

# West

Press Announcement: 20.12.2024

## LIFE ON EARTH Art & Ecofeminism

Exhibition: 28.02.2025 — 27.07.2025 Opening: 28.02.2025, 19:00 hrs.

Location: West Den Haag in the former American Embassy, Lange Voorhout 102, The Hague

**Group exhibition featuring works by Alliance of the Southern Triangle (A.S.T.), Alicia Barney Caldas, Meech Boakye, Carolina Caycedo, Francesca Gabbiani, Institute of Queer Ecology (IQECO), Kite, Leslie Labowitz Starus, Maria Maea, Otobong Nkanga, yétúndé olagbaju, Alicia Piller, Aviva Rahmani, Tabita Rezaire, Yo-E Ryou, Emilija Škarnulytė, and A.L. Steiner.**

The exhibition is inspired by four decades of ecofeminist thought and practice in art, offering new perspectives on gender and ecology.

Ecofeminism is a theoretical and activist movement that draws critical connections between gender, oppression, and the exploitation of natural resources. Emerging in the late 1970s through environmental protests, anti-nuclear initiatives, and feminist activism, ecofeminism addresses the oppression of both nature and women. It also confronts racism, homophobia, and capitalist patriarchy. Artists embrace these ideas, creating innovative and often site-specific works that expose and interrogate these systemic issues.

Life on Earth uses ecofeminism as a starting point, bringing together an international group of artists and collectives. They present new methodologies for reconsidering our natural environment in the 21st century. The works challenge anthropocentric ideas about gender and ecology and advocate for innovative approaches rooted in collectivity, myth-making, joy, and restorative actions.

The exhibition and its accompanying event program address themes such as social ecology, the commons, activism, witchcraft, hydrofeminism, plant knowledge, science fiction, and speculative futures. The presentation includes historical artworks, such as photographs by feminist performance artist Leslie Labowitz-Starus and works by Colombian artist Alicia Barney Caldas, a pioneer in the 1970s and 1980s.

Otobong Nkanga's 2015 mixed-media sculpture 'Tsumeb Fragments' reconfigures the colonial history of mineral mining in Namibia, combining archival imagery, a floating mound of copper, and performance documentation to intuit her connection to the land. Water, as both a vital, life-giving substance and a depleting resource, is explored in a new sound installation by Yo-E Ryou, produced on Jeju Island, South Korea, and in Emilija Škarnulytė's film 'Riparia'. Additionally, Aviva Rahmani's multipart habitat restoration project Ghost Nets (1990–2000) will be on view.

New installations will also be presented, featuring works by Alicia Barney Caldas, Alicia Piller, Carolina Caycedo, Kite, Maria Maea, and Meech Boakye. The exhibition further includes recent video works by A.L. Steiner, the collective Alliance of the Southern Triangle (A.S.T.), and the Institute of Queer Ecology.

This exhibition is curated by Catherine Taft, deputy director of The Brick in Los Angeles.

Parallel to the exhibition, a 24-hour symposium will take place consecutively in Seoul, The Hague, and Los Angeles on March 21, 2025. Complementary activities, including lectures, performances, and a reading group, will also be organized.

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For more information, please contact us: [info@westdenhaag.nl](mailto:info@westdenhaag.nl) or +31(0)70.3925359

The program of West is made possible by the Municipality of The Hague and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.

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