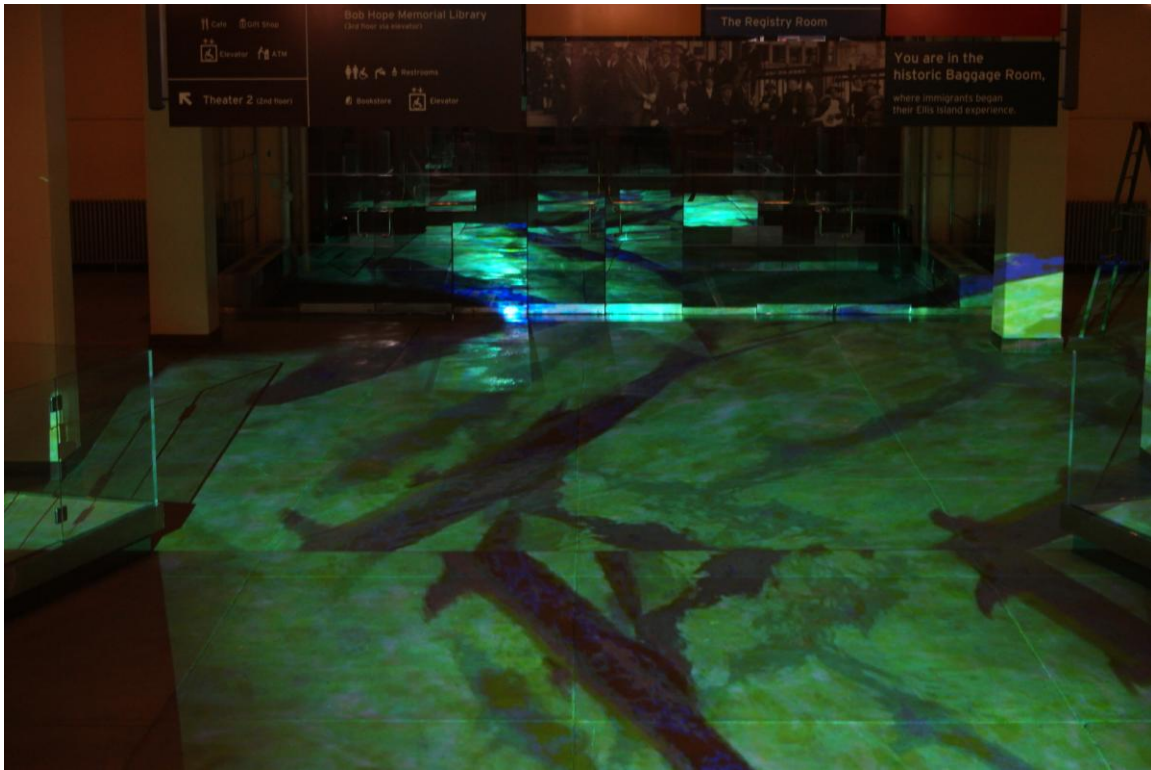


ArtW + WATERSHED

Anita Glesta



WATERSHED

Ellis Island Customs House April 2016

In its site-specific iterations, WATERSHED's mission is to catalyze conversation about climate change and infrastructure issues that are critical to the future of waterfront cities by acting as a moving warning sign, subtly enveloping people with its captivating sounds, images, and large-scale presence as a projection in a way that is simultaneously healing and impossible to ignore.

WATERSHED is a large-scale public art project that has moved around the world. In 2013, just after Super Storm Sandy, WATERSHED was shown as an indoor and outdoor work during the New Museum Festival of Ideas. The video was projected onto the wall of St. Patrick's Basilica in the Lower East Side, an area that was hard hit by the super storm. It was projected onto the face of the National Theater in London in September 2015. In April 2016 WATERSHED was an immersive video projection covering the entire floor of the

lobby of the Customs House on Ellis Island, NYC for an event commissioned by Al Gore.

Since the installation with the New Museum, WATERSHED has been developed further, strengthening its impact through the integration of sound and scientific data. The massive scale and public venue of this installation has been key to transforming this work into an informational vehicle.



