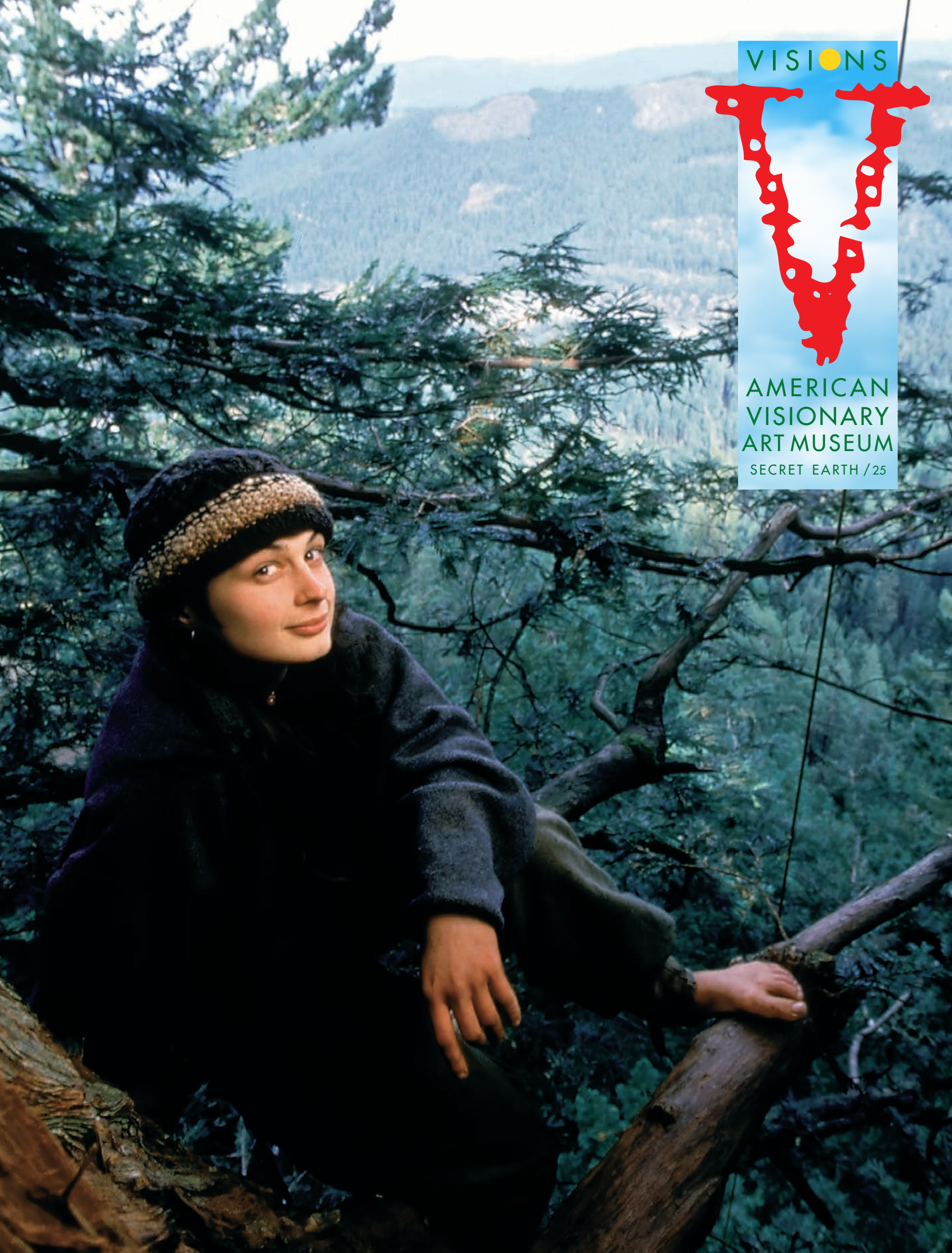


IN HER "TREE SIT" PROTEST TO KEEP ANCIENT TREES FROM BEING FELLED BY COMMERCIAL LOGGERS, **JULIA BUTTERFLY HILL** SPENT 738 CONSECUTIVE DAYS AND NIGHTS IN HER HOST TREE SHE CALLED "LUNA." FROM HER 18-STORY PERCH IN THE ANCIENT REDWOOD, SHE KEPT A DIARY OF LOVE AND LESSONS IMPARTED BY HER ARBOREAL HOST.

