



For Immediate Release

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A Studio in the Woods Announces 2022-23 Rising: Climate in Crisis Residents
Nine artists selected to participate in creative residency program addressing climate change

NEW ORLEANS, LA - A Studio in the Woods is pleased to announce the 2022-2023 Rising: Climate in Crisis Residents. These residencies invite artists to examine the severity of the climate crisis and be agents of change to guide our collective understanding, response, and vision as we shape our shared future. As the climate crisis permeates the collective understanding of the future, the challenges faced by Southern Louisiana resonate exponentially. We look to artists to ignite our imaginations, illuminate our challenges, and offer new ways to examine the world.

Zeelie Brown (NY) makes Black and queer wilderness refuges called “soulsapes” to (re)imagine what nature might be. [Zeelie's](#) residency project, *Little Creole Gardens*, aims to tend a revolutionary front of Black wilderness which rages against the tide of white greed threatening to drown our world. To that aim, they will design a creole liberation wild garden - via research in New Orleans’ wealth of archives of Gulf South visual and material culture - providing a groundwork for future acts within a creole aesthetic of survival.

Niki Franco (FL) is a Caribbean abolitionist community organizer, writer, and facilitator of spaces for collective study. Seeking to disrupt the bureaucratic frameworks of academia and transactional ways relationships exist under capitalism, [her work](#) experiments with truth-telling, radical history, and revolutionary imagination. Niki's residency will support the development of a short film project titled *Constellations Illuminating the Swamp*, an educational/creative resource for community organizers, activists, researchers, artists, and educators.

Simi Kang (Canada) is a mixed Sikh American community advocate, educator, artist, and scholar. [Their work](#) centers Asian American collaborative resistance as a site for imagining environmentally and economically just futures in southeast Louisiana. Their project, *Mapping Shrimping Futures*, engages community-based organizations and Southeast Asian American fishing families to create audio and physical story maps. Through this, the project aims to re-emplace stories and experiences that are kept out of official maps about climate change, population density, and the health of our water and land.

Quintron and Miss Pussycat (LA) will create a live puppet show about extreme weather events, which will utilize a “Wildlife Organ” built and installed at A Studio in the Woods. This unique instrument will use specially-housed microphones to intimately capture and process the broad spectrum of natural

sounds on-site, routing each distinct sound back to a playable, musical keyboard. The puppet show will use research on the Little Ice Age, Pompei, Noah's Ark and the Epic of Gilgamesh to develop a story directly related to living in Louisiana. [Quintron and Miss Pussycat](#) have been collaborating for the past two decades.

Hye Sea's (MD) residency project will focus on documenting the stories of those who are devoted to being stewards of the land and earth. She will create a [solar-engraved collection](#) of portraiture and collage to shine a light on Black, melanated, and/or Indigenous identified stewards. Her intention is to take viewers on a journey into the medicine each steward has discovered through their collaboration with the land and what it looks like to trust in the wisdom found in nature.

Nailah Jefferson (LA) and **Laurie Sumiye** (HI) - With nature as their guide, a New Orleans-born [filmmaker](#) and Hawaii-born [artist](#) from two different tourist-driven, coastal economies grappling with climate-caused sea rise will explore the historical effects invasive species have on fragile native ecosystems and relate it to the growing threat of gentrification in their neighborhoods. They ask the question, "Can equity be maintained when invasion occurs?"

Rachel Lin Weaver (VA) will work on *MOSQUITO DANCE*, a two-part experimental short film and video/projection mapping installation created through partnerships with tropical medicine researchers, entomologists, and Native elders. Looking closely at mosquitoes as vectors and cultural symbols [the project](#) contends with disease history in the American South, climate crisis-caused tropical disease, and Louisiana American Indian community resilience in the face of climate crisis.

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A Studio in the Woods, a program of Tulane University's ByWater Institute, is one of the leading artistic and academic residency programs in the Gulf South region. The Studio fosters creative responses to the challenges of our time by providing retreat to artists, scholars, and the public in our protected forest on the Mississippi River. We focus on interrelated areas of programming, including residencies for artists and scholars, forest restoration, and science-inspired art engagement for children and adults. For more information visit: www.astudiointhewoods.org.