

Aviva Rahmani
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Narrative Biography

Pioneering ecological artist Aviva Rahmani exhibits, publishes, and presents internationally. Her project, *The Blued Trees Symphony* (2015- present), legally challenges expanding fossil fuel infrastructures with copyrighted and sonified installations across miles of North America. Her work has been included in exhibitions at the Independent Museum of Contemporary Art, Cyprus; the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, Colorado; the Hudson River Museum, NY; the Cincinnati Center for Contemporary Art, Ohio; and the Joseph Beuys 100 days of Conference Pavilion, for the Venice Biennale, Italy. Her work has won numerous grants, fellowships and been written about internationally. She is an Affiliate with the Institute for Arctic and Alpine Research at the University of Colorado at Boulder; gained her PhD from the University of Plymouth, UK and received her BFA and MFA at the California Institute of the Arts. She is currently completing a residency with the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council on Governors Island.

Selected Curriculum Vitae

Education

2010-2015 Doctorate in Trigger Point Theory as Aesthetic Activism, *University of Plymouth*, England, UK
1972-1974 MFA Multi-media and Electronic Music *California Institute of the Arts*, Valencia, CA,
1971-1972 BFA Multi-media and Electronic Music, *California Institute of the Arts*, Valencia, CA,
1964-1967 *The Cooper Union School of Art & Architecture*, New York City, NY (undergraduate
2018 *Juilliard School of Music*, New York City, NY (Music Theory classes)
2019 *Lehman College*, CUNY, New York City, NY (Advanced Certificate GISc)
1999- 2019 Bel canto voice lessons from Debra Vanderlinde, New York City, NY

Awards and Affiliations

2020 *MAP Fund Grant* from the Multi-Arts Production (MAP) Fund supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, New York City, NY
2019 - 2020 *LMCC Artist Residency*, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC) at LMCC's Arts Center at Governors Island, New York, NY
2018 *Arts & Humanities Grant* from the Maine Humanities Council (Portland, ME) in partnership with the Maine Arts Commission (Augusta, ME)
2017 *ABOG Fellow for Contemplative Practice* (Inaugural) in partnership with the Hemera Foundation, (for work on *Blued Trees*), A Blade of Grass (ABOG) foundation, Brooklyn, NY
2016 - 2019 *Ethelwyn Doolittle Justice and Outreach Fund of the Community Church of New York Unitarian Universalist* for *Blued Trees* (renewed 3 years following initial award, maximum offered) New York, NY
2016 *NYFA Fellowship* (Architecture/ Environmental Structures/ Design) New York Foundation for the Arts, New York, NY
2015 *NEA Ecology Residency*, ISCP International Studio & Curatorial Program, Brooklyn, NY
2010 - present *Affiliate with the Institute for Arctic and Alpine Research* (INSTAAR), at the University of Colorado Boulder, CO
2010 - present *NYFA Fiscal Sponsorship*, New York Foundation for the Arts, New York, NY

Selected Group Exhibitions

2020 *Weaving Justice* curated by Thalia Vrachopoulos John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, NY (dates and times TBD)
ecofeminism(s) curated by Monika Fabijanska, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York, NY
June 18 - July 24

- 2017 *Sixth* curated by Jane Hart at Bridge Red, Miami, Florida.
Carbon Art Project curated by Yu Hyun-Ju at the Korea Research Institute of Chemical Technology (KRICT), Art Gallery, Daejeon, South Korea.
- 2016 *The NEW American Patriot: A Climate Action Exhibition* curated by Rolando Chang Barrero and Mary Jo Agerstoun, The Box Gallery, West Palm Beach, FL July 1-10
Emergent Ecologies Art film screening in exhibition, Kilroy Metal Ceiling, Brooklyn, NY May 21
History of Visual Arts in Boulder – EcoArts Connections at NCAR, curated by Lisa Gardiner and Marda Kirn at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Boulder, CO
Earth SOS curated by Eleanor Flomenhaft and Marcia Annenberg, Flomenhaft Gallery, New York, NY
- 2015 - 2016 *GROUNDED VISIONS: Artistic Research into Environmental Issues* Zurich, Switzerland, November 27 - March 23
- 2015 *Works on Paper* curated by Elaine Crossman, New Era Galley, Vinalhaven ME, September 5 – 25

