

# CRISTIN TIERNEY

July 19, 2022

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## Janet Biggs and peter campus *Journeys to Places Known and Unknown* Curated by Terrie Sultan

Sarasota Art Museum

October 2, 2022 – January 15, 2023

Opening Reception: Friday, September 30, 6-8 pm

Cristin Tierney Gallery is pleased to announce the exhibition *Journeys to Places Known and Unknown* featuring video works by Janet Biggs and peter campus at Sarasota Art Museum of Ringling College. Organized by Terrie Sultan, *Journeys to Places Known and Unknown* is the museum's first show dedicated to new media and the first collaborative exhibition for these two artists. The show debuts Friday, September 30th with a private reception and opens to the public on Sunday, October 2. It will remain on view through Sunday, January 15, 2023.

Alternating in scale between immersive and intimate, *Journeys to Places Known and Unknown* includes multi- and single-channel projections as well as video installations on flatscreen monitors. Individual galleries house the different works, giving each video space for contemplation while also creating a dynamic dialogue that stretches across the second floor of the museum. The show highlights the strengths of both artists: Biggs presents expansive, hauntingly beautiful tributes to humanity's perseverance in intense situations. campus, meanwhile, offers quiet moments of meditation with his painstakingly constructed, painterly videographs.

Curator Terrie Sultan finds the common thread connecting the two artists in the liminal zone between our perception of a location and its hidden narratives. Sultan explains, "For Biggs and campus, time is a rubric on which they construct a sense of place that melds together physical reality and personal consciousness.... Each, in their own way, addresses the natural world and the effects that humankind has wrought by intersecting subjective and objective reality. Their depictions of journeys—whether to places close to home or in the far reaches of the world—bring opposing realities into a cohesive whole."<sup>1</sup>

*Journeys to Places Known and Unknown* is the product of a year of conversations between the curator and artists about nature, ecology, the sublime, and spirituality. Biggs and campus have long been interested in the threats of climate change and human activity on the environment. Biggs has filmed in some of the places most impacted by global warming on the planet, including the Taklamakan Desert, Afar Triangle, the Arctic,

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<sup>1</sup> Sultan, Terrie. 2022. "Journeys to Places Known and Unknown."

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and Antarctica. campus's work has focused exclusively on landscape since the 1980s, when he began collecting and photographing stones picked up on walks along Montauk Beach. For both artists, looking to nature has enabled them to feel hope for the future and a connection to a wider community. Although their styles and approaches are different, *Journeys to Places Known and Unknown* represents a cohesive look at both artists' work, and their use of moving image to change how we see the natural world. Virginia Shearer, Executive Director of Sarasota Art Museum, says about the exhibition: "We are excited to bring the work of Janet Biggs and peter campus to Sarasota. As the region's only dedicated contemporary art museum, introducing audiences and students to new art and pioneering artists is central to our mission. Through our connection to Ringling College, *Journeys to Places Known and Unknown* provides students access to groundbreaking new media and video art that will help them develop their practice as artists working with the moving image."

**Janet Biggs's** (b. 1959, Harrisburg, PA) work focuses on extreme landscapes and situations, drawing connections between physical terrains and psychological, societal, or political dynamics. She has had solo exhibitions and film screenings at the SCAD Museum of Art, University of Waterloo Art Gallery, Blaffer Museum of Art, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Tampa Museum of Art, Skulpturenmuseum Glaskasten Marl, Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Mint Museum of Art, Everson Museum of Art, Gibbes Museum of Art, and the Rhode Island School of Design Museum, among others. She is the recipient of numerous grants, including the Guggenheim Fellowship, Electronic Media and Film Program at the New York State Council on the Arts Award, Arctic Circle Fellowship/Residency, Art Matters, Inc., Wexner Center Media Arts Program Residency, Anonymous Was a Woman Award, and the NEA Fellowship Award.

Her works are in the collections of the SCAD Museum of Art, Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain (FRAC), Zabłudowicz Collection, Skulpturenmuseum Glaskasten Marl (Ruhr Kunst Museen), Tampa Museum of Art, High Museum, Figge Art Museum, Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Mint Museum of Art, Gibbes Museum of Art, and the New Britain Museum of Art. Biggs is a member of The Explorer's Club and New Museum's cultural incubator, NEW INC, with the support of Science Sandbox. In 2020, she sent a project up to the International Space Station as part of MIT Media Lab's Space Exploration Initiative. Biggs's studio is in Brooklyn, NY.

**peter campus** (b. 1937, New York, NY) is an influential artist in the canons of new media and video art. After receiving a Bachelor of Science in Experimental Psychology from Ohio State University in 1960, he studied at The City College Film Institute and participated in the experimental workshops at Boston's famous WGBH-TV. In 1975, campus received the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, and in 1976, he was awarded the National Endowment for the Art Fellowship. His work has been exhibited extensively with solo shows at the Jeu de Paume, CAAC, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, Culturgest, Whitney Museum of American Art, Kunsthalle Bremen, Centre Georges Pompidou, The Power Plant, Antiguo Colegio de San Ildefonso, The High Museum, and University of Michigan Museum of Art.

campus is represented in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, Buffalo AKG Art Museum, Parrish Art Museum, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Centre Georges Pompidou, Hamburger Bahnhof - Museum für Gegenwart, Harvard Art Museums, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museo Nacional de Arte Reina Sofia, Walker Art Center, Weatherspoon Art Museum, and Tate Modern. His pioneering career encompasses a wide range of media, including early video art, photography, and digital video. In his recent digital video work, campus transforms footage of landscapes and interiors using sophisticated digital techniques. A catalogue raisonné of the artist's work is forthcoming. His studio is based in East Patchogue, NY.

**Terrie Sultan's** curatorial vision encompasses a dedication to admired but under-represented artists and concepts; celebration of the genius of artmaking and the creative process; recognition of the importance of inclusiveness of voices and access to information. Sultan has focused on exhibitions, publications, and public programs that explore artistic imagination, to illuminate how creativity can transform our experiences

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and understanding of our world and how we live in it. Whether working on projects focused on a single individual or developing group shows presenting ideas and ideals relevant to contemporary discourse, she seeks to make exhibitions that afford opportunities for reflection and discovery, context and interpretation as a means of accessing the artists' voice.

**Sarasota Art Museum** is The Ringling College of Art and Design's dynamic laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Sarasota Art Museum shares the Ringling College Museum Campus with Ringling College's Continuing Studies program comprised of the non-credit Studio and Digital Arts program and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Ringling College.

As Sarasota's only museum solely focused on contemporary artists and their work, Sarasota Art Museum offers visitors a place to see thought-provoking exhibitions and participate in education programs that start conversations and amplify the city's creative spirit. Located in the historic Sarasota High School, Sarasota Art Museum opened to the public in 2019 in the beautifully reimagined building by K/R Architects. The new Museum is comprised of 15,000 square feet of dedicated exhibition space, a plaza court, the Great Lawn featuring temporary sculpture and site-specific installations, Bistro, and SHOP.

## Images

Left: Single-screen image of Janet Biggs, Agnieszka Miedlar, and Daniel Tapia Takaki, *Entanglements*, 2022. six-channel HD video installation with sound and interactive whiteboards. three endless loops, 5:08 minutes each, total running time 15:24 minutes.

Right: Still image of peter campus, *dune tree*, 2021. videograph. 8:00 minutes, looped.

## Inquiries

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