"WHEN YOU SEE SOMEONE IN A TREE TRYING TO PROTECT IT, YOU KNOW THAT EVERY LEVEL OF OUR SOCIETY HAS FAILED. THE CONSUMERS HAVE FAILED, THE COMPANIES HAVE FAILED, THE GOVERNMENT HAS FAILED."

(For more info on HILL, see back inside cover)



VISIONS



AMERICAN
VISIONARY
ART MUSEUM

SECRET EARTH / 25

RACHEL CARSON

1907–1964

Marine Biologist

Author of *SILENT SPRING*

Environmental Prophetess

Nature's Defender

"One way to open your eyes
is to ask yourself, 'What if I
had never seen this before?
What if I knew I would never
see it again?'" —RACHEL CARSON

Man is rated the highest animal, at least among all animals who returned the questionnaire.

—ROBERT BRAULT

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

WELCOME!



Whether you are a climate science denier, proud farmer, eco-activist, or just plain confused and scared: herein lies one-stop shopping for clearly-stated environmental fact, good reason for hope, and a bit of humor—all aimed at a better understanding of the true state of life here on our one blue homegirl planet, Earth.

The really great news is that all the critical ways we need to change and evolve how we share and manage Earth's resources will act simultaneously to improve, not diminish, the quality of our own lives.

Eco-hero, Julia Butterfly Hill, smartly observed, "Why is everything good for our bodies, our communities, our world and our planet called 'alternative'? That means everything bad for us is the accepted norm."

Right here in the US, we have legal industrial-scale production and use of over 80,000 chemicals—of which few were ever tested for their impact on human health. Then, there is the chronic practice of corporate welfare: fossil fuel companies annually receive nearly \$1 trillion in global subsidies and pay next to nothing for their role as prime polluters of Earth's air, soil and waters.



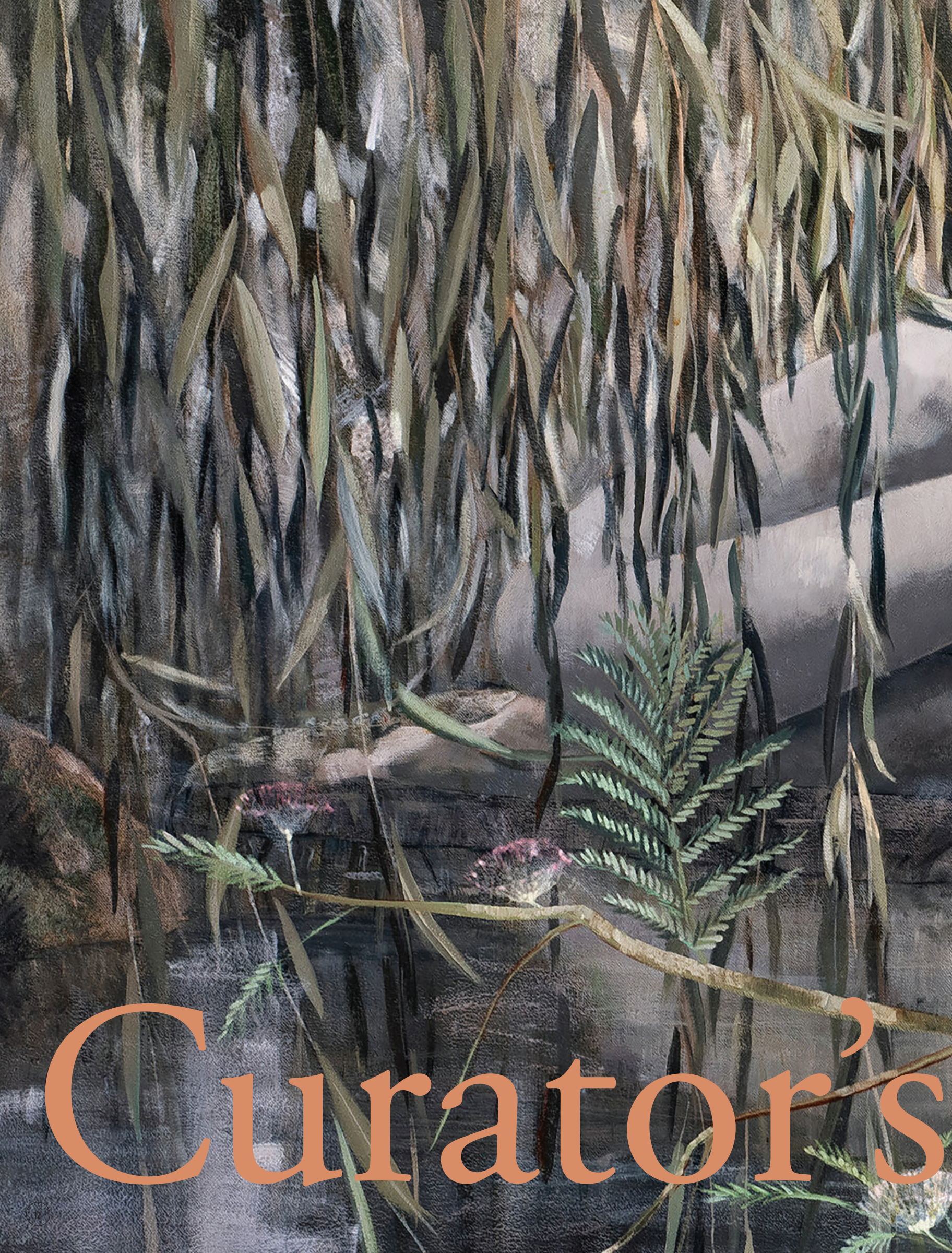
Author Naomi Klein describes the intense climate changes we now witness as, "a civilizational wake-up call—a powerful message spoken in the language of fires, droughts, and extinctions—telling us we need an entirely new economic model and a new way of sharing this planet." This conclusion need not deal a death blow to capitalism—but it is a plea that every financial bottom line must forever be tied first and foremost to the highest standard of ethics, health, and non-polluting environmental practices.

