

## <exhibitions>

August 24 – September 29

*Water: Three States (Phase I)*

[Artists] Xiaotian Wang (GA),  
Martha Whittington (GA), and Xavier Cortada (FL)

October 12 – November 10

*Water: Three States (Phase II)*

[Artists] Andy Behrle (AL), Daniel Kariko (FL), and  
Xavier Cortada (FL)

## <discussion>

Tuesday, September 29

*Water: Three States (A Conversation)*

[Moderator] Katie Lamar Jackson

[Panelists] Bill Deutsch, Beth Maynor Young,  
Eve Brantley, and Xiaotian Wang

## <lectures>

Tuesday, September 22

*Global Environmental Issues*

[Speaker] Fabien Cousteau

Monday, October 12

*Participatory Art Projects–*

*Global Awareness/Local Action*

[Speaker] Xavier Cortada

TBA

*EnvironMentalities: Contemporary Eco-Artists as  
Preservationists, Conservationists, Deep Ecologists,  
EcoFeminists, Urban Ecologists...*

[Speaker] Linda Weintraub



# Water: Three States

August 24 – November 10, 2009

[www.ag.auburn.edu/ArtinAg](http://www.ag.auburn.edu/ArtinAg)

ag[R]iculture  
art in agriculture

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## Water: Three States

Please join the College of Liberal Arts, the Department of Art, and the College of Agriculture at Auburn University as we explore the intersections of art, culture, ecology, and sustainability in the 2009-2010 academic year. What happens when artists make the environment their medium? In what ways is the process of agriculture an aesthetic practice? Our year-long initiative, organized by a joint committee of the Department of Art and the College of Agriculture, focuses on the artistic, scientific, practical, and creative ways that we react to, and interact with, our local ecologies.

Exhibitions, lectures, and a panel discussion in the fall of 2009 open this interdisciplinary exploration with the theme of water – its practical uses; its destructive and regenerative potential; and its place in art, culture, and the environment. In *Water: Three States* artists from Alabama, Georgia, and Florida respond to recent changes in the rivers, lakes, streams, and coastlines of the South. Through this exhibition and an accompanying panel discussion, we begin to examine the attitudes and strategies artists, scientists, and environmentalists share when it comes to working with the fundamental materials of nature.

Water is at once an established theme in the visual arts, a central component of the study of ecology, a building block in the process of agriculture, and a basic necessity for all life. Join us this semester as we reconsider our ideas about water and learn more about the innovative ways that art, agriculture, and the environment are coming together in the contemporary Southeast.

Please visit our website at [www.ag.auburn.edu/ArtinAg](http://www.ag.auburn.edu/ArtinAg) for up-to-date information about the events listed opposite and for details about our spring 2010 program that will focus on the art of gardening.

All events are free and open to the public.

Sponsored by:  
College of Liberal Arts  
Department of Art  
College of Agriculture

Biggin Gallery Hours:  
Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 4 PM or by appointment.  
Biggin Gallery is wheelchair accessible.

For more information contact:  
The Department of Art at (334) 844-4373  
The College of Agriculture at (334) 844-5887  
[www.ag.auburn.edu/ArtinAg](http://www.ag.auburn.edu/ArtinAg)

## events



<exhibition> August 24 – September 29  
*Water: Three States* (Phase I)  
Biggin Gallery, 101 Biggin Hall

*Water: Three States* (Phase I) presents projects by Martha Whittington, Xiaotian Wang, and Xavier Cortada that explore the intersections between this life-sustaining substance and culture in the Southeast. Martha Whittington, a Georgia-based artist, presents kinetic sculptures that suggest the practice of dowsing, the art of divining hidden water sources. *Chattahoochee Immersion*, a series of photographs by Xiaotian Wang, also of Georgia, reveals in its innovative process and evocative imagery the recent changes in the chemical make-up of the river. Finally, Xavier Cortada, an eco-artist from Miami, propagates mangrove plants, sustained in cups of water, inside the gallery. Cortada will replant these seedlings in the disappearing mangrove forests of the Florida coast as part of his on-going participatory work *The Reclamation Project*. Together, these artists consider the complex "states" of water in the history, culture, and natural environment of Georgia, Florida, and Alabama.

