



Evoke: An Environmental Inspiration Exhibit

February 2- March 14, 2017

The Arcade

Curated by Columbia College Chicago students Kelly Egan (Photography, 2017) and Zack Rupp (Cultural Studies, 2017).

This exhibition was put together in partnership with the Department of Exhibitions and Performance Spaces (DEPS) and the Museum of Contemporary Photography (MoCP) and continues the conversation on environmental justice, following MoCP's fall exhibition *Petcoke: Tracing Dirty Energy*.

The natural wonders and beauty of the earth surround us all; from the tiniest sprout twisting its way through the cracks of the sidewalk, to the grand terrains and oceans of the world, and all that inhabits it. However, we live in a time when the riches of earth become products of human consumption. Abusing our environment and discarding it when it's no longer useful has become the norm. At this point in history, the exploitation of natural resources can no longer be reversed and threatens our very existence.

Artists and activists are needed now more than ever to communicate the dire condition of our planet and the actions required to sustain life as we know it. The artwork featured in this exhibition promotes the value and magnificence of nature, while also exploring society's advantageous, yet debilitating relationship with it. Through a variety of media, each artist being showcased promotes an individual connection and appreciation for the natural world around them. The selected work is meant to inspire and evoke an emotional response in viewers; encouraging them to spread awareness and make changes within their individual lives and surrounding communities so that the future and well-being of the earth might be impacted.

Participating artists: Jeff Borowiak, Joan Hammel, Lindsey Christian Higgins, Natalie Guzman, Nina Lawrin, Chanel Nielssen, Megan Maria Rivera, Copeland Smith, Sarah Trobee, Jessica Anne Sladek and Jordan West.

Images left to right: Nina Lawren, *Color in Kalahari Wild Silk, Site: Namibia*, 2016; Jessica Anne Sladek, *Untitled*, 2017

