraordinary phenomenon, resulting in artworks derived not from the artist's own vision, but instead honoring and elevating the experiences of the respondents.

Some works in the exhibition illustrate what scholar Rob Nixon calls "slow violence," disastrous governmental or corporate practices which may not immediately reveal their impact on communities or ecosystems. Artist and activist **LaToya Ruby Frazier's** photo series *Flint is Family* depicts the water crisis that affected Flint, Michigan, a city predominantly comprised of Black and Brown communities. Scientist and artist **Brandon Ballengée** makes portraits of marine species that have been driven to extinction by human-caused disasters such as the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, using the oil itself as his medium. Performance and installation artist **Yangkura** traces the migratory movement of trash and debris that originated in Southeast Asia and South Korea and washed ashore on Japan's Tsushima Island—polluting their ultimate destination while leaving the originating waters clean. The artist creates "monsters" from the debris, who are trying to find their way back to their home. Vietnamese-American artist **Tiffany**

**Chung**, herself a political and climate refugee, creates large-scale vernacular architectural models that consider forced migration and human displacement resulting from climate change—including projections that portions of Vietnam will be fully consumed by rising sea levels by 2050.

The exhibition further questions anthropocentric realities that are at the crux of modern life and imagines alternate modes of agency. Some of these works incorporate cutting-edge technology, such as **Mika Tajima's** *New Humans II*, which utilizes machine learning to activate an undulating pool of black magnetic liquid, whose movement is produced by patterns based on data sets sourced at a scale beyond human comprehension. Los Angeles-based artist **Rob Reynolds** has created a massive rendering of an iceberg—viewed via augmented reality—affixed to the side of the office tower which abuts the museum and was once the headquarters of Occidental Petroleum. The iceberg upon which the work is modeled at one time had a footprint roughly the size of Westwood Village, where the Hammer is located; it now no longer exists. **Michael Joo**, in collaboration with digital artist **Danil Krivoruchko** and **Snark.art**, generated a collection of more than 10,000 NFTs modeled after the crystalline structure of coral reefs; the underlying algorithm was subsequently utilized by scientists at the University of Hawai'i to create 3D prints derived from calcite crystal formations, the basis of coral exoskeletons and reef structures, which they used to study the development of fish species reliant on coral reef habitats.

In conjunction with *Breath(e)*, the Hammer is piloting the international Bizot Green Guidelines, which provides expanded climate condition standards for gallery temperature and humidity based on recent conservation research. Adoption of these updated protocols will significantly reduce the Hammer's HVAC energy use, the largest component of its carbon footprint. The Hammer will continue to apply these guidelines for future exhibitions.

*Breath(e)* is presented in partnership with **Conservation International**, a global nonprofit dedicated to sustainability. **Melanie Janin**, Chief Communications & Marketing Officer at Conservation International, said, "Conservation International has a long history of partnering with organizations and unlikely allies such as the Hammer Museum for positive impact: taking risks that others deem too great; incubating ideas that others have not considered; and breaking down silos that others view as unavoidable. We are inspired by the courageous inquiry of the participating artists in *Breath(e)*, and hopeful that audiences will be emboldened to conserve our planet through urgent action after experiencing this powerful exhibition at the Hammer."

### **BREATH(E) PARTICIPATING ARTISTS**

Brandon Ballengée  
Mel Chin  
Tiffany Chung  
Ron Finley  
LaToya Ruby Frazier  
Cannupa Hanska Luger  
Ryoji Ikeda  
ikkibawiKrrr  
Michael Joo

Danil Krivoruchko  
Xin Liu  
Yoshitomo Nara  
Otobong Nkanga  
Roxy Paine  
Garnett Puett  
Rob Reynolds  
Sandy Rodriguez  
Sarah Rosalena

Bently Spang  
Mika Tajima  
Clarissa Tossin  
Lan Tuazon  
Yangkura  
Jin-me Yoon  
Zheng Mahler

## CATALOGUE

*Breath(e): Toward Climate and Social Justice* will be accompanied by a fully illustrated, 256-page catalogue published by DelMonico Books in partnership with the Hammer Museum. Edited by Glenn Kaino and Mika Yoshitake, it includes essays by **Kimberly Bain, T.J. Demos, Glenn Kaino, Chus Martínez, Sherri Mitchell-Weh'na Ha'mu Kwasset, Leah Penniman,** and **Mika Yoshitake**, in addition to artwork and statements from **Mel Chin, Ron Finley, Cannupa Hanska Luger, Garnett Puetz, Mika Tajima,** and **Lan Tuazon.**

## CREDITS

*Breath(e): Toward Climate and Social Justice* is organized by the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, and guest curated by Glenn Kaino and Mika Yoshitake with Jennifer Buonocore-NedreLOW, PST Fellow.

*Breath(e): Toward Climate and Social Justice* is made possible through lead grants from Getty as part of their PST Art: *Art & Science Collide* initiative.



The exhibition is presented in partnership with Conservation International.



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## ABOUT PST ART: ART & SCIENCE COLLIDE

*Breath(e): Toward Climate and Social Justice* is among more than 60 exhibitions and programs presented as part of PST ART. Returning in September 2024 with its latest edition, *PST ART: Art & Science Collide*, this landmark regional event explores the intersections of art and science, both past and present. PST ART is presented by Getty. For more information about *PST ART: Art & Science Collide*, please visit [pst.art](http://pst.art).

## **ABOUT UCLA AND PST ART**

With seven granted projects, UCLA's expansive presence in this year's PST Art—the nation's largest art event—demonstrates the university's unique strengths as a research institution and the far-reaching impact of its research and creative endeavors. UCLA's involvement underscores its commitment to fostering artistic innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration, showcasing what is possible when the worlds of art and science combine. Other UCLA-affiliated projects include the UCLA Film & Television Archive's film series *Science Fiction Against the Margins*, presented in the Billy Wilder Theater at the Hammer Museum from October 4 to December 14, 2024; as well as exhibitions and events at the Fowler Museum, UCLA Art|Sci Center, UCLA Arts Conditional Studio, and UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA).

## **ABOUT THE HAMMER MUSEUM**

The Hammer Museum is part of the School of the Arts and Architecture at UCLA, and offers exhibitions and collections that span classic to contemporary art. It holds more than 50,000 works in its collection, including one of the finest collections of works on paper in the nation, the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts. Through a wide-ranging, international exhibition program and the Made in L.A. biennial, the Hammer highlights contemporary art since the 1960s, especially the work of emerging and under-recognized artists. The exhibitions, permanent collections, and nearly 300 public programs annually—including film screenings, lectures, symposia, readings, music performances, and workshops for families—are all free to the public.

## **HAMMER MUSEUM INFORMATION**

Admission to all exhibitions and programs at the Hammer Museum is free. Hours: Tuesday–Thursday & Saturday–Sunday 11 a.m.–6 p.m; Friday 11 a.m.–8 p.m. Closed Mondays and national holidays.

Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Boulevard at Westwood, Los Angeles. Onsite parking is \$8 for the first 3 hours (maximum \$22), or \$8 flat rate after 5 p.m. Valet parking is available at the Lindbrook Drive entrance for \$15. Visit [hammer.ucla.edu](http://hammer.ucla.edu) for details or call 310-443-7000.

Free Admission at the Hammer Museum is courtesy of Marcy Carsey, the Erika J Glazer Family Foundation, and the Anthony & Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation.