



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 1, 2017

Press Contact:
505.277.6769

Daniel Linver
dlinver@unm.edu

UNIVERSITY of
NEW MEXICO
ART MUSEUM



UNM ART MUSEUM TO OPEN NEW EXHIBITION ON JUNE 6TH, 2017

OPENING CELEBRATION AND PHOTOSUMMER PARTY | SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

On view June 6th – November 11th, 2017

Long Environmentalism in the Near North
Subhankar Banerjee: Activism – Photographs – Writing

On view in the Lower Gallery

Curated by Arif Khan, Director, University of New Mexico Art Museum & Subhankar Banerjee, Lannan Foundation Endowed Chair of Land Arts of the American West and Professor of Art & Ecology in the Department of Art at UNM

In a recent essay Subhankar Banerjee coined the term ‘*long environmentalism*’ to draw attention to environmental justice engagements that last, not merely weeks or years, but decades, and become inter-generational. The exhibition presents a selection of his photographs, writing, lectures, interviews and other activist initiatives over the past sixteen years that collectively continue to contribute to the *long environmentalism* in Arctic North America. It highlights the resistance movements and coalitional politics to stop destructive fossil fuels development projects in lands and waters in Arctic Alaska, which are home to an incredible chorus of biotic life and have sustained, nutritionally, culturally and spiritually, the Gwich’in and the Iñupiat indigenous communities for millennia. The exhibition also includes a photograph from Siberia that alludes to what anthropologist Piers Vitebsky has called ‘Outliving the Empire’.

Residents of the lower latitude generally consider the Arctic as the ‘Far North’, a place disconnected from their daily lives and concerns. Banerjee’s work urges us to consider the Arctic instead as the ‘Near North’, a place that connects us all in material and intangible ways. The Arctic is the bellwether of climate change as it continues to warm at a rate of at least twice the global average, and yet paradoxically, the Arctic and non-Arctic nation states are pushing hard to exploit its fossil fuels reserves, the burning of which will only exacerbate Arctic warming, and which in turn will affect the whole planet as the top of the Earth is the integrator of our planet’s climate systems. Engaging in ‘*long environmentalism*’ we may derail this suicidal trajectory.

Subhankar Banerjee is Lannan Foundation Endowed Chair of Land Arts of the American West and Professor of Art & Ecology in the Department of Art at UNM. He is convener of the recent UNM environmental justice public forum “[Decolonizing Nature](#)”, and is currently working to establish a new interdisciplinary center at UNM, Center for Environmental Arts and Humanities.

The UNM Art Museum would like to thank the Lannan Foundation for their generous support of this exhibition.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
ART MUSEUM
MSC04 2570
1 UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87131-0001
unmarmuseum.org

This Exhibition is part of PhotoSummer 2017

PhotoSummer, now in its third year, is a collaborative initiative that represents and actively promotes historical and contemporary photography in New Mexico. Taking the rich legacy of photography in New Mexico as a point of departure, the exhibitions and public programs around PhotoSummer represent the continued energy and support of the photographic arts in the region.

PhotoSummer 2017 is organized by UNM Art Museum and 516 ARTS in Albuquerque and CENTER in Santa Fe. It features public programs in both cities, focusing on photography that spans regional, national and international artists, curators and scholars. This year we have partnered up with Axle Contemporary, American Society of Media Photographers and Santa Fe University of Art and Design in Santa Fe, to expand the programming and highlight New Mexico's undeniable connection to the photographic arts. Showcasing the work of a diverse group of established and emerging artists whose work is strong in concept and in execution, this collaborative effort highlights New Mexico as a place where excellent photographic work is produced, taught, and exhibited, as well as where people from near and far gather around photography.

The UNM Art Museum is located within the Center for the Arts complex off of Redondo Drive near the UNM Bookstore. From I-25 North or South, exit Central Avenue and travel east for approximately 1 mile. Parking is available at the Parking Garage, east of the Center for the Arts at Redondo Drive and Stanford.

Hours:

Open Tuesday – Friday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm & Saturday: 10:00 am- 8:00 pm

Closed on Sundays, Mondays and major holidays

Admission:

FREE and open to the public, a \$5 donation is suggested to support exhibitions.

For More Information:

Please visit www.unmartmuseum.org or call 505.277.4001