



Susanna Carlisle + Bruce Hamilton

Passages

May 25 – July 1, 2022

Reception: June 11, 6-8 pm



Carlisle + Hamilton
Acqua Alta: Venice November 2019
2022
video on monitor, Bright Sign player
38 x 22 x 1.5 inches
unique
\$8,000

Venice is a treasure of western culture and civilization, particularly the Renaissance. Yet it has been impacted by climate change and lunar tides, resulting in the phenomenon of Acqua Alta. The city is very vulnerable to changes in sea level, as it is built on low islands in the Venetian Lagoon which have existed since the end of the last Ice Age.

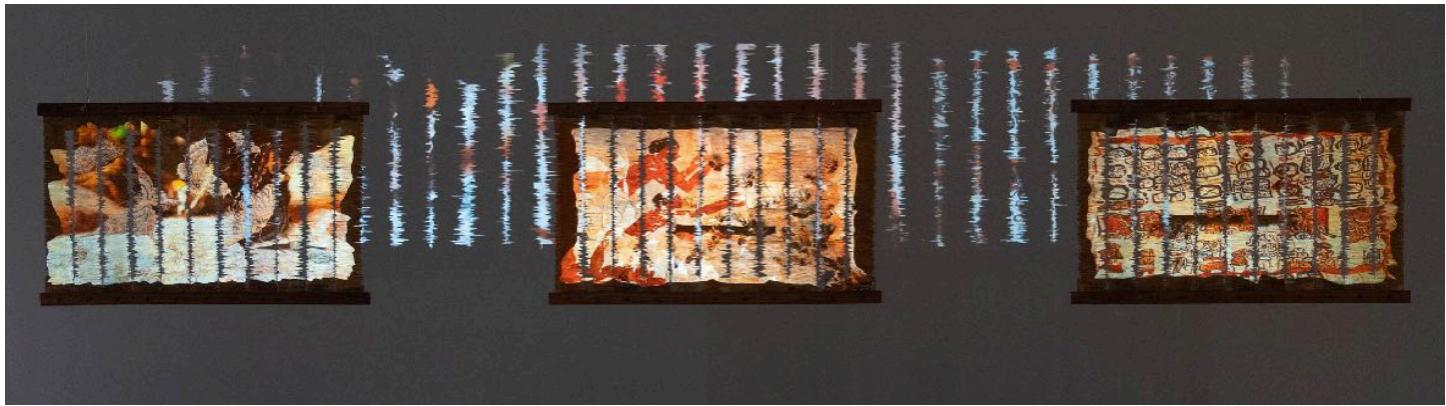
In 2019 the city experienced the second highest Acqua Alta in history, flooding the city, destroying infrastructure, cultural objects, and peoples' homes, as well as uprooting trees and disrupting life for all during a month of recurring floods.



Carlisle + Hamilton
Goddess, 1992
wood and stainless steel cable
16 x 27 x 23 inches
unique
\$5,200

Goddess is a hand fabricated sculpture that was designed using computer technology.

“Before we began doing video in the late 1990s, throughout the 80s and early 90s, we were making sculptures and exploring designing them with a computer. At that time not much software was available, so Bruce wrote the programs to design them from which we could fabricate them by hand.”
– Susanna Carlisle



Carlisle + Hamilton

Past Present: Japanese Screen, Egyptian Temple, Mayan Codex,
2022

video projections onto panel rusted serrated steel and walnut

29.125 x 45.5 x .5 inches: each screen

\$15,000 each

unique

\$39,500 set of 3

Insects are declining and disappearing rapidly on the planet. Many essential pollinators like bees and butterflies are threatened by climate change, loss of habitat and food sources, pesticides, colony collapse, and human impact on the environment.

Bees and butterflies have been revered by cultures throughout history. They are worshipped as gods and goddesses, are a source of ritual and offerings, and have been celebrated throughout the history of art.

Past Present addresses concern for the survival of bees and butterflies in today's world. The artists combine video footage captured from an active hive in their garden and butterflies in the Grand Canyon with images from historical works of art - in this case with images from a Japanese Screen, a painting from an Egyptian Temple, and from Mesoamerica depicting the Mayan Madrid Codex.

The projections onto the serrated slats provide a "broken" surface that spills partial images through the slats. These broken images dance on the wall beyond as a metaphor for how what seems substantial in our world is actually disappearing into other realms.



Carlisle + Hamilton

Message in a Bottle: Scavengers at TJs, 2022
video, glass, stainless steel, wood, video player
10 x 13.5 x 5 inches, Edition of 3

\$6,500

A pair of peacocks pecking and eating bugs off of a license plate in the parking lot of the Trader Joes in Pasadena represent many animals and other creatures that are being displaced from their natural habitats and becoming scavengers, eating what they can find for nourishment in urban and suburban environments.



