

Spliced Energy

Curatorial proposal by Karen Fitzgerald

There is a rich trove of essays, scholarship, and blogs bubbling around in our ethereal space these days that are interconnected. In any pot of fluid, surface bubbles are connected by their various menisci rubbing against each other, creating a kind of shared boundary that is a source of effervescent change. What's bubbling around the verbiage space is the idea that interconnectivity is rampant. Our world is one mess of interconnected this and that.

Interconnectivity may not be a profound, nor a new idea. Yet what is notable about it is how widely it blankets our world. As a phenomenon, interconnectivity is poised to be one of the most important ideas of the 21st century. As simple as it is, this idea is creating a realization of how energy is spliced together across all levels of existence.

Take tree roots. The new scholarship on root interconnectivity has unearthed and validated new knowledge of how trees communicate with one another, share resources, and grow in community. Who knew elder trees "mother" the young ones taking root at their feet? Ocean currents, cloud currents, flowing air; scientists are making these interconnected realms more visible to us each day. The modeling of ocean currents is showing us how warming air temperatures are altering age-old flow patterns.

And cell structure. We've all witnessed the explosion of understanding that the Covid pandemic has precipitated. The very air we breath is laced with lots of stuff, some of which we don't actually wish to take into our lungs. David Quammen describes the condition of molecular exchange that is ongoing in horizontal gene transfer. It is not only viruses that are transmuting, and transforming in short periods of time. Merlin Sheldrake's writing documents, and connects, recent understandings regarding fungi. Its prevalence in our world is stunning; and this sentence connects back to the above, third paragraph. (Fungi play a key role in how trees communicate with one another.)

It is not far-fetched to realize that contemporary artists have been focused on the larger idea of interconnectivity for some time. This exhibition presents the work of an intergenerational community of artists. The aesthetics within this group are wide and varied. Each has developed a distinct voice within the visual language that speaks to the interconnectivity ravaging our consciousness. The resultant spliced energy within the separate artworks speaks to the dynamism of interconnectivity. It's exciting to make deep connections between disparate aesthetics. It's mesmerizing to watch the pot bubble.

Artists to be exhibited include those who will self-select into the project from our cohort at Spliced Connector group on Shim Art Network; Grace Anello, Deborah Barlow, Caroline Bert, Lauren Bourguet, Tom Brydelsky, Patricia Dahlman (from Brodsky Center at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts), John Day, William Dutterer, Betti Franceschi, Caroline Golden, Rachel Goldsmith, Orestes Gonzalez,

Hannah Kerin, Mahnoor Nasir Khan, Susan Knight, Judith Kruger, Saroj Kumar, Liz Whitney Quisgard, Mary Pinto, Eleanor Rahim, Winn Rea, Larry Rushing, Brian Sheridan, Ann Sgarlata, Kandi Spindler, Priscilla Stadler, Linda Tharp, Frog The Parhelia, Kathleen Velo, Natalie Woodson, Mary Zehngut, and Dudley Zopp. Additional artists may also be included: Michael Dal Cerro (from Grey Spider Press), as well as Nancy Cohen (from VanDeb Editions).



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