



Ecologies of Elsewhere

February 10 – August 6

Level 4 & 5

Ecologies of Elsewhere

Ecologies of Elsewhere is a multi-disciplinary group exhibition that takes interdependence as a point of departure. The artists compel us to rethink our ecological societal relations and imagine other possibilities. It centers Black, Indigenous, and diasporic perspectives on ecology, explores how these knowledge systems have always existed, and highlights how they continue to inspire our relationships in a multi-species world.

The long-term and ongoing effects of slavery, colonialism, and environmental harm are intertwined. Histories of botany and medicine are closely connected as enslaved Africans brought botanical and medicinal matter and epistemologies to the Americas during the Atlantic Slave trade. **Torkwase Dyson** takes on the ongoing legacies of plantation economies by drawing connections between ecology, infrastructure, and environmental racism. With the forced movement of people came the movement of seeds, plants, and crops. Similarly, **Kapwani Kiwanga** explores how rice grains traveled with enslaved people – in clothing or braided into hair – from West Africa to the Americas as a form of survival. **Rashid Johnson**'s use of shea butter and black soap symbolizes the medical and healing qualities of plants. From the struggle for land ownership to healing foraging practices and the fraught histories of food production, **MADEYOULOOK**, **Las Nietas de Nonó**, **Emily Hanako Momohara**, and **Ilze Wolff** are attentive to colonial garden inheritances, the over-industrialization of food, and immigrant labor practices. Others, such as **Firelei Báez** and **Lisandro Suriel**, address the spiritual, diasporic, and symbolic images of place and plant life such as cotton.

Ecologies of Elsewhere sheds light on knowledge formations informed by ancestral connections to plants or queer erotic desire and magic realism. Recognizing the materiality, spiritual, and historic importance of plant life, **Zheng Bo**, **Eric Gyamfi**, **Lorena Molina**, and **Abel Rodriguez**, delve into plant matters, interactions, and intimate conversations with what the land and water conjure. Plants and flowers are deeply performative, sensual, and ceremonial as **Michaela Yearwood-Dan** and **Rachel Youn** show. What happens when we understand plants as witnesses, historical agents, multispecies narrators, and storytellers? As we grapple with the possibilities of another world, *Ecologies of Elsewhere* offers a space for contemplation and sensuous ecological awareness.

Participating Artists

Sammy Baloji

Firelei Báez

Zheng Bo

Torkwase Dyson

Eric Gyamfi

Emily Hanako Momohara

Rashid Johnson

Kapwani Kiwanga

Las Nietas de Nonó

MADEYOULOOK

Lorena Molina

Abel Rodríguez

Lisandro Suriel

Ilze Wolff

Michaela Yearwood-Dan

Rachel Youn



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Design credit: Ilze Wolff (b. 1980, Cape Town, South Africa; lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa)





Lisandro Suriel, *Cotton Jinn*, Sarobei, 2020. Digital chromogenic print, 33 x 49 1/2 inches. Courtesy of the artist.