WATERSHED

National Theater Sept 2015

Says the artist,

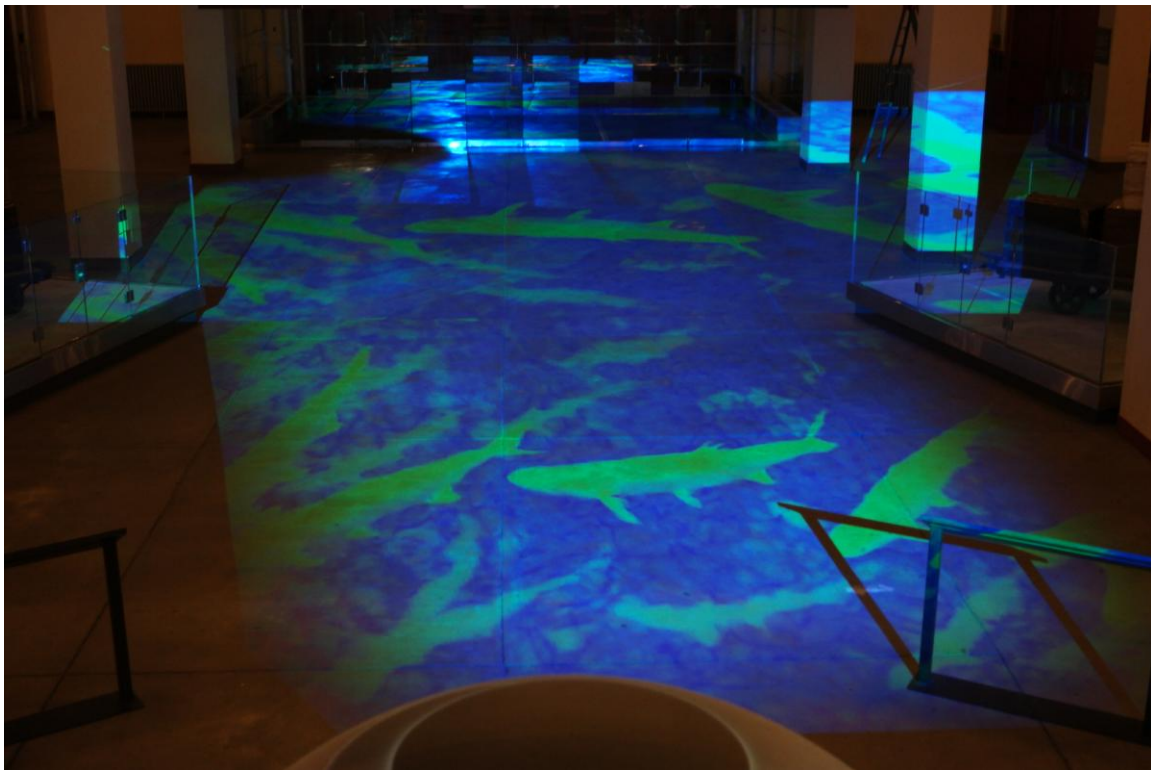
“WATERSHED brings the natural world into urban public spaces by projecting large-scale images and sounds of fish and flooding water into the surroundings. The large-scale projection addresses climate change through visual seduction, inviting people to learn about global warming as they watch mesmerizing images of colorful fish. In London, millions of people were able to see the giant fish on the skyline of London for six nights.

I see WATERSHED as a new and different kind of public art/public space initiative. It highlights how climate change is impacting people’s lives in intimate ways, affecting where we can live, what we can eat, and our physical and

emotional health. At the same time, this work serves communities in a unique way by providing an engaging and encompassing virtual seascape where viewers are brought into dialogue with each other and their surroundings as well as with the work itself. By transforming the urban landscape into a virtual sea, WATERSHED has entered into the current dialogue about our need for better infrastructure and catalyzes community awareness of the city's relationship to water"

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, sea levels could rise by more than three feet by the end of this century. The United States Army Corps of Engineers projects that they could rise by as much as five feet; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts up to six and a half feet.

WATERSHED should be a part of the Satellite Art Show in Miami because it can serve as a significant tool that can empower the community to access information within the imagery. Projecting WATERSHED with site-specific facts about Miami's own climate concerns would open up a dialogue about how the city should be tackling these inevitable changes in the environment. This would be an excellent art project for Mayor Levine to stand behind and use as a platform of communication that will invite people to viscerally feel what might happen to the city of Miami if there is not immediate support for changes to the infrastructure and for the world to support methods of curbing the increase of global warming.



WATERSHED

Ellis Island Customs House April 2016

Links to WATERSHED

<https://vimeo.com/153038380> London, National Theater 9/15

<https://vimeo.com/164413437> Ellis Island, NYC 4/16

<http://www.studiointernational.com/index.php/anita-glesta-watershed-video-interview-national-theatre-totally-thames-festival-2015-london>

ArtW is a not-for-profit organization promoting women artists and artists of diverse backgrounds through advocacy, curation, and education. Since 2008 ArtW has created engaging symposiums and other programming related to underrepresented artists at major art venues such as Art Miami, Miami Project, and Art 15.

Please learn more at <http://www.artw.org/>

Artist Bio

Anita Glesta's work has consistently been informed by the physical properties of a site, as well as by its traces of human history.

Whether forming places for people to gather and reflect on the memory of an event or creating an integrated structure within a landscape, Glesta's works have humanized the public experience by offering an intimate connection with the viewer. Her realized works encompass numerous artistic approaches, from object making to time-based installation sculpture and digital works, including the creation of mediascapes and actual landscapes.

"All of my work aims to subvert and to catalyze different ways to think about our "naked" humanity in a historic and contemporary context. I integrate these concerns by inviting the viewer to look and to engage with their entire physical and psychological selves."

Anita Glesta is an internationally recognized artist whose permanent and public works have been installed throughout the world. Among her permanent public commissions are the Federal Census Bureau, a GSA Art in Architecture Commission, a permanent public park in the center of Sydney, Australia, The Yurong Water Gardens and a permanent commission in Chianti Sculpture park in Chianti, Italy. Her temporal installations have included a public art sound work installed at Chase Manhattan Plaza in 2007 with the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, GERNIKA/GUERNICA, which subsequently travelled to the Museum of Contemporary Art, Krakow, the Sackler Museum Beijing, China among other Museums.

Glesta's installations and videos have included solo shows in galleries, non-profit spaces and, Museums in New York and internationally.

More recently her video installation, WATERSHED was a public art projection that has been installed during the New Museum Ideas City Festival, NYC and the face of the National Theater in London.

She has been a recipient of many grants and awards, PollockKrasner, NYFA, Puffin, and, a New York State Council for the Arts New Media fellowship .

Glesta lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.



WATERSHED

National Theater London Sept 2015