

## NEW AND DARING WORKS BY EIGHT INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS ON VIEW AT BALLROOM MARFA



Up From Under the Edge, 2009. Aluminum, paper, ink jet prints, 2 channel video, steel, wood, c-prints- 14'x24'. Up From Under the Edge is inspired by a swath of forest in the Peruvian Amazon. In this work, photography and video shot in a section of the Amazon slated for oil exploration, are used to create the installation. The videos, inside small viewers, depict a remote view of the place. The photographic elements have been transformed into silhouettes.

MARFA, TX.- Carbon 13 presents newly commissioned work by eight international artists who have focused the lens of their creativity to interrogate the reality of climate change. These new and daring works demonstrate that one salient image can speak louder than volumes of scientific data and capture the public's imagination with an immediate and resonate voice. In conjunction with the opening of Carbon 13, Ballroom Marfa and the Washington Spectator present the second bi-annual Marfa Dialogues, a three-day symposium that includes conversations around climate change and sustainability with artists, performers, writers, scientists and entrepreneurs. Participants include: Hamilton Fish, Cynthia Hopkins, Diana Liverman, John Nielsen-Gammon,

Michael Pollan, Robert Potts, Tom Rand and Rebecca Solnit.

With Carbon 13 and the Marfa Dialogues, Ballroom Marfa continues its ambitious mission of presenting art as a transforming media capable of addressing the most pressing issues of our time. In 2009, Ballroom Marfa Co-Founder and Executive Director, Fairfax Dorn, invited David Buckland, artist, Founder and Director of Cape Farewell, to curate a new exhibition with artists who have ventured to some of the world's tipping points—the High Arctic, the Andes and Scotland's island communities—all places profoundly stressed by our warming planet. These expeditions, each with scientists, artists and cultural interrogators

aboard, are central to the Cape Farewell program. They pit the artists against the backdrop of raw and wild nature, inspiring engagement to stimulate and envision the necessary cultural shift to build a sustainable society.

From the High Arctic to the High Desert, the expedition to Marfa is an extension of Ballroom Marfa and Cape Farewell's spirit of exploration and collaboration. While Ackroyd & Harvey document a mock British trial based on a fictionalized account of a major environmental disaster, Erika Blumenfeld works directly with carbon, collecting contraband to create an index of the fires that ravaged the Southwest over the past two years. Global architect Sunand Prasad uses balloons to demarcate one ton of carbon by volume and Amy Balkin explores the damage inflicted by carbon build up in reaching out to endangered island communities to create A People's Archive of Sinking and Melting Countries. New York performance artist Cynthia Hopkins performs *This Clement World*<sup>1</sup>, a musical that sails through the burning ice and myths of the high arctic. Adriane Colburn exposes the deep, dark spaces of our energy production in installations

that investigate relationships between human infrastructure, earth systems, technology and the natural world. David Buckland confronts our ever-growing human infrastructure by displaying an internal combustion engine in the form of a ready-made. Antony Gormley's iconic drawing of an abstract carbon man anchors the show underlining the power of artistic engagement to communicate, on a human scale, the urgency of global climate change.

Artists: Ackroyd & Harvey, Amy Balkin, Erika Blumenfeld, David Buckland, Adriane Colburn, Antony Gormley, Cynthia Hopkins, Sunand Prasad

Participants: Hamilton Fish, Diana Liverman, John Nielsen-Gammon, Michael Pollan, Robert Potts, Tom Rand, Rebecca Solnit

Curated by David Buckland