

UC's "Reinventing Nature" series will hold second seminar at UCSD, November 6-7

October 22, 1992

Contact: Helen Mayer Harrison, Department of Visual Arts, 481-9351 or Adam Wolpert, 259-1138

UC'S "REINVENTING NATURE" SERIES WILL HOLD SECOND SEMINAR AT UCSD

What role do the various arts play in contemporary ecological activities? A two-day seminar, titled "Reinventing Nature: Ecological Art and Social Responsibility," will be held Nov. 6-7, at the University of California, San Diego.

Organized by ecological artists Helen Mayer and Newton Harrison, both professors of visual art at UCSD, the event will bring together scholars and practitioners of the visual, verbal and theatrical arts, to address the way we think about art and ecology, and our subsequent attitudes and behaviors toward the environment.

Friday's events will take place between 8-10:30 p.m. in UCSD's Humanities and Social Science Building (EPS) Room 2250. On Saturday, the events will take place between 10 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. and 1:30-5:30 p.m. in the UCSD Mandeville Auditorium. The conference is free and open to the public.

Friday evening's schedule is: Helen Mayer Harrison will give the conference introduction and welcome address; George Lakoff will give a brief commentary on the "Significance of Metaphor"; William Cronon will speak on "Telling Tales on Canvas: Landscapes of Frontier Change," and the Harrisons will speak on "Between the World Forest, the Park and the Garden: Ecological Interventions in the Environment."

Lakoff, a UC Berkeley professor of linguistics and author of such critically acclaimed works as "Metaphors We Live By," and "Women, Fire, and Dangerous Things," will talk about the role of metaphor in shaping the ways in which we think about the environment, and our subsequent behaviors.

Cronon, a professor of history at the University of Wisconsin, is well known for his works "Changes in the Land," and "Nature's Metropolis." He will discuss ways in which our cultural values and attitudes toward the land and other living things affect the environment.

The Harrisons, internationally known for their work in ecological art, will present plans for works that would reclaim various international ecological calamities. Among these projects are the reclamation of forests, debris basins, strip mines in Europe and the United States, and the conceptual design of landfills.

Saturday's program will begin with Lakoff speaking on "Environmental Metaphors," followed by poet Jerome Rothenberg, chair of the UCSD Department of Visual Arts, on "Ecological Strategies in Twentieth Century Poetry and Ethnopoetics."

Saturday afternoon will be a series of performances and presentations titled, "Ecological Subject Matter, Culturally Described." The presenters will be playwright Cheney Ryan of Eugene, Ore.; Abdel Salaam with the Forces of Nature Dance Ensemble and G. Peter Jemison, who will present a program of visual and performance art. Ryan is co-founder of the traveling theatre company "Teatro Adelante," which presents plays to farm workers

in the fields. The plays deal with, among other things, such ecological problems as the dangers of pesticides and herbicides.

The African American dance troupe, "Forces of Nature," from New York City, under the direction of Abdel Salaam will perform "Eternal Earth," followed by performance and visual art by G. Peter Jemison, a Native American (Seneca), from Rochester, New York.

The seminar will close with a panel presentation by participants, and a question and answer period, to discuss issues that were brought forth during the two-day event.

This event is the second in a series of University of California Humanities Research Institute (UCHRI) conferences taking place over a three-year period. The four-part series, titled "Reinventing Nature," will be presented over the 1992-93 academic year, at UC Berkeley, UCSD, UC Santa Cruz and UC Davis. The series is sponsored by UCHRI through the support of the Nathan Cummings Foundation. This event also was sponsored by UCSD Division of Arts and Humanities. For information contact Helen Mayer Harrison at 481-9351 or Adam Wolpert at 259-1138. Parking permits are required on the UCSD campus during the day and for evening events. They may be obtained at the UCSD Information Pavilions at the entrances to the UCSD campus on Gilman Drive and Northview Drive.

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