



For Immediate Release

March 3, 2011

OIL SPILL: information gulf

What: Oil Spill: Information Gulf Panel Discussion

Where: Tipton Hall

When: 6pm Friday, March 25

How Much: \$10 general | \$5 students/seniors/sfai members

What: Oil Spill: Information Gulf Exhibition

Where: SFAI Gallery 1

When: March 14 - April 15, 9am - 5pm M-F

How Much: Free!

Oil Spill: Information Gulf Panel Discussion

Panelists Riki Ott, Aviva Rahmani, and Debbie Fleming Caffery, moderated by Patricia Watts will discuss the spill, its aftermath, and the role of the arts as tellers/revealers of truth. There will be a webcast component and connection to the GULF to GULF project as well as a connection to an arts center in New Orleans, LA.

Oil Spill: Information Gulf Exhibition

Photographs by Aviva Rahmani and Debbie Fleming Caffery.

Debbie Fleming Caffery

Emotional and mythic vision pervade Debbie Fleming Caffery's captivating images of life in her native southern Louisiana, Portugal, and Mexico. Her photographs are not objective documents, but poetic stories that capture the mystery and spirit of the people and places she encounters. Caffery's images have earned her numerous awards including the first Lou Stoumen prize for documentary photography and the Governor of Louisiana's award for excellence in the arts. Her work is included in the permanent collections of many museums including the Smithsonian Institution, the Museum of Modern Art, and the Bibliotheque National in Paris.

Riki Ott Riki Ott, PhD, is a community activist, a former commercial salmon "fisherm'am," and has a degree in marine toxicology with a specialty in oil pollution. She experienced firsthand the devastating effects of the Exxon Valdez oil spill—and chose to do something about it. She is the author of *Sound Truth and Corporate Myth: The Legacy of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill* and *Not One Drop: Promises, Betrayal, and Courage in the Wake of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill* (Chelsea Green, 2008). She is also the founder of three nonprofit organizations that deal with lingering harm from man-made environmental disaster. Riki lives in Cordova, Alaska.

Aviva Rahmani

Aviva Rahmani is an ecological artist whose 40-year career span has primarily focused on social and environmental engagement. She has been featured in 30 solo and 50 group exhibitions nationally and internationally. Influenced by classical studies, activism, city planning, and science, her recent work explores solutions for urban and rural water degradation in large landscapes. Through Virtual Concerts, and more recently, Virtual Concerts II, weekly audio performances hosted by Rahmani, she addresses the local impact of global warming at real sites internationally. Rahmani also addressed this through her project, *In Cities and Oceans of If*, where she located ecological acupuncture points to effect healing change.

Patricia Watts

Founder of *ecoartspace*, Patricia Watts has researched art and nature practitioners since 1994. She has participated as panelist at numerous conferences and has given lectures at art departments internationally. Watts most recently curated *Ecologic* for Cypress College (2009) in Los Angeles, and *Terroir for Art* at the Cheese Factory (2009) in Northern California. She also curated *Hybrid Fields* for the Sonoma County Museum (2006), and *Bug-Eyed: Art, Culture, Insects* for the Turtle Bay Exploration Park (2004-2005), and produced a site-specific temporary public art installation entitled *Windsock Currents* (2005) on Crissy Field in the Presidio (San Francisco) for UN World Environment Day. Watts was Chief Curator at the Sonoma County Museum in Santa Rosa, California (2005-2008). She received her MA in Exhibition Design/Museum Studies from California State University, Fullerton, and has a BA in Business Administration from Stephens College, Missouri.

ecoartspace is one of the leading international organizations in a growing community of artists, scientists, curators, writers, nonprofits and businesses who are developing creative and innovative strategies to address our global environmental issues.

For more information about this or any SFAI event, please contact Michelle Laflamme-Childs at mchilds@sfai.org or call (505) 424-5050.