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**Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Presents Three Public Art
Installations That Address Climate Change to Complement the Global
Climate Action Summit**



Andrea Bowers, digital render of *Climate Change Is Real (Global Climate Action Summit, San Francisco)*, 2018. Aluminum, paint, neon, LED lights. Image courtesy the artist.

SAN FRANCISCO (September 7, 2018) — With support from **Bloomberg Philanthropies** for the **Global Climate Action Summit**, [Yerba Buena Center for the Arts \(YBCA\)](#) is pleased to announce **three major art installations** by leading artists and designers to complement the Global Climate Action Summit taking place at various San Francisco venues September 12–14, 2018. The projects include the neon sculpture *Climate Change Is Real (Global Climate Action Summit, San Francisco)*, by Los Angeles–based artist **Andrea Bowers**; *Bay Area Soon*, **Stamen Design**’s public vinyl mural visualizing climate change’s impact on bird migration; and **Hyphae Design Laboratory**’s *PPropheet*, an interactive installation that responds to water remediation, recycling, and limited access to public restrooms in San Francisco. Utilizing its prime location in relation to the summit, YBCA is amplifying this critical global conversation on climate change through these new commissions.

The first of the three public works is **Bowers**’s *Climate Change Is Real (Global Climate Action Summit, San Francisco)*, an approximately 40-foot-long neon sign declaring that climate change is real. A feminist artist and activist, Bowers believes that everything is political. In her neon works, beauty and activism come together with vernacular signage to deliver direct statements, often involving slogans that are widely circulated. Environmentalist causes and organizations have been the focus of much of her work, and the Global Climate Action Summit offers an unprecedented platform to use art as a tool for change. The piece is curated by YBCA Director of Visual Arts **Lucía Sanromán** and produced by YBCA Associate Director of Visual Arts **Dorothy Dávila** and Project Manager **Mara Berton**. *Climate Change Is Real (Global Climate Action Summit, San Francisco)* will be prominently displayed on the **facade of YBCA’s Theater building September 10–17, 2018**.

“For Bowers, creating public artworks that address crucial issues in heightened political moments is one of the most rewarding aspects of her work as an artist,” remarks **Sanromán**. “She believes the Trump administration has opted to embrace ‘alternative facts,’ all but eliminating the role of scientists in creating environmental policy and spurning the application of science as a tool for determining objective reality. Bowers offers a powerful response to the anti-science bias exemplified by some conservative media in the United States today. As we face a coordinated effort to fracture reality and render a unified opposition impossible, the work

offers an affirmative, positive statement.”

A week in advance of the summit, YBCA will open the eighth edition of *Bay Area Now*—its signature triennial program. For the first time in its more than 20-year history, [*Bay Area Now 8*](#) ([*BAN8*](#)) includes an architecture and design component. YBCA has chosen to display two projects from *BAN8* that speak to climate change during the summit.

On the Third Street facade of YBCA’s Theater, San Francisco–based design studio **Stamen Design** presents *Bay Area Soon*, a mural that visualizes the increasingly significant role of National Parks as bird sanctuaries. Beginning in 2013, Stamen partnered with the National Audubon Society to envision the impact of rising temperatures in North America on migratory birds. *Bay Area Soon* uses images and data collected from this multi-year project to describe a rapidly changing ecosystem. Through the use of bird silhouettes, the mural vividly highlights gains and losses by comparing the bird species currently suited to live in the climate of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area with the species that will be equipped to survive there in 2050. Instead of focusing on an individual bird species or population, the study uses national parks as a basic organizing unit. By broadening the conversation to include those unfamiliar with different species of birds, *Bay Area Soon* allows the public to expand the ways in which they comprehend the effects of climate change.

Oakland-based **Hyphae Design Laboratory** unveils a site-specific mixed-media installation, *PProphet*, in **YBCA’s Third Street Sculpture Courtyard**. As a functional urinal, *PProphet* addresses water sustainability, inequitable access to sanitation in urban environments, public health, human dignity, and nutrient scarcity. Continuing their inquiry into public sanitation and self-supporting systems, Hyphae encourages participants to contribute and examine their own urine to better understand how this liquid can be filtered, purified, and put back into the urban environment. Seeking to address the socioeconomic aspect of sanitation accessibility, Hyphae invites the public to explore uncomfortable realities and the ways in which these issues can be reimaged to include fertilizer production, water technology, environmental sustainability, and new forms of immediate health metrics.

Bay Area Soon and *PProphet* are part of *BAN8*, on view **September 7, 2018–March 24, 2019**.

The exhibition is organized and curated by YBCA's Director of Visual Arts **Lucía Sanromán** and Associate Curator of Visual Arts **Susie Kantor**, while the architecture and design portion is curated by Associate Director of Public Programs **Martin Strickland**.

