



CENTER ON CONTEMPORARY ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

See the Art Exhibition in Carkeek Park Before it's TOO LATE

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BEFORE



AFTER



*Richard Metz, "Tree Creature [Striped Face]", 2013, Before & after accidental erasure by
Seattle Parks & Recreation's Graffiti Removal Staff*

Hi-res images available at <http://www.cocaseattle.org/carkeek2013/photos/>

Seattle -- CoCA's fifth annual temporary outdoor art exhibition at Carkeek Park opened two weeks ago on July 13 and is already displaying numerous unanticipated outcomes that collectively portray ***Acclimatized: Heaven and Earth 5*** as a pioneering, experimental foray into the contentious zone of art, nature, and public space. Richard Metz, for instance, flew out from the Philadelphia area to paint a series of "Tree Creatures" using organic paint composed of egg binder mixed with non-toxic natural pigments such as spices like

Turmeric, Paprika, and Saffron; plants like Indigo, Madder, and Sandalwood; and rocks like Calcite, charcoal, ochres, ores, and earths. One of his works was power-washed into oblivion by the Graffiti Removal Unit of Seattle Parks and Recreation on or about July 19, despite signage nearby with CoCA logo and QR code and presence of other artwork in park. Apparently mistaking the artwork for graffiti, workers powerwashed it away but were unable to access the upper reaches of the North Traverse trail to continue with their work order to remove the others.

“Tree Creatures” is one of 14 total installations by artists from around the Puget Sound region and west and east coasts. Other artworks have also been the target of complaints (Ingrid Lahti’s “Galaxy M51,” apparently obstructing a view of Puget Sound) and/or theft (Elizabeth Gahan’s “Tree Pods,” which may strike some as anti-nature with their up-cycling of plastic signage). Alan Fulle’s “Spiritual Play Tower” has been deemed insufficiently safe for the general public and is now heavily signed with warnings and safety cones, per CoCA’s agreement with Seattle Parks.

See the exhibition soon before the forces of nature and humanity combine to alter the artworks beyond recognition.

On display from dawn till dusk until October 20, 2013, the artworks can be viewed by the main access road as well as a hike of about three miles, using a print-on-demand map available at www.heavenandearthexhibition.org

In addition to the obvious reference to climate-change adaptation, **Acclimatized: Heaven and Earth 5** hinges on the skill of artists in placing various eco-artworks in the park that are designed to withstand the intensity of scrutiny by an estimated 100,000 summer visitors to the park. Artworks are identified by QR code readers on adjacent pier blocks that link to descriptions of the artwork, including brief biographies and statements by artists. Generous funding for the exhibit is provided by Carkeek Park Advisory Council and Seattle Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, as well as vital in-kind support from Seattle Parks and Recreation, and Associated Recreation Council.

Acclimatized is one of the region's only venues for site-specific artwork in an urban forest setting where part of the exhibit includes a walking tour of an hour or more.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS (alphabetical order:) Andrew Alba (Portland, OR), Susan Arthur (Bainbridge Island), Dave Francis (Seattle), Alan Fulle (Seattle), Elizabeth Gahan (Seattle), Aaron Haba (Camano Island), Thendara Kida-Gee (Seattle), Ingrid Lahti (Mercer Island), Light Table Design Collective (Riisa Conklin, Carrie Barnes; Seattle), Fred Lisaius (Newcastle), Lucy Mae Martin (Conway), Philip McGaughy (Oakland), Richard Metz (Erdenheim PA), Suzanne Tidwell (Sammamish)
