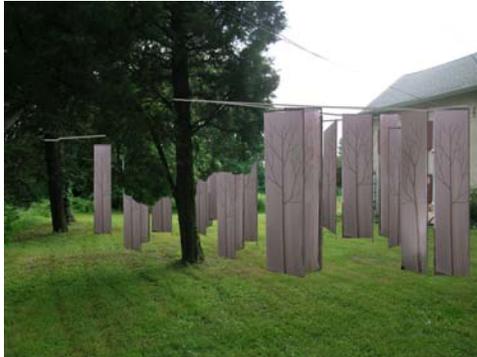




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PHILADELPHIA, PA – August 2008 – The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education’s Environmental Art Program is pleased to announce the opening of *Ghosts and Shadows*, presented in partnership with The Center for Emerging Visual Artists. This exciting exhibition will open on September 6, 2008 and last through January 2, 2009.

To celebrate the opening of this exhibit, featuring installations by distinguished artists **Jennifer Chapman, Keiko Miyamori, Kara Rennert and Marisha Simons**, a public reception will be held on Saturday September 6th, from 2–5 pm, including an artists’ Talk and Tour at 3 pm.

Curated by Warren Angle he says of this exhibit “Jennifer Chapman, Keiko Miyamori, Kara Rennert, and Marisha Simons were chosen to produce site specific installations because of their poetic sense of place. Each artist has set up a dialogue with the natural and human constructed landscape at the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education’s Second Site location. They have mined specific references to place and sensations of past and present using audio as well as visual components in the construction of their works.” *Ghosts and Shadows* will open at the Schuylkill Center’s *Second Site*, a historic farmhouse and barn, at the corner of Port Royal Ave and Hagy’s Mill Rd, Philadelphia.

Jennifer Chapman, a photographer living and working in New Jersey, will return a semblance of life to the abandoned Brolo Family farmhouse and barn in her piece, *Habitat*. Chapman says, “This project is designed to remind us of the human history at “Second Site,” as well as to emphasize the persistence of human presence in the space. By acknowledging the role that humans played in constructing (and deconstructing) the site, the project recognizes the farmhouse and barn as one of many habitats in the area. While “looking in” to the space and stepping backwards in time, we might consider the traces we will leave in our own habitats.”

Keiko Miyamori's Human Bird House will entail a large-scale tree rubbing collage on the front side of the building wall of the old barn in combination with other small bird houses in near vicinity of the barn. Miyamori, a Japanese artist with a background in traditional Japanese painting, says, "I am interested in creating imaginary spaces where unity between nature and humanity can co-exist. I communicate through sculpture, installation, drawing and painting." Approximately fifty bird houses will be suspended around the barn, and several wooden birdhouses will be suspended in the shed area next to the barn. "The exaggerated size of 'Human Bird House' in contrast to the relatively small birdhouses situated next to it requires the viewer to allow for humor as well as partake in the abstract moment," Miyamori says.

Kara Rennert, a visual artist living in Philadelphia, will present the reanimation of the barn space with her installation entitled *Breath*. "Through this piece, I want the audience to be reminded of the emotional and physical experience of being with an animal, especially one that used to live there and used to be so integral to our lives and survival," she says. "Too often in our modern world, and especially for city dwellers, people lose their connection to the animal element of their natural world. I would like to create a reminder that we used to have a closer relationship with the animals with which we share this planet."

The final artist, Marisha Simons is a printmaker, installation artist, designer, fine art edition printer and teacher from northern California. With her exhibit *Ghost Forest* she attempts to catalog man's impact upon the environment, specifically plant and tree life, through his environmental degradation from land clearing, demand for materials, contribution to global warming, and his careless introduction of invasive exotic species and diseases. "I have created a visual representation of a selection of endangered and extinct plants and trees, and I invite the viewer into a forest of ghost plants: translucent silk panels that move when the viewer walks past, delicate images floating above the ground, no longer planted in the earth with a subtle epitaph sharing the plant's history. My hope is that my viewer will experience Ghost Forest by walking amongst the trees, spending time with the images in an imagined place where once they might have dwelled, and engaging emotionally with the idea that each of us have options about the impact that we make upon the environment with the daily choices that we make," she says.

In addition to the Opening Reception on Saturday September 6th, there will be a public panel discussion and artists' tour on Thursday September 25th. The artists will give a tour of their installations from 5:30-6:30 pm, followed by a presentation on the agricultural and environmental history of the Philadelphia region by a panel of local historians and other experts beginning at 7 pm. This will be another excellent opportunity for the public to view the Ghosts and Shadows installations, and to hear about the project directly from the artists.

Free Round trip shuttle leaving Ivy Ridge Station (R6 Train) at 3 pm and returning to the station at 5 pm will be provided.

For more information on the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education please visit www.schuylkillcenter.org.

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