

Resist, Persist: Gender, Climate and Colonialism (London, 7–8 Dec 23)

Frobisher Auditorium 2, Barbican Centre, Dec 7–08, 2023

Alice Read, London

A collaboration with the Barbican and the Paul Mellon Centre, this multi-day symposium uses the themes of the RE/SISTERS exhibition to explore the bonds between gender and environmental justice.

The symposium is interested in the intersections of ongoing colonial histories and feminist and queer ecologies. Bringing together artists, scholars and curators, the symposium will explore how women, gender non-conforming and marginalised communities are often placed at the forefront of advocating and caring for the planet, and more broadly how womanist politics have consistently resisted the mechanical, patriarchal order that is organised around the exploitation of natural resources and the oppression of 'othered' bodies.

This symposium connects thinking from the Barbican's exhibition, RE/SISTERS: A Lens on Gender and Ecology and the Paul Mellon Centre's multi-year project, Climate & Colonialism.

Tickets £20 for both days, exhibition ticket included
Frobisher Auditorium 2, Barbican Centre

Programme

Thursday 7 December

1.30pm – 2pm Registration and Coffee (Frobisher Auditorium 2)

2pm – 3pm Gallery Walkthrough and Introduction with Alona Pardo (Barbican Centre)

Session 1: Ways of Knowing and Sensing

Chair: Sria Chatterjee (Paul Mellon Centre)

3.10pm – 3.25pm Shelly Rosenblum (University of British Columbia), The Score: Performing, Listening and Decolonization

3.25pm – 3.40pm Susanne Winterling (artist), Planetary Sensing as a Deciphering Practice

3.40pm – 4pm Q&A

4pm – 4.20pm Greta LaFleur (Yale University), Gender, Colonial and Decolonial

4.20pm – 4.35pm Q&A

4.35pm – 4.55pm Comfort break

Session 2: Resist: Art and Justice

4.55pm – 5.10pm Syrus Marcus Ware (McMaster University), Irresistible Revolutions: Systems Change, Speculative Fiction and Dreaming into Freer Futures

5.10pm – 5.25pm Chrys Papaioannou (critical theorist, activist and facilitator), Wetlands Know No Genders, Know No Nations: For an Ecofeminism Beyond Borders

5.25pm – 5.45pm Q&A

5.45pm – 6.30pm Drinks Reception at the Barbican

Friday 8 December

10.00am – 10.30am Registration and Coffee

Welcome and Session 1: Gender, Climate and Colonialism: Introductions

10.30am – 10.40am Sria Chatterjee (Paul Mellon Centre)

10.40am – 11am Astrida Neimanis (University of British Columbia)

11.00am – 11.10am Q&A

11.10am – 11.15am Welcome online panel

Session 2: Ways of Being and Making (Online Session)

Chair: Susan Reid (University of Sydney)

11.15am – 11.30am Camila Marambio (curator and writer), Sandcastles: A Queerfemme Proposition on Cancer Ecologies

11.30pm – 11.45am Taloi Havini (artist and curator), Title TBC

11.45pm – 12.00pm Q&A

12.00 – 1.15pm Lunch (provided)

Session 3: Persist: Land, Body, Art

Chair: Lucy Bradnock (The Courtauld Institute of Art)

1.15pm – 1.30pm Louisa Lee (Buckinghamshire New University), Land Art, Women Artists and the Antimonolith

1.30pm – 1.45pm Katherine Fein (Columbia University), Of Bodies and Land: Continental Allegories Then and Now

1.45pm – 2.05pm Q&A

2.05pm – 2.15pm Comfort break

Session 4: Metabolic and Bodily Processes

Chair: Edwin Coomarasu (Independent)

2.15pm – 2.30pm Lindsay Kelley (Australian National University), Elemental Art Worlds: From Molecular to Planetary Phosphorus Cycles

2.30pm – 2.45pm Taey lohe (artist), What Leaks Out of our Bodies, Out of the Planet?

2.45pm – 3.05pm Q&A

3.05pm – 3.35pm Break (refreshments provided)

Session 5: Intergenerational Flows

Chair: Astrida Neimanis (University of British Columbia)

3.35pm – 3.50pm Saba Khan (artist), Illustrated Talk – Water Machines

3.50pm – 4.05pm Buhle Francis (Rhodes University), Grandmothers of the Sea: Stories and Lessons from Five Xhosa Ocean Elders

4.05pm – 4.20pm Imani Jacqueline Brown (University of London), Our first name for this region was 'Home': Bringing other worlds into being in 'Cancer Alley', Louisiana

4.20pm – 4.40pm Q&A

4.40pm – 4.50pm Conference Wrap-up

Bursaries available. See PMC site for more details:
<https://www.paul-mellon-centre.ac.uk/whats-on/forthcoming/resist-persist-gender-climate-and-colonialism-conference>

Reference:

CONF: Resist, Persist: Gender, Climate and Colonialism (London, 7-8 Dec 23). In: ArtHist.net, Oct 22, 2023
(accessed Jun 20, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/40414>>.