TRAVELING EXHIBITION

FACING FIRE
Art, Wildfire, and the End of Nature in the New West
Facing Fire: Art, Wildfire, and the End of Nature in the New West is organized by UCR ARTS and curated by Douglas McCulloh.

Noah Berger
Kevin Cooley
Josh Edelson
Samantha Fields
Jeff Frost
Luther Gerlach
Christian Houge
Richard Hutter
Anna Mayer
Stuart Palley
Norma I. Quintana
Justin Sullivan

The artists of Facing Fire bring us incendiary work from active fire lines and psychic burn zones. In photographs, paintings, drawings, ceramic, and video, they face fire, sift its aftermath, and struggle with the implications.
“To those who do not know the world is on fire, I have nothing to say.”

Bertolt Brecht

Fire as omen and elemental force, as metaphor and searing personal experience—these are the subjects explored by the artists of Facing Fire. The diverse ecologies of the west are fire-prone, fire-adapted, even fire-dependent. In the past two decades, however, West Coast wildfires have exploded in scale and severity. There is a powerful consensus that we have entered a new era.


Norma I. Quintana, Forage from Fire #66 (small hand), outlined, 2017.
Fire is mankind's root metaphor.
   Fire wants to spread. So, too, does the meaning of fire.

Fire is passion and punishment.
   It is lust and the lake of fire. It is the spark of inspiration and the blaze of anger.
Fire is passage, purification, and the funeral pyre.
   Fire is myth, fire is power, fire is science.
   Fire is intimate and fire is universal.

Fire is elemental. Nonetheless, human beings transmute fire into idea.
We project its burning light into our lives.
   The idea
   we call fire is as shapeshifting as fire itself.

Fire cannot be conceived of simply.
   It is a mystery and one which art can only be asked to deepen.
CURATOR BIO

Douglas McCulloh is the Senior Curator at the UCR ARTS: California Museum of Photography (CMP). He has curated exhibitions at the CMP since 2004, most recently organizing *Facing Fire: Art, Wildfire, and the End of the New West* (2020) and *In the Sunshine of Neglect* (2019). McCulloh’s curatorial projects have shown in a range of venues including: Kennedy Center for the Arts, Washington D.C.; Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, China; Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Winnipeg; Centro de la Imagen, Mexico City; Flacon Art Center, Moscow; Manuel Álvarez Bravo Center, Oaxaca; Sejong Center, Seoul, South Korea; Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans; Center for Visual Art, Denver; and Peterson Automotive Museum, Los Angeles. In addition to his curatorial practice, McCulloh has shown his own system-driven, photo-based projects in more than 250 national and international exhibitions and has a publication record that includes six books and numerous catalogues. McCulloh is an honors graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara and holds an M.F.A. in photography and digital media from Claremont Graduate University.
“Images like these make it hard to avert your eyes. Fire is unlike anything else: a luminous, shape-shifting element that levels everything in its way. Controlled, it powers every facet of human life, from the kitchen to the oil rig. Loosed, it threatens it, and the aftermath is downright post-apocalyptic.”

Laura Mallonee, WIRED


EXHIBITION MATERIALS

Exhibition Checklist

Publication
130-page fully illustrated exhibition catalog with essay by Douglas McCulloh and complete exhibition checklist. Published by Inlandia Institute. Available online from Powell’s, Amazon, and discounted in quantity from the publisher. ISBN13: 9781732403291

Exhibition didactics
Bilingual (EN/SP) object labels and artist bios (digital files available upon booking)

12 fabric banners with title, artists names, curatorial texts (provided with exhibition) Spanish version available as printed booklet.

Marketing
Complete press kit, invitation, flyer, print advertising and social media (digital files available upon booking)

Education
Virtual tour and artist interviews available at https://virtualucrarts.ucr.edu/ Teacher and docent resources (digital files available upon booking)

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated exhibition catalog, *Facing Fire: Art, Wildfire, and the End of Nature in the New West*, published by Inlandia Institute, with an essay by curator Douglas McCulloh, artist biographies, and an exhibition checklist.
PRES

**National Public Radio: KPCC “AirTalk”**

**WIRED**

**Atlas Obscura**

**Lenscratch**

**National Public Radio: KVCR “Lifestyles with Lillian Vasquez”**

**The LAist**

**UCR News**
EXHIBITION SPECIFICATIONS

NUMBER OF WORKS
96 Photographs (all framed or mounted on aluminum)
46 Paintings
1 video projection with sound

SPACE REQUIREMENTS
Approximately 315 linear feet
Secured, climate controlled area

PARTICIPATION FEE
upon request

SHIPPING & INSURANCE
Exhibitors are responsible for fine arts shipping costs and wall-to-wall fine arts insurance

BOOKING PERIOD
12 weeks (flexible)

TOUR
October 2021–October 2022

CONTACT
Rita Sobreiro Souther
Exhibitions Manager
rita.souther@ucr.edu
3824 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92501
+951.827.4787
ucrarts.ucr.edu

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