Monday, March 28, 2022, 7 p.m.

ASA Panel Discussion

The Future is Now:
Art. Sustainability. Activism, the Spring 2022 series

The Future is Now series seeks to create deliberate opportunities to connect artists, scientists, and changemakers. We learn from each other. Together, we reckon with climate change—elevating awareness, recognizing climate grief, and catalyzing meaningful change.

MODERATOR, NOY HOLLAND
Author, Professor in the MFA for Poets and Writers Program and Paperbark Magazine Faculty Advisory

PANELISTS

SALINA LEEM
BAOBAO CHEN
TIM COLE
KIM BLAESER
ANDY DANYLCHUK
ELLY O’LEARY

Sponsored by:

Presented with support from the UMass Office of the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. In partnership with the School of Earth & Sustainability and the Master of Fine Arts for Poets and Writers Program.
Land Acknowledgement

In a year-long consultative and deeply collaborative process with respected advisors from local Tribal Nations, the UMass Native Advisory Council co-developed this campus Land Acknowledgement. This Acknowledgement affirms our campus connection and relationship to the land the campus is built upon and our continued connection to the Nations who were the original inhabitants and caretakers of this land. The University of Massachusetts Amherst acknowledges that it was founded and built on the unceded homelands of the Pocumtuc Nation on the land of the Norrwutuck community.

We begin with gratitude for nearby waters and lands, including the Kwinitekw -- the southern portion of what's now called the Connecticut River. We recognize these lands and waters as important Relations with which we are all interconnected and depend on to sustain life and wellbeing.

The Norrwutuck community was one of many Pocumtuc Indian towns, including the Tribal seat at Pocumtuc (in present day Deerfield), Agawam (Springfield), and Woronoco (Westfield) to name just a few. The Pocumtuc, who had connections with these lands for millennia, are part of a vast expanse of Algonquian relations. Over 400 years of colonization, Pocumtuc Peoples were displaced. Many joined their Algonquian relatives to the east, south, west and north—extant communities of Wampanoa, including Aquinnah, Herring Pond, and Mashpee, Massachusetts; the Nipmuc with a reservation at Grafton/Hassanamisco, Massachusetts; the Narragansett in Kingstown, Rhode Island; Schaghticoke, Mohegan and Pequot Peoples in Connecticut; the Abenaki and other Nations of the Wabanaki Confederacy extending northward into Canada; and the Stockbridge Munsee Mohican of New York and Massachusetts, who were removed to Wisconsin in the 19th century. Over hundreds of years of removal, members of Southern New England Tribes would make the journey home to tend important places and renew their connections to their ancestral lands. Such care and connection to land and waters continues to the present day.

Today, Indigenous Nations in southern New England continue to employ diverse strategies to resist ongoing colonization, genocide, and erasure begun by the English, French, Dutch, Portuguese and other European Nations, and that continued when Tribal homelands became part of the United States. Native Americans from Tribal Nations across the U.S. and Indigenous peoples from around the world also travel into these Pocumtuc homelands to live and work. This land has always been and always will be, Native Land.

We also acknowledge that the University of Massachusetts Amherst is a Land Grant University. As part of the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862, Tribal lands from 84 Native Nations west of the Mississippi were sold to provide the resources to found and build this university.

This Land Acknowledgement is the first step in the university's commitment to practice intellectual humility whilst working with Tribal Nations toward a better shared future on Turtle Island. We aim to foster understanding, deep respect, and honor for sovereign Tribal Nations; to develop relationships of reciprocity; and to be inclusive of Native perspectives and thriving Native Nations far into the future. Members of Massachusetts-based Tribal Nations who are kin to the historic Pocumtuc contributed their insights in composing this acknowledgement -- namely Tribal representatives from Mashpee, Aquinnah, and Stockbridge Munsee. As an active first step toward decolonization, we encourage you to learn more about the Indigenous peoples on whose homelands UMass Amherst now resides on and the Indigenous homelands on which you live and work.
**Moderator, NOY HOLLAND**, Author, Professor of the MFA for Poets and Writers Program, and Paperbark Magazine Faculty Advisor

Noy Holland is the 2018 recipient of the Katherine Anne Porter prize from the American Academy of Arts & Letters. She is the author of the novel Bird, and four collections of short fiction, *The Spectacle of the Body*, *What Begins with Bird*, *Swim for the Little One First*, and *I Was Trying to Describe What It Feels Like: New and Selected Stories*. Holland has been a professor in the MFA for Poets and Writers at the University of Massachusetts since 1997. She currently serves as the faculty advisor for the interdisciplinary journal Paperbark, and joins faculty and staff across campus and disciplines to shepherd the Art Sustainability Activism annual collaboration.

