



For Immediate Release

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This Land is Our Land

Sarah Christianson, Kevin Kunishi, Andréanne Michon

Guest Curator Monique Deschaines

March 22 – May 7, 2016

Opening Reception: March 24, 2016, 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Artist Walkthrough: April 5, 2016, 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Cool the Earth Foundation Event – May 4, 2016



Left to Right: Andréanne Michon, *Untitled 13 (Gravity 3)*, 2013, Archival Pigment Print; Kevin Kunishi, *#0013 Paho, Hawaii*, 2012, Archival Pigment Print; Sarah Christianson, *Shale Shaker St.*, 2015, C-print

Mill Valley, CA — Zener Schon Contemporary Art is pleased to present *This Land is Our Land*, a group exhibition bringing together three artists, whose photographs explore the geographical ways we interpret our land. From the impact of oil drilling on North Dakota's rural landscape; to Hawaii, where the lens of post-post modernism troubles post-colonial notions of identity; to the Sierras, where documenting nature becomes a meditation on time and mortality. The works in this exhibition describe a conversation between our reverence for nature and the reality that we do not stand outside of it, that our economy and culture consistently interact with, and often erode, the object of our reverence - just as Woody Guthrie sings in "This land was made for you and me."

Sarah Christianson records the subtleties and the nuances of the Midwestern landscape through long-term photographic projects. Her current body of work, *When the Landscape is Quite Again*, began in 2012 when Christianson started documenting the legacy of oil booms and busts in her home state of North Dakota. Christianson photographs the impact of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing on the region; they capture the conversion of western North

Dakota's quiet agrarian landscape into an industrial zone dotted with well sites, crisscrossed by pipelines, lit up by natural gas flares, and contaminated by oil and saltwater spills. Christianson's photographs examine the physical inscriptions of industry upon pastoral land while simultaneously unearthing the economic cycles of mining natural resources.

Between 2011 and 2015, **Kevin Kunishi** returned to Hawaii to explore his family and cultural roots and produced, *Imi Haku*. The landscape of these works, at first only vaguely familiar, has, through this project, become a map of Kunishi's own history, both imagined and inherited. Once a sovereign nation, unilaterally annexed by the United States in 1898, Hawaii still bears the markings of Western imperialism and its complex collective identities are often hidden from view. Yet, just beneath the surface, the physical features, social constructs, and the emotional milieu of the islands and its peoples are palpable. Kunishi's photographs work as a collection of cues and markers, navigating these fabricated realities and landscapes to produce a poignant study on the ambiguity of post-colonial identity.

Andréanne Michon uses photography, sound and video, and printmaking to explore the processes of survival, continuity, and renewal that exist in nature. She investigates the intricacies between natural and controlled landscapes, and the exchange between life and death. Michon's photographic works often consist of multiple images and are constructed to stimulate new perceptions. Her images ask the viewer to simultaneously experience the beauty of the sublime and the inevitability of change.

Guest curator, Monique Deschaines, is a curator, gallerist, and educator. In 2015 she founded EUQINOMprojects, a San Francisco gallery focused on representing artists with photo-based practices. She is on the Board of Directors at SF Camerawork and serves as their Programing Chair, and teaches visual studies at University California Berkeley.

About Zener Schon Contemporary Art

Zener Schon Contemporary Art is founded by owners, Julie Zener and Tara Schon. Their gallery is located in Mill Valley, CA, featuring the cutting-edge artwork of emerging and established artists. Please visit www.zenerschongallery.com for more information.

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