Harvesting earth-wisdom from concerned indigenous leaders, science-based innovators, and from our exhibition's impassioned artists, we invite you to participate in the greatest worldwide urgent transformation to health and life ever undertaken.

We give artist Frederick Hundertwasser, the late passionate environmentalist, the last word of warning: "You are a guest of Nature—Behave!"

Wishing each of us more joy, less fear, real gratitude and behavior, worthy of the gift of life on this miraculous planet,

Rebecca Alban Hoffberger, Founder/Director, Curator and Proud Tree-Hugger,
Along with All of Us at the American Visionary Art Museum



Curator's



MARK CASEY MILESTONE, Dryad, 2018, oil on canvas, courtesy of the artist. Photo Dan Meyers

REBECCA ALBAN HOFFBERGER, CURATOR

notebook



WILLIAM A. HALL, Pinecurving, 2017, pencil and crayon on paper, courtesy of Ray Benson, Photo Dan Meyers

A. Hall

WE HUMANS ARE NEWCOMERS



ARTH is 4.54 **BILLION** years old. *Homo erectus* (upright humans) emerged out of Africa only 6 to 7 **MILLION** years ago. If the entire existence of planet Earth was symbolized by the actual height of the Empire State Building (1,250-ft), the whole of human history could be represented by the tiny sliver of a single penny laid flat on its side and placed on top!

Geologic records reveal that Earth has already undergone five prior extinction events—each time, wiping out nearly all life on earth. We all know about the end of the dinosaurs’ reign; but each event also prepared the stage for growth and further evolution. These events acted as a kind of “restart” button, birthing new, or more adaptable species of flora, fauna and sea life.

Just a few hardy species have survived relatively unchanged since the last extinction event. These may well again triumph into the next, including: cockroaches, alligators, crocodiles, some birds, frogs and salamanders.

We are currently living in the Holocene era that some have updated with the new name, “The Anthropocene,” due to humankind’s unprecedented impact on our planet. Some fear we have now entered a sixth extinction period. All but one of the five prior extinctions are believed to have been triggered by carbon dioxide fluctuations.

PLEASE NOTE: Our host planet Earth always endures all her surface extinction events to adapt, regenerate, and thrive. She survives all the comings and goings of species to play mother again to the next new life on earth!



WILLIAM A. HALL • Born in 1943, the youngest of three boys in northeast Los Angeles, William Hall’s father worked for the city. Both parents and all their children took on additional work as extras in movies to make ends meet. William’s mother can be briefly seen screaming and fleeing as a UFO flies overhead in the original 1951 film “The Day The Earth Stood Still.”

William lived with his mother in the same area of L.A. most of his life, occasionally holding part-time gardening jobs. This affinity for nature would later figure prominently in his drawings.

After his mother died in 1998, William’s home became his 1974 Dodge Dart. He spent nearly two decades of his life homeless, and more than half of the time he both lived and drew obsessively in his car. Despite these harsh living conditions, William created a voluminous body of original

drawings, using only colored pencil, and working on 9” x 12” inch paper. From these, William produced complex single and multiple panel images, including highly-detailed images of retro-futuristic cars and fantastical architecture, set within idyllic and fantastical landscapes.

