

PRESS RELEASE MARCH 2009

"ARTISTS + ENVIRONMENTS:

GENERATIVE PRACTICES AND CONVERSATIONS"

A COLLABORATIVE ART + MEDIA PROJECT

In Spring 2009 (March through May) smudge studio (smudgestudio.org) will orchestrate collaboration among 16 artists, art educators, museum educators, and media designers. The three-week long web event is entitled "**Artists + Environments: Generative Practices and Conversations.**" William L. Fox, Director of the newly formed Center for Art + Environment, Nevada Museum of Art, will convene the first week of digital collaborative exchange on **March 5, 2009.**

Participants will experiment with five new "elements and principles of art": hybridity, time, space, performance, appropriation. They will use these concepts to creatively respond to their own and other artists' works that address natural, built, and virtual environments. One of the conversation's moderators, Susan Rotilie, Program Manager of the Walker's School Programs, has developed museum programs based on the five elements. She uses them to make forces and practices in contemporary art more accessible to new audiences and to students and teachers.

Moderators will kick off each week of the event with a provocation. Participants will respond collaboratively via a blog designed especially for the event (generativeconversations.blogspot.com). They can design and edit their posts, upload new works, stream media (video and audio), engage in "live chats" with one another, and leave comments on one another's posts.

On March 26, 2009, smudge studio will take the resulting images, ideas, and insights and turn them into a web exhibition for its current project: ExtremeMediaStudies.org. Graduate students in Penn State's School of Visual Arts "Web 2.0 Pedagogies" class, taught by Karen Keifer-Boyd, will help design the "**Artists + Environments**" web exhibition during a charrette facilitated by smudge studio. The web exhibition will be launched on ExtremeMediaStudies.org on **May 10, 2009.** Smudge will distribute the site to art educators and museum educators, with the invitation to creatively appropriate it for their museum education programs, websites, courses, and events.

"**Artists + Environments, Generative Practices and Conversations**" grew out of smudge's participation in the Nevada Museum of Art's "Art + Environment" Conference in October 2008. That conference provided a "360 degree" view of emerging art practices and perspectives that respond to natural, built, and virtual environments. The conference both expanded and breeched traditional notions of "land art" or "art and environmentalism." Participants happily resisted naming what new "movement" or "vision" is now emerging from recent collaborations among artists, scientists, experimental geographers, media producers, museums, and land use interpreters.

smudge studio came away from the conference with a sense that the current moment of experimentation and discovery should be prolonged. They initiated "**Generative Practices and Conversations**" as an expansive resource for the emerging field of Artists + Environments.

PARTICIPANTS:

ARTISTS: Kim Stringfellow, Caryn Cline, The Canary Project, Chris Drury, Emily Scott, Jarrod Beck

ARTIST/ART EDUCATORS: Bill Gilbert, Catherine Harris, Karen Keifer-Boyd, Julia Christensen

MUSEUM-EDUCATORS/MODERATORS:

Colin Robertson, Curator of Education, Nevada Museum of Art

Susan Rotilie, Program Manager, School Programs, Walker Art Center

William L. Fox, Director, Center for Art + Environment, Nevada Museum of Art

FACILITATED BY smudge studio (Jamie Kruse and Elizabeth Ellsworth)