

BREAKING WATER

May 6–August 14, 2022

Levels 4 - 5

Breaking Water

Breaking Water features work by seventeen artists who engage ecologies through a feminist lens. Departing from the properties of water as a porous, adaptable liquid that connects our bodies to the environments that sustain us, the exhibition explores wetness as a framework through which to consider our relationship to nature, other organisms, and society at large.

Continuously moved by currents, water is also an agent of transformation capable of eliciting alternative forms of knowledge production and action. Adopting fluid tools and tactics, the featured artists aim to de-center capitalistic, colonialist, anthropomorphic approaches by developing new forms of protest, civic engagement, and ecopolitics. The title, *Breaking Water*, is borrowed from a commissioned installation by **Calista Lyon** and **Carmen Winant**, which mobilizes water as a catalyst for thinking about societal paradigm shifts. Juxtaposing images of “water breaking” in the context of both childbirth and river restoration projects, the installation features dramatic footage of explosions and gushing water. This imagery is punctuated by kitsch, sometimes humorous portrayals of the moment during labor when the amniotic sac ruptures.

From examining the primal nature of water, to engaging mythology, animism, and Indigenous tradition, to speculating on new horizons, **Andrea Carlson**, **Carolina Caycedo**, **Paul Maheke**, **Josèfa Ntjam**, **Claudia Peña Salinas**, and **Vian Sora** are attentive to the ways in which water is both a site of mourning and renewal. Recognizing the urgency of protecting the world’s most precious resource and the necessary balance and vitality of its ecosystems, **Martha Atienza**, **Marcos Ávila Forero**, **Saadat Ismailova**, and **Nomeda and Gediminas Urbonas** explore the ethics of water through efforts to reclaim its rights and instate a more equitable and sustainable future. Others, such as **Cecilia Bengolea**, **Jes Fan**, **Cleo Fariselli**, and **Jaana Laakkonen**, focus on water as an interface or vector fostering interconnectedness between species, structures, and systems. They create space for original imaginaries that reject human-centric and patriarchal perspectives, while embodying new forms of coexistence and collectivity.

—Amara Antilla, CAC Senior Curator at Large; Clelia Coussonnet, independent curator and writer; with Stephanie Kang, CAC Assistant Curator.

Screening Program

This exhibition is accompanied by a screening program in the CAC Black Box on the Lower Level. The program runs Friday through Sunday, from 2 p.m. to close. Please visit the CAC website for more information.

May

Claudia Peña Salinas, *Metzilocan* (2019); **Shirley Bruno**, *Tezen* (2016); **Claudia Peña Salinas**, *Tlachacan* (2017); **Tash Naveau**, *Menaptwi (Smoked)* (2018)

June

Arjuna Neuman and **Denise Ferreira da Silva**, *4 Waters — Deep Implicancy* (2018); **Carolina Cacedo**, *A Gente Rio (The People River)* (2016); **Tabita Rezaire**, *Deep Down Tidal* (2017)

July

Marianne Fahmy, *what things may come* (2019); **Elsa Brès**, *Sweat* (2020); **Jennifer Allora** and **Guillermo Calzadilla**, *A Man Screaming Is Not a Dancing Bear* (2008); **Khvay Samnang**, *Popil* (2018)

August

Sky Hopinka, *malni — towards the ocean, towards the shore* (2020)

Ask Yourself

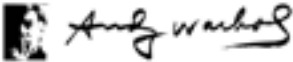
- 1 What three words would you use to describe water? Why did you choose those words?

- 2 How do you relate to the water in/of/outside your own body?

- 3 Several of the artists whose work is featured in *Breaking Water* highlight ecological concerns related to water and aquatic ecosystems. What environmental threats does your community face? What types of action could you take to protect water?

- 4 Water is often associated with opposing attributes—calm/turbulent; renewal/destructive. How do the featured artists explore these dualities?

- 5 Violent histories of colonialism, forced migration, capitalism, and patriarchal systems of power are tied to the control of water. How do we begin to heal from those traumas?



The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts



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Design: Goal (Haynes Riley), 2022.

Martha Atienza

B Marcos Ávila

Forero **R** Cecilia

Bengolea **E**

Andrea Carlson **A**

Carolina Caycedo

K Jes Fan **I** Cleo

Fariselli **N** Saodat

Ismailova **G** Jaana

Laakkonen

Calista Lyon and

Carmen Winant **W**

Paul Maheke **A**

Josèfa Ntjam

T Claudia Peña

Salinas **E** Vian

Sora **R** Nomedá

and Gediminas

Urbonas

Aquapelagic **M**

Archipelagic Thinking **A**

Chthulucene **Y** Circulation /
Circular Economy

Commons **6**

Cyborgs / Posthuman

— Desire Lines **A**

Distribution **U**

Ecofeminism **G**

Extraction **U** Fluids **S**

Globalisation **T**

Hydrofeminism

Kinship **1** Land

Reclamation **4** Leaky

Bodies , Liquid Interfaces

Liquid Ground **2** Liquidity **0**

Migration **2** Multispecies **2**

New Materialism

Platform Cooperativism

Tidalectics

Underwater Communication

Vectors / Vectoralist

Water Legal Rights

Wet Ontologies