Carlisle + Hamilton

Message in a Bottle: Fire on the Snow, 2022
video, glass, stainless steel, wood, video player
10 x 13.5 x 5 inches, Edition of 3

\$6,500

Fire burning on snow seems like an impossibility, yet it becomes a visual symbol of the destruction of resources for many people in many places due to fires, floods, rising seas and other natural disasters as temperatures continue to rise on the planet.

The performer is of Native American and Maori heritage. By dancing in the fire on the snow she suggests the fragility of indigenous people in relation to human's impact on the environment, climate change, and culture.



Carlisle + Hamilton

Message in a Bottle: Vanishing Water, Vanishing Culture, 2022
video, glass, stainless steel, wood, video player
10 x 13.5 x 5 inches, Edition of 3

\$6,500

Water as a source of life is revealed as the human body meets the textures of a stream in a continuing song of merging and individuation. The images of water flowing over rock are from La Cueva Creek, an arroyo in the Pecos wilderness that swells during the mountain snow melt and thunderstorms, but is becoming a dry creek bed.

The snow and storms are diminishing in the Pecos wilderness and throughout New Mexico due to rapidly rising temperatures and drought conditions in the west. The native American dancer in the water represents the threat to the survival of Native tribes - continuance of living on their lands and their way of life - due to drought and the impact of colonization on the environment and their cultures.



Carlisle + Hamilton

Message in a Bottle: Timepiece II, 2022

video, glass, stainless steel, wood, video player

10 x 13.5 x 5 inches, Edition of 3

\$6,500

Timepiece II is an experimental video about subtle changes in the body and mind over time due to aging – an abstract glimpse of the transformation from the substance of our physicality to spirit.



Carlisle + Hamilton

Handle with Care: Endangered Birds, 2022

glass, dried bird, antique kid gloves over wooden hand forms, paper

29.5 x 24 x 3.5 inches

\$5,400



Carlisle + Hamilton

Handle with Care: Endangered Butterflies, 2022

glass, dried butterfly, milkweed pods, antique , kid gloves over wooden hand forms, paper

29.5 x 24 x 3.5 inches

\$4,600

The Handle with Care series addresses the many species of birds and butterflies that have been endangered and threatened by climate change and the imposition of humans on the environment. During the late summer and early fall of 2019, birds in NM were falling from the sky having died from non seasonal freezing temperatures during migration. The finch in the petri dish is one. Others are represented on the folded paper fans. Butterflies are at extreme risk due to changing climate, pesticides and other interventions by people. The butterfly in the petri dish is a Yellow Swallowtail butterfly's the monarch are on milkweed pods. Milkweed is a large source of food for these butterflies.

White kid gloves were first used in the 18th century by the aristocracy and their servants to handle precious objects, such as silver, tapestries and artifacts. Kid gloves that belonged to Bruce Hamilton's mother are used as symbols for protecting the environment and a reverence for all life forms.



Carlisle + Hamilton
Tetrad, 1985
laminated wood
16 x 27 x 23 inches
\$8,000



Carlisle + Hamilton
Threatened: Aspen, Chestnut, Cottonwood, 2022
video on monitor, Bright Sign player
38 x 22 x 1.5 inches: each
\$8,000 each
\$21,500 set of 3



The Aspen groves throughout the west are undergoing a sharp decline due to drought, tiny insects called oystershell scale, cattle and sheep grazing as well as being eaten by elk and deer.

Aspen stands or groups are considered a single organism. Each tree is a genetic replica of another. Aspens are older than Sequoias and Bristlecone Pines. The oldest known grove is 80,000 years old and is located in Utah's Fish Lake National Forest. If trees are wiped out, it is difficult to kill the extensive root system due to the rapid rate it reproduces underground. Perhaps when conditions are right, groves will be able to regenerate, but that is not known.



The American Chestnut was one of the most important forest trees in this country. The species was devastated by the chestnut blight, a fungal disease that came from Chinese Chestnut trees introduced into America from East Asia.

It is estimated that between 3 and 4 billion trees were destroyed in the first 1/2 of the 20th century after the blight was discovered in 1904.



Salt Cedar (tamarisk) poses a threat to many native species such as Cottonwoods (images of both trees combine in one video). Salt Cedar is native to Eurasia. It was introduced into the US as an ornamental plant in the 1800. It was also planted as a windbreaker during the dust bowl.

Salt Cedars escaped cultivation and came west where they have proliferated since. A single Salt Cedar tree (tamarisk) uses up to 200 gallons of water a day posing a threat to native plant species such as Willows and Cottonwoods. Not only do these trees lower the water table due to their insatiable thirst, but they also create large deposits of salt in the soil which is detrimental to many native plants.