

## **2019 Midwest Women Artists Symposium**

### **“Champions of the Environment: Women Artists, 1960s to the Present”**

November 7-8, 2019

*This interdisciplinary conference explored the contributions of Midwest female environmental and eco-artists to the art history canon, how the geography of the Midwest has influenced their practice, and the intersections of art and science in their work. The program addressed the gender gap experienced by women artists and their leadership in addressing evolving environmental issues facing our world.*

#### Keynote Address

**Karen McCoy**, sculptor, environmental artist, Professor of Sculpture, Kansas City Art Institute:  
“Art in the Age of Planetary Distress”

#### Panels

“Art and Place” explored how the unique ecologies, geographies and cultivated landscapes of the Midwest have informed the practice of female environmental artists (past & present) who lived and worked there.

**Cherie Sampson**, environmental performance and video artist, Associate Professor of Art, University of Missouri

**Sarah FitzSimmons**, Assistant Professor of Sculpture, University of Wisconsin

**Jill Sebastian**, artist and educator, Milwaukee, WI

**Vivian Visser**, sculptor, Chicago, IL

“Art Embracing Science” explored the scientific issues that environmental artists addressed in their work and how eco artists embrace scientific methods and/or work directly with scientists to find solutions to environmental problems.

**Susan Snodgrass**, artist and editor, Chicago, IL

**Sara Black**, Assistant Professor of Sculpture, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

**Frances Whitehead**, civic practice artist, founder of ARTetal Studio, Professor, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

#### Lecture

**Patricia Watts**, founder and West Coast curator of ecoartspace; Executive Director, American Women Artists, Santa Fe, NM: “Art & Ecology: The Evolution of Artists Addressing Environmental Issues”

#### Presentations

**Candace Hunter**, artist, Chicago, IL: “Melanation, Memory, Music and Water”

**Donna Neuwirth**, founder and Director, Wormfarm Institute, Reedsburg, WI: “Wormfarm Institute: Integrating Culture and Agriculture”