



16 Artists Are Bringing Art To The River for CURRENT: LA

By Kate Santos

<http://theculturetrip.com/north-america/usa/california/articles/16-artists-are-bringing-art-to-the-river-for-current-la/>

The Culture Trip says:

Recently, Mayor Eric Garcetti announced the 16 artists who will participate in setting up 14 temporary site-specific installations on the Los Angeles River. Out of over 200 applicants, Los Angeles was one out of four cities chosen to receive the grant for up to \$1 million from the Bloomberg Philanthropies Public Art Challenge for CURRENT:LA, an effort to create and share artistic ideas that can enact social change. The first of a Public Art Biennial event, this year's outdoor exhibition, opens mid-July until mid-August and focuses on the consideration and conservation of water. Throughout the exhibition, lectures, tours and other educational opportunities will occupy the installations to provide a dialogue on water. According to Garcetti, 'CURRENT:LA will make Angelenos rethink our relationship with water, and better understand how the L.A. River connects the diverse communities and cultures that make our city great.' With a diverse group of artists, many who are local to Los Angeles, that have worked on everything from digital applications to participatory ecology-driven works, CURRENT:LA Water is likely to be a success in both art and environmentalist circles. Out of over 100 applicants, the 16 artists include the following.

Peggy Weil and Refik Anadol

Veteran digital media artist Peggy Weil was one of the innovators of digital design, creating CD-ROMs for kids as early as 1998. She is also the artist behind MrMind.com, an interactive platform that uses a robot to decipher whether or not you are human. She currently works on everything from mobile apps to digital signboards. Her piece is a collaborative effort with Turkish artist Refik Anadol, known in Los Angeles for his permanent light installation on the LADOT building. Anadol is a designer and media artist who mainly works on audio/visual projects.

Daveed Kapoor and Josh Callaghan

Urban advocate and architect Daveed Kapoor is well-versed in conservation projects. He has facilitated a ton of great adaptive reused works in LA and was responsible for a number of public art projects, including the Spring Street Parklets, in which he helped turn a group of parking spaces into a public park. He was also dubbed by LA Weekly as an advocate for pedestrians. His piece is a collaboration with Josh Callaghan, an artist who works primarily with both sculpting and digital adhesive vinyl. You may have seen Callaghan's work throughout LA, where he has imposed digital murals on public utility boxes in Hollywood, Silverlake and Culver City.

Sarah Rara and Luke Fischbeck

Lucky Dragons is a mixed media artists collaboration between Sarah Rara and Luke Fischbeck. Based in Los Angeles, the group performs experimental music and has participated in a number of public art installations including '17,000 Observations' in Austin, Texas. The interactive installation marries music, nature and sculpture art by providing a unique experience, in which each user follows the forests' natural trails. Another on-going interactive performance piece entitled 'Wrong Spectrum' is described on their website as 'a performance centered on the idea of overlapping and inter-related spectra: rocks collected

at the performance site, or reflective materials placed in a beam of light, are used by audience members as instruments to interact with electrical fields, affecting changes in sound and light through the coordinated movement of participants' bodies.' Their art is usually focused on understanding existing ecologies, making the collaboration a fitting choice for this exhibition.

Chris Kallmyer

Chris Kallmyer is an interactive sound and performance artist. His work includes a collaboration with the aforementioned Lucky Dragons. One of his latest ventures, in Marin, called 'Consider the Oyster', was a cross-sensory study of food and sound as it relates to oyster shucking. His musical scores, some of which are performed outdoors, have been featured in various museums around the country.

Rirkrit Tiravanija

Kallmyer isn't the only artist on the roster that features participatory art with a culinary twist. With work exhibited internationally in a number of museums, Rirkrit Tiravanija has been successful at bringing people together. His relational stage creations feature culinary creations and gallery recreations of lived-in apartments. Tiravanija has won a number of coveted art awards, including the Hugo Boss Prize from the Guggenheim Museum in New York.

Kori Newkirk

Kori Newkirk has a studio downtown where he works on sculptural projects using unusual materials, such as used bicycle tires, pita bread and synthetic hair. At his 2013 show for the Jessica Silverman Gallery, his installation included a curved line of tin cans, some featuring multi-color glitter, others shining from the interior of the tin-plate.

Mel Chin

Mel Chin is a conceptual artist based in LA. His visual art projects sometimes include elements of social change, such as Revival Field (1989-ongoing) where he uses plants to remove toxins from soil. Another one of his ecology-driven art projects include the on-going 'Operation Paydirt/Fundred Dollar Bill Project', which is dedicated to a future free of lead-poisoning and invites families to create and collect Fundreds—hand-drawn hundred dollar bills. According to Chin's website, the goal of the project is to 'exchange the value of informed public voice into real resources'.

Edgar Arceneaux

Co-founder of the Watts House Project, an arts-driven urban revitalization project, Edgar Arceneaux's work has been featured in renowned museums including the Whitney Museum of American Art and the SF MOMA. Born in LA, Arceneaux has strong ties to the Southern California artistic landscape. His play, 'Until, Until, Until...' which debuted in New York, revisited Ben Vereen's controversial 1981 performance in which Vereen was in blackface to pay homage to Bert Williams, the first black man on Broadway. Arceneaux's art can be interpreted as both an appreciation and critique of popular culture. Across the country, his work is part of many museum's permanent collection.

Candice Lin

Sculpture, performance and installation artist Candice Lin is one of the most productive artists in LA. As a recipient of the LA City's Department of Cultural Affairs exchange program, she participated in the Sacatar Artist Residency Program, in which she produced art inspired by the local culture. Her 2015 exhibition at the Ghebaly Gallery included installations that used natural elements in order to break down understandings of social constructions, such as gender and individualism. She is also the co-founder of LA-based art space Monte Vista Projects.

Michael Parker

This won't be Michael Parker's first time creating an installation on the LA River. The sculptor created 'The Unfinished' in 2014. More than one hundred feet long, the obelisk is an art piece sculpted from a trench in an industrial area. Parker's other works include 2015's 'Juicework' exhibition, which explore themes of light, ceramics and (in true LA form) juicing fruits.

Gala Porras-Kim

Gala Porras-Kim is an artist recently known for researching the little-understood diverse languages of Oaxaca, in particular the dialects of the ancient tonal language Zapotec. Porras-Kim primarily works in the visual realm with her drawing and sculptures having been featured in numerous exhibitions, including a show at the LAMAG.

Teresa Margolles

A researcher of death and violence, Mexican artist Teresa Margolles avidly explores socio-political themes in her art, which includes a variety of media including photography, sculpture, video arts and performances. In 2011, Margolles was commissioned to create six custom-made concrete benches which sit seemingly arbitrarily near the LACMA's central plaza.

Kerry Tribe

Kerry Tribe works in various mediums, most notably with film and video. An Angeleno herself, she released a book in 2002 asking people in LAX to draw a map of Los Angeles, exposing the different perceptions of the city. Tribe's 2015 work entitled 'The Aphasia Poetry Club' combines sculptures, narration and visual film projections to create a piece based on poetry.

To find out about the events scheduled in LA, go to <http://www.currentla.org/>.