In 2015, William was befriended and welcomed into the home of British artist Stephen Holman, his wife Josephine, and their young son Phineus. Sharing with them a deep love of art and nature, William spent the last four years of his life cherished and much admired by his adopted family.

In May 2019, William died peacefully at age 75. [Photo courtesy Stephen Holman.](#)



BRIAN PARDINI, *The Body Electric*, 2010–2019, driftwood, sad iron, courtesy of the artist, Photo Mark Fainstein Photography

PAREIDOLIA noun

The tendency to perceive a specific, often meaningful image in a random or ambiguous visual pattern

—MERRIAM-WEBSTER DICTIONARY

TREES AND HUMANS

What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another. —CHRIS MASER



Beethoven went a bit too far in his love for trees, saying, “I value the life of one tree more than I value the life of one man.” The Cherokees had balance in their sense of tree kinship, calling trees, “The Standing People.”

Right now in 2019, human beings have set thousands of fires to the “Lungs of our Planet”—Brazil’s Amazonian rainforests. Not only do healthy rainforests—especially the Amazonian—provide us with 20% of breathable oxygen, but they are home to one in ten species of life on Earth.

There is a great hero supreme among trees, one that The World Tree Organization calls, “**THE TREE THAT WILL SAVE THE WORLD.**” The **PAULOWNIA FORTUNA** or **EMPRESS SPLENDOR TREE**, sacred for centuries to the animist Shinto faith and throughout the Far East, is now being planted by farmers all over the world as a premier environmental solution to carbon offset.



HERE ARE JUST SOME OF THE PAULOWNIA TREE’S MOST MIRACULOUS ATTRIBUTES:

- grows Grows 5 to 20 feet in its first year.
- consumes Consumes 11 times more carbon dioxide than other trees.
- leaves Its fallen leaves dramatically help depleted soil back to health and contain high levels of protein for animal feed.
- wood Ideal for construction, Paulownia wood is as light as balsam, but amazingly 3 times stronger than pine and can be harvested in just 10 years.
- resistant Naturally insect-resistant, medicinal applications are being researched.
- invasive Of the 23 species of Paulownia, only one is invasive. Today its offspring can be seen locally, flowering purple in May, having long ago gone rogue from seed pods that were used as 18th-century packing material, ensuring the safe arrival of porcelain from China.



Artists like Abraham Lincoln Criss and Bill Romeka were intuitively drawn to this tree that can grow in minimal soil—even springing up from amidst rain gutter debris.

Inside every Paulownia tree’s root are heart-shaped centers. Artist Criss takes great advantage of this heart to form the body of his handmade turtle stool.

A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people. —FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

JOHANNA BURKE, (detail) Mandrill from installation Another Green World, 2016, mixed media, courtesy of Bergdorf Goodman. Photo Dan Mc Mahon



CHIMPS, BONOBOS, AND US

“How is it possible that the most intellectual creature to ever walk the planet earth is destroying its only home?”—JANE GOODALL



WE HUMANS SHARE 98% OF OUR DNA with chimpanzees and bonobos. It turns out, chimps and bonobos are even more closely related to humans than they are to gorillas. We humans share some wonderful attributes with our “cousins,” the chimpanzees. Among them: we both smile; will travel miles for favorite foods; prefer cooked foods; laugh; use tools; share tools and foods; kiss; hug; pat each other on the backs; mourn loss; cultivate friendships; enjoy play; laugh; demonstrate a sense of right and wrong; respond indignantly to “unfair” situations; recognize our own image in a mirror (many animals don’t); wage war; and can remember numbers

flashed on a screen better than most adult humans. When the chimp named Washoe learned sign-language his favorite words were, “More tickle!” Christiaan Barnard, M.D., the great pioneer in human-to-human heart transplant, had an encounter with lab-housed chimpanzees that change his life forever:

“I had bought two male chimps from a primate colony in Holland. They lived next to each other in separate cages for several months before I used one as a [heart] donor. When we put him to sleep in his cage in preparation for the operation, he chattered and cried incessantly. We attached no significance to this, but it must have made a great impression on his companion, for when we removed the body to the operating room, the other chimp wept bitterly and was inconsolable for days. The incident made a deep impression on me. I vowed never again to experiment with such sensitive creatures.”

His Holiness The Dalai Lama has taught, “Life is as dear to the mute creature as it is to a man. Just as man wants happiness and fears pain, just as man wants to live and not to die, so do other creatures.”