About the Artists and Designers

Andrea Bowers is a Los Angeles–based artist who advocates for the merging of political activism with artistic practice. Bowers received her MFA from California Institute of the Arts in 1992. Over the last 23 years, she has built an international reputation for her drawings, videos, and installations, which deal with social issues ranging from women's and workers' rights to climate change and immigration. Recent solo exhibitions include *Hammer Projects: Andrea Bowers*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2017); *Womxn Workers of the World Unite!*, Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center (2017); and *Andrea Bowers: Sanctuary*, the Bronx Museum, New York (2016). Recent group exhibition include *Agora*, the High Line, New York (2018); *Power to the People: Political Art Now*, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Germany (2018); *Documenta 14*, Kassel, Germany (2017); *La Terra Inquieta*, Triennale di Milano, Milan, Italy (2017); *The Revolution Will Not Be Gray*, Aspen Art Museum, Colorado (2016); and *Drawing Now*, Albertina, Vienna (2015). Bowers's work is in the collections of the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and Museum Abteiberg, Mönchengladbach, Germany, among others.

Stamen Design provides visualization and analytics design and strategic data communication to private- and public-sector clients across various industries and market segments, including science, media, humanitarian, and medical. Eric Rodenbeck founded Stamen in 2001, and serves as creative director and CEO. The company's elegant, data-driven design has brought many data artists, designers, and technologists through its doors as clients and collaborators. In 2007 Stamen joined the board of the Kenneth Rainin Foundation (KRF), an organization whose mission is to bring innovative thinking to medicine, education, and the arts. Through this work, Rodenbeck founded and is now the president of the Community Arts Stabilization Trust (CAST),

which provides affordable space for artists in San Francisco's Central Market District through purchasing and repurposing downtrodden buildings.

Hyphae Design Laboratory is a multidisciplinary practice focused on innovation in the built environment. Through collaboration, design thinking, applied ecology, and social change, Hyphae discovers, researches, and implements novel projects. Hyphae works with companies, agencies, urban planners, architects, public health specialists, and academic researchers to reimagine our built environment and improve the health and diversity of our cities and their dominant megafauna: humans. Hyphae tackles the challenges they cause and come by, using mollusks, microbes, microprocessors, and multi-stakeholder thinking to bridge the gap between art, engineering, and academic research, working at the microbial, building, urban, and system scales. Hyphae facilitates linkages between disparate disciplines, embodying a metaphorical role inspired by hyphal networks—and Oakland, the city it calls home.

About the Curators and Producers

Lucía Sanromán joined YBCA as Director of Visual Arts in October 2015. Over the course of her career, she has curated groundbreaking exhibitions throughout the United States, Mexico, and Latin America. Recent projects at YBCA include, among others, *Teddy Cruz and Fonna Forman: Visualizing Citizenship: Seeking a New Public Imagination* (2017) and *Damon Rich & Jae Shin Hector: Space Brainz—Yerba Buena 3000* (2017–18) (both co-organized with Martin Strickland, YBCA Associate Director of Public Programs), as well as *Tania Bruguera: Talking to Power / Hablándole al Poder* (2017) (co-curated with Susie Kantor, YBCA Associate Curator of Visual Arts), and *Futurefarmers: Out of Place, in Place*.

Dorothy Dávila joined the visual arts team at YBCA in 2013 as Senior Exhibitions Manager, and has served as Associate Director of Visual Arts since September 2016. Over her twenty-year career she has cultivated a passion for art and exhibition making at institutions such as the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and the Harvard Art Museums. Her experience includes managing collections and object information, visual archives, exhibitions, projects, and staff. During her tenure at Harvard as head of the collections department, Dávila collaborated with curators, donors, and gallerists to grow and strengthen the museum's contemporary art

collection. In 2016 she curated Tom Sachs's *Space Program: Europa* at YBCA.

Mara Berton is the owner-operator of Berton Productions, LLC, where she manages large-scale commercial and artistic projects. She loves working with YBCA and is grateful to be a part of a project with such an important message.

Martin Strickland is Associate Director of Public Programs at YBCA. Along with Lucía Sanromán, he helped create *The City Initiative*, a series of exhibitions and public programs focused on the urban environment. He is currently developing a new department devoted to cross-departmental public programs for YBCA. Prior to YBCA, he worked as the Programs Assistant at the Arts Research Center, UC Berkeley, as an independent contractor with the San Francisco Arts Commission, and as a community organizer for public health in New Orleans.

Credits

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About Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) is one of the nation's most innovative contemporary arts centers. Founded in 1993, YBCA's mission is to generate culture that moves people.

Through powerful art experiences, thoughtful and provocative content, and deep opportunities for participation, YBCA is committed to creating an inclusive culture that awakens personal and societal transformation. YBCA presents a wide variety of programming year-round, including performing arts, visual arts, film/video, and civic engagement. For tickets and information, call 415.978.ARTS (2787). For more information, visit ybca.org.

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