**PANELISTS:**

**KIM BLAESER**, Our series featured poet

Kim is a poet, photographer, and scholar, is a past Wisconsin Poet Laureate and founding director of In-Na-Po, Indigenous Nations Poets. The author of five poetry collections including *Copper Yearning*, *Apprenticed to Justice*, and the bilingual *Résister en dansant/Ikwe-niimi: Dancing Resistance*, Blaeser is an Anishinaabe activist and environmentalist and an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation. A Professor at UW–Milwaukee and an MFA faculty member at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, she lives in rural Wisconsin; and, for portions of each year, in a water-access cabin near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota. Additional information is available here: [http://kblaeser.org](http://kblaeser.org)

**BAOBAO CHEN**, One of our series featured artists

BaoBao Chen is Small Island Big Song’s manager and project producer. Having negotiated, booked, planned and tour-managed several successful international concert tours across Europe, the USA, Asia and Oceania, involving up to 13 artists from 8 countries, whilst releasing a music album, creating an interactive website and bringing a feature film to screen, BaoBao is one of Taiwan’s most prominent producers of cross-cultural arts projects. With a B.A. in Business Management from YuanZe University in Taiwan, BaoBao has realised Small Island Big Song project from the grassroots up, fundraising through crowdfunding, philanthropic bodies and arts grants along with initiating the project’s Fair Trade Music structure and recognition of Intangible Cultural Heritage. As a vivid storyteller and fluent in English and Mandarin, she has a social media following of 150K+, and has been invited to present at TEDx, APAP NYC, WOMEX, World Stage Design and numerous film and music festivals. She was brought up by a vegan family on an organic farm and was a member of the Roots and Shoots program of the Jane Goodall Foundation. It was her skills in arts management and her love for nature that founded Small Island Big Song.
**TIM COLE**, One of our series featured artists

Tim Cole is Small Island Big Song’s director, music producer, VJ, is an Australian creative who has been working on cross-cultural arts projects with music at the heart since producing Not Drowning Waving’s album and DVD ‘Tabaran’ in Papua New Guinea. Developing skills whilst studying film-making at Melbourne University during the day and producing music at night led to a career of equal parts film and music. His reputation in Indigenous arts led him to Alice Springs as Senior Music Producer for CAAMA - Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association. It was the experience there recording traditional songlines, whilst hearing the 5th IPCC report, which led to the founding of ‘Small Island Big Song’. Tim holds a BEd. in Media Arts from Melbourne University and A.D. in Music Production from the University of Victoria in Australia and has received a Churchill fellowship and invitation to speak on climate change and the arts at the United Nations, APAP NYC, WOMEX, along with industry recognition through numerous awards for projects he has played a key creative role on.

**ANDY DANYLCHUK**, fisheries scientist and ocean conservation professor

Throughout his life, Andy has been on a personal crusade to ensure that fish are around for future generations to enjoy, whether on the end of a fishing line, on a dinner plate, or simply to watch in wonder. His work spans both marine and freshwater systems, and broadly examines how fish responded to natural and anthropogenic disturbances. Much of Andy’s current research focuses on evaluating the potential impacts of recreational angling on fish populations and working with user groups to develop best practices for catch-and-release, including for fish species in the Indo-Pacific. Andy is an award-winning educator, spokesperson, and advocate for positively affecting change when it comes to fish and the complex social-ecological systems they are nested in.

**Salina Leem**, One of our series featured performers

Salina is a spoken word poet and climate activist from the Marshall Islands. Selina is among the global faces of climate change, representing her country in the film ‘Before the Flood’ produced by Leonardo DiCaprio and as the youngest speaker at the COP21 for Paris Agreement, making a passionate plea to global leaders for stronger action on climate change. Selina can push her audience into a place of understanding and care for her homeland, whilst making them look into the future and see the repercussions of current global actions. Her spoken word pieces have been heard across the globe, and form the narrative of the show.

**ELLY O’LEARY**, Paperbark Magazine

Ellen O’Leary (she/her) is a fiction writer and second-year candidate in the MFA for Poets and Writers at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. After earning her BA in English from Harvard University, she worked in journalism and entertainment. Since arriving at UMass, she has read for the Massachusetts Review and for the Juniper Prizes for Fiction and Creative Nonfiction. She is a member of Paperbark Magazine’s editorial staff and currently lives in Northampton, MA.
**Additional Resources:**

Our Sea of Islands. (1994)
Hau’ofa, Epeli (Tonga) Scholarly Article

Terri Janke and Company (Indigenous Law Firm in Australia)
True Tracks, Respecting Indigenous knowledge and culture (book & workshop)
Indigenous Knowledge: Issues for protection and management (paper)
First Peoples: A roadmap for enhancing Indigenous engagement in museums and galleries (paper)
Protocols for using First Nations Cultural and IP in Arts (paper)

The Anthropocene (website/magazine)
[https://www.anthropocenemagazine.org/](https://www.anthropocenemagazine.org/)

I Ideas to Postpone the End of the World (2020)
Krenak, Ailton. (Brazil, Krenaki Tribe)

Yunkaporta, Tyson. (Aboriginal Australian)

Indigenomics: Taking a Seat at the Economic Table (2021)
Hilton, Carol Anne. (Nuu chah nulth descent from the Hesquiaht Nation on Vancouver Island)
[https://newsociety.com/books/i/indigenomics](https://newsociety.com/books/i/indigenomics)

Being the Change: Live Well and Spark a Climate Revolution (2017)
Kalmus, Peter. (American climate scientist at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab)
[https://peterkalmus.net/books/read-by-chapter-being-the-change/](https://peterkalmus.net/books/read-by-chapter-being-the-change/)

Breaking Boundaries: The Science of Our Planet (2021) Film) hosted by David Attenborough
[https://www.imdb.com/title/tt14539726/](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt14539726/)

Chasing Coral (2017) Film directed by Jeff Orlowski
[https://www.imdb.com/title/tt6333054/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt6333054/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1)