<lecture> Tuesday, September 22  
*Global Environmental Issues*  
Fabien Cousteau  
7:00 PM (CDT), AU Hotel and Dixon Conference Center

Aquatic filmmaker and oceanographic explorer, son of Jean-Michel Cousteau and grandson of Jacques-Yves Cousteau, Fabien Cousteau is the fall 2009 E.T. York Distinguished Lecturer. Cousteau's recent adventures involve partnering with his father and sister to complete a three-year multi-hour series for PBS, *Ocean Adventures*, which explores such topics as the Pacific grey whale migration, the National Marine Sanctuaries, the Amazon, Beluga whales in the Arctic, and more. He will lecture on global environmental issues such as sustainable oceans and natural resource preservation. The College of Agriculture's E.T. York Distinguished Lecturer Series features internationally known speakers addressing issues related to agriculture, food, the environment, or natural resources.

<discussion> Tuesday, September 29  
*Water: Three States* (A Conversation)  
5:00 PM (CDT), 005 Biggin Hall

Join moderator Katie Lamar Jackson of the College of Agriculture for an interdisciplinary conversation about water issues in the art, culture, and environment of the Southeast. With panelists Bill Deutsch, director of Alabama Water Watch; Beth Maynor Young, conservation photographer and author of *Headwaters: A Journey on Alabama Rivers*; Eve Brantley, Auburn University agronomy and soils assistant professor for water quality and Alabama Cooperative System Extension specialist; and Xiaotian Wang, a Georgia-based artist whose work has focused on the Chattahoochee River.

<exhibition> October 12 – November 10  
*Water: Three States* (Phase II)  
Biggin Gallery, 101 Biggin Hall

Phase II of *Water: Three States* continues the conversation started in Phase I by contrasting the power of water to overwhelm human society to the hopeful potential for growth and restoration. Daniel Kariko, a Florida-based photographer, presents *Storm Season*, a series of pinhole photographs that document the on-going erosion of the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of recent hurricanes. Similarly, Andy Behrle, a sculptor living and working in Alabama, deals directly with the corrosive forces of water on natural and synthetic materials in his large-scale installations. Their investigations of the persistent and sometimes devastating powers of water are quietly counterbalanced by the continued growth of Xavier Cortada's live mangrove seedlings (see *Water: Three States* (Phase I)).

<lecture> Monday, October 12  
*Participatory Art Projects—Global Awareness/Local Action*  
Xavier Cortada  
5:00 PM (CDT), 005 Biggin Hall

Miami-based artist Xavier Cortada discusses eco-art projects in which he engages the environment directly through actions that address climate change and environmental restoration. In addition to raising awareness of these issues, many of Cortada's works also invite the participation of individuals and communities to create change at the local level. Cortada will discuss his work as an eco-artist, especially his on-going efforts with the restoration of the Florida mangrove forests, a participatory art project featured in the exhibition *Water: Three States*. A reception will follow the lecture.

<lecture> TBA  
*EnvironMentalities: Contemporary Eco-Artists as Preservationists, Conservationists, Deep Ecologists, EcoFeminists, Urban Ecologists...*  
Linda Weintraub

Author, curator, educator, and artist Linda Weintraub is interested in artists who adopt the multiple "EnvironMentalities" of preservationists, conservationists, deep ecologists, ecofeminists, and urban ecologists as they formulate "strategies to assure the continuance of life on Earth." These eco-artists mold "the principles of ecology into popular thought and cultural practice." In her lecture Weintraub discusses a roster of artists such as Mel Chin, Andy Goldsworthy, Fritz Haeg, Alan Sonfist, and Rirkrit Tiravanija who "invest ecological data with political, spiritual, social, and personal meaning." This event is co-sponsored by the Auburn University Women's Studies Program. A reception will follow the lecture.

Above images: 1. Xiaotian Wang, *Chattahoochee Immersion: Location 7*, 2009, Chromogenic print, 30" x 30", Image courtesy of the artist. 2. Martha Whittington, *Dowsing*, 2007, Aluminum, mirrors, motor, reflections, 38" x 72", Image courtesy of the artist. 3. Xavier Cortada, *The Reclamation Project* (at the Miami Science Museum), 2007, 1100 mangrove seedlings, water-filled plastic cups on wall, 168" x 960", Image courtesy of the artist. 4. Andy Behrle, *Ephemera*, 2003, Detail of clay and water mixture reacting with the steel floor, Installation, Image courtesy of the artist. 5. Daniel Kariko, *Stilts, Sulfur Mine Island, Louisiana*, 2006, Pinhole Polaroid photograph, 12"x15", Image courtesy of the artist.