IN PRAISE OF GREEN

Christopher Bird and Peter Tompkins’ beautifully conceived and well-researched book, *THE SECRET LIFE OF PLANTS*, (so profound, it inspired a movie of the same name, scored by Stevie Wonder) observes: “Without green plants we could neither breathe nor eat. On the undersurface of every leaf, a million moveable lips are engaged in devouring carbon dioxide and expelling oxygen.”

As to the possible awake, conscious nature of green plants, Bird and Tompkins’ book delivers a well-documented punch. Respected inventor of the modern lie detector, Cleve Baxter, conducted a series of astonishing experiments in which he collected houseplants that were present at the scene of a murder. Baxter discovered that they could be reliably counted on to emit the equivalent of a “scream” when exposed to the presence of the actual murderer, differentiated from a lineup of innocent participants.

Ardent and successful gardeners the world over will swear that plants not only respond to love but return it as well. For centuries, people have extolled the virtues of slow walks in the forest. As Abraham Lincoln put it,

“I’m a slow walker, but I never walk back.”

New studies in medicine have shown that the practice of forest bathing, popularized in the 1980’s in Japan as *shinrin-yoku*, can measurably act to reduce blood pressure, lower cortisol levels and improve concentration and memory. A chemical released by trees and plants, called phytoncides, also works to boost our immune system. Leaving cell phones at home is an essential part of gaining the full and intimate benefit from silent communion with fragrant woods.

In an interview with *Newsweek*, visionary artist Minnie Evans confided, “I love people to a certain extent, but sometimes I wish to get to the garden and talk to God. I have the blooms, and when the blooms are gone, I love to watch the green. God dressed the world in green.”

THE HUMAN EYE IS HARDWIRED TO PERCEIVE MORE SUBTLE VARIATIONS IN THE COLOR GREEN THAN IN ANY OTHER COLOR.



(detail) CHRISTOPHER MOSES, Katrina, 2005, oil on canvas, courtesy of the artist, Photo Dan Meyers

HEY, MISTER, CAN YOU SPARE A PLANET?

BECAUSE WE'RE GONNA NEED AN EXTRA EARTH REAL SOON...



In 1950, Earth's human population totaled 2.5+ billion. Today, our human family has grown to 7.7 billion. By 2050, our numbers are projected to reach between 9.3 to 9.8 billion—all occurring at the same moment when our Pacific Ocean fisheries will face total depletion and arable farmland will be greatly decreased.

Why all the fuss about an average world temperature **INCREASE** of just 4°C (7.2°F), as calculated from pre-industrial time, before we started grand scale belching out fossil fuel CO₂, which has the potential to cause a new extinction event? After all, a 4°C degree increase doesn't sound so bad—we've all put up with some record hot days.

Here's your answer: The last Ice Age kicked off with just a 4°C average global temperature **DECREASE!**

Stable Earth temperature sustains surface life by a very delicate balance. When average ocean temperatures increase—even by a single degree—we get more evaporation and therefore more fiercely destructive storms, winds, and hurricanes. With glaciers melting into the ocean, we get sea rise that will damage and inundate our biggest coastal cities, making many of them permanently uninhabitable.

Think how dangerous it is when our own human bodies run a high fever. If our 98.6°F average temperature were to raise permanently by 7.2°F degrees, our organs would begin their fatal shutdown.

Over the last few years, Earth has broken many previous heat records, causing death, increased asthma, and new climate refugees desperately seeking a viable home. In 2014, for the first time, the famed Alaskan Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race required artificial snow.

Here's the difference between climate and weather: Weather is the short term, atmospheric condition of a specific place: locale. Climate is the result of long-term observation and calculation that compute changes in any overall temperature: rainfall, snowfall, storms, drought, cloud cover and glacier melt.

We sincerely wish climate change deniers were right. Sadly, global data proves otherwise. Working together, humanity still has an unprecedented opportunity to orchestrate a healthier and more balanced, peaceful world.



