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# How (and Why) to Look at Art in the Era of Climate Change

Spring 2022



Myoung Ho Lee, *Tree...#7*, 2014

ARTH265  
University of Maryland  
MW 11:00-11:50 (& discussion sections)  
2203 Parren J. Mitchell Art-Soc. Bldg.

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The earth is now more than 1° C warmer than before industrialization, and the drastic effects of climate change are more pronounced each year. Certainly we need technological and political innovation to slow and reverse climate change and to ameliorate its effects, but ***how can art, too, provide unique help to us in meeting the challenge of climate change?*** This course considers selected art works, mostly from the last 100 years, that invite us to think creatively about the relationship between human beings and the non-human world. As we look closely at these innovative art works, we will ask: what ideas, beliefs, and values can we draw from them to help us build the mindset of a truly sustainable civilization?

We will consider paintings, photographs, films, novels and even some songs, considering each for its versions of such key ideas as *nature, civilization, industry*, and even *the human being*. In addition to those in art history, some readings will address climate-change science and policy, while others will address human psychology, mindfulness, and creativity. Our work will include in-person study of art on campus and a creative personal response project representing your own developing ideas about how we can be responsible citizens of this planet. The course includes four units: (1) The Science, Policy, and Psychology of Climate Change; (2) Modern Landscapes, Modern Art; (3) Art and the Environment Since 1960; and (4) Creativity, Mindfulness, and Climate.

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