WE CAN NOW FIND MICRO PLASTIC—DEGRADED PARTICLES SMALLER THAN A GRAIN OF RICE, DOWN TO THOSE INVISIBLE TO THE HUMAN EYE—FLOATING IN EVERY CUP OF EARTH'S OCEAN WATER, trapped in Arctic ice, airborne in the air we breathe, embedded in soil and fish, and in our bodies—even present in the cord blood of babies born today. A recent international study tested for the presence of micro plastic in human poop. Their shocking—literally “sh-tty”—discovery was that micro plastic was found in all the excrement sampled from donors from every continent—from big city dwellers, to residents of most the remote and formerly pristine places on earth. To make things far worse, many plastics contain poisonous, cancer-inducing, reproductive and DNA-disruptive chemicals. Humans thrived for centuries without plastics. Engineering and manufacturing must shift to the use of environmentally-friendly alternatives, using benign natural, easily bio-degradable substances like hemp and corn. Banning production of the most toxic plastics must be swiftly legislated and enforced worldwide. Working cooperatively, we will find safe and effective ways to stop adding to this widespread toxic mess. • However, there is some good news: Inventors like Scott Brown are cooking up ways forward that could

be an answer to prayer. Brown has a working prototype that takes everything from raw sewage, child and adult diapers (a massive, daily and ever-increasing landfill problem), to any toxic and plastic mess imaginable, and safely reduces it to its essential molecular components—all with zero environmental off-gassing. Brown does this with a surprising surplus generation of useable clean energy! This means that soon every city and small town could cease their dependence on the current antiquated and vulnerable-to-hacking electrical grid, while at the same time process their own garbage cleanly at its source! (above) Plastic collected from Kehoe Beach, CA by Judith Selby Lang and Richard Lang. Photo Dan Meyers



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THE KINETIC SCULPTURE RACE	Saturday, MAY 2, 2020 www.KineticBaltimore.com
JULY 4 PET PARADE	Saturday, JULY 4, 2020
FLICKS FROM THE HILL	Thursday evenings JULY 9–AUGUST 27, 2020

FRONT & BACK COVERS: **ACTIVIST JULIA BUTTERFLY HILL**

JULIA BUTTERFLY HILL'S FIRST SIGHT OF THE ANCIENT REDWOODS PROVED LIFE CHANGING. "When I entered the majestic cathedral of the redwood forest for the first time, my spirit knew it had found what it was searching for. I dropped to my knees and began to cry because I was so overwhelmed by the wisdom, energy and spirituality housed in this holiest of temples." On meeting activists committed to keeping these ancient trees from being felled by commercial loggers, Julia agreed to take a turn to "tree sit" in protest. A prior tree sitter had already been killed by the intentional actions of the harvesting company. Julia's weekend up at the equivalent of an 18-story tall building turned into 738 consecutive days and nights, never once leaving to return to the ground. Volunteers helped send her food up, and waste down. Once the logging company helicopters tried to use the blades to literally "suck" Julia off her small tree platform, but she knew to strap herself steadfast to her host tree she called, "Luna."

Julia's courageous and dramatic act of civil disobedience brought international attention to the plight of the ancient forests. Through all the seasonal changes and storms, Julia kept a diary of love and lessons imparted by her arboreal host. With the help of steelworkers and environmentalists, Julia successfully negotiated permanently to protect both her 1,000+-year-old tree, Luna, and a nearly three-acre buffer zone to include other ancient giant redwoods. Only then did she agree to descend from Luna, touching ground on December 18, 1999. Julia Butterfly Hill continues to be an internationally-recognized environmental champion and activist. Her message of hope, empowerment, love and respect for all life, continues to inspire millions of people worldwide. Her book, **ONE MAKES THE DIFFERENCE**, is a love letter and an empowering plea to each one of us.

THE SECRET LIFE OF EARTH

ARTISTS BOBBY ADAMS • CHRIS ROBERTS-ANTIEAU • PAT BERNSTEIN • JOHANNA BURKE • MARCARIO MATIAS CARRILLO • ABRAHAM LINCOLN CRISS • PETER EGLINGTON • ERIKA EZERSKIENE • HUBERT LE GALL • TEMPLE GRANDIN • GARY GREENBERG • ALEX GREY • WILLIAM A. HALL • DR. BOB HIERONIMUS • JULIA BUTTERFLY HILL • STEPHEN HOLMAN • TRAMS HOLLINGSWORTH • JUDITH SELBY LANG & RICHARD LANG • GARY LARSON • FRANCISCO LOZA • MARK CASEY MILESTONE • CHRISTOPHER MOSES • SANTIAGO NAVILA • BRIAN PARDINI • RICK SKOGSBERG • LOUIE SCHWARTZBERG • JUDY TALLWING • MARS TOKYO • KYLE YEARWOOD • SHAWN WARE • TIM LAMAN • NINA MONTENEGRO • LORRAINE HANOVER • KERSTIN LANGENBERGER • DAVID LIITTSCHWAGER & SUSAN MIDDLETON

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10am–5pm Tuesday–Sunday

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