Selected Artist Talks, Lectures, Workshops and Panels

- 2020 *Talking About Unspeakable Acts: Women, Art, and Sexual Violence* panelist die Firma, New York, NY, February 24
Art, Theory and Practice in the Anthropocene panelist Wave Hill House, Bronx NY, March 24
- 2019 *Law: Perspectives on Environmental Justice* moderated conversation for the University of Minnesota Spotlight Series 2019 -20, Northrop Theater, Minneapolis, MN, November 7
 “Can the Spirit of Art Conserve Forest Contiguity?” presentation for the *2019 Nature, Ecology and Society Network Colloquium* CUNY, New York, NY March 1
Ecology as Intersectionality: Radicalizing Arts of Climate Justice participant in roundtable discussion organized by TJ Demos and Emily Eliza Scott, NYU, New York, NY, Feb 14
- 2018 *Island Place* a 6-part, reading, discussion and journaling workshop made possible with an Arts & Humanities Grant from the Maine Humanities Council, co-led with Scott Candage, Vinalhaven Public Library, Vinalhaven, ME June - August
Precarious Sounds // Sounding Sanctuary NYU Music Department Conference, New York NY, February 16–17
Intervening into a Feverish World panelist for the *Feverish World Symposium* organized by the EcoCulture Lab and University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, October 22
International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD), Columbia University, NYC NY
- 2017 *Landscape Justice* debate/workshop participant for a special symposium hosted by the Landscape Research Group, at the Wellcome Collection, London UK, December 6
Extinct Icons & Ritual Burials artist’s talk, ONCA Gallery, Brighton, UK, December 8
 International Congress of Ecology, *INTECOL*, Moderated by Principle Investigator Dr. Changwoo Ahn, of George Mason), Beijing, China
Infiltration Art, College Art Association, CUNY, New York NY
Us and the Animal Other panel moderator at Central Booking, New York, NY, January 13th
- 2016 *MODELS OF DIVERSITY: CURRENT TRANSDIS COURSES IN ART, SCIENCE AND SOCIAL ISSUES* Moderated by Angela Hillbeck and Jill Scott Zurich, Switzerland February 19-20
 “Home/Not Home: Centering American Studies Where We Are” panelist *American Studies Association (ASA) Conference* Denver, CO, November 17- 20
Master Class Music Composition, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, VA November 4
Blued Trees Symphony talk and performance for EcoScience+Art, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, November 3
- 2015 *Blued Trees for Aqueous Earth* ISCP Talk Sponsored by the NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) at ISCP Brooklyn NY
 "The Value of Food, Food, Water and Art: Connections and Advocacy" Panel Discussion at The Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Cathedral House, New York, NY, November 21
 "Art, Activism and Global Warming" panelist at Flomenhaft Gallery, New York, NY, January 28

- 'Towards resilient ecosystems: restoring the urban, the rural and the wild' in *GAIA Resonant Visions* curated by James Brady for *SER 6th World Conference on Ecological Restoration*
 Film screening and artist's talk, The Whitworth, University of Manchester, August, 27
- 'The Feminist Tea Party Series at the Abrons Arts Center' Abrons Arts Center, New York, NY
 January 8

Selected Publications as Author in Books

- 2019 "Organizing the Approach," in *Provocation, Pedagogy and Strategies, an Anthology of writings About Teaching Ecological Art*, edited by Christopher Fremantle and Aviva Rahmani. New York: New Village Press (publication forthcoming).
- "Blued Trees as Policy: art, law, science and the Anthropocene" in *Art, Theory and Practice in the Anthropocene* Edited by Julie Reiss, Wilmington, Delaware: Vernon Press.
- 2018 "Rocks, Radishes, Restoration: on the relationships between clean water and healthy soil." Aviva Rahmani and Ray Weil in *Field to Palette* Edited by Alex Toland, Jay Stratton Noller and Gerd Wessolek, Boca Raton: CRC Press.
- 2009 *1000x Landscape Architecture*, Germany: Braun.
- 2008 "The Butterfly Effect of Hummingbirds: environmental triage: disturbance theory, trigger points, and virtual analogs for physical sites" in *Sustainability: a new frontier for the arts and cultures* Edited by Sacha Kagan and Volker Kirchberg, Waldkirchen: VAS-Verlag pp: 264-289.
- 2007 "Practical Ecofeminism," in *Blaze: Discourse on Art, Women and Feminism* edited by Karen Frostig and Kathy A. Halamka, Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, p. 315.

Selected Publications as Author in other Publications

- 2019 "The Music of the Trees: *The Blued Trees Symphony* and Opera as Environmental Research and Legal Activism" *Leonardo Music Journal* 2019 Vol. 29, 8-13
https://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1162/lmj_a_01055
- 2016 "Blowin' in the Wind" M/E/A/N/I/N/G: The Final Issue on A Year of Positive Thinking
<https://ayearofpositivethinking.com/2016/12/17/> December
- "The Spirit of Change: Water, Policy and Ecological Artmaking" Center for Humans and Nature
 October 21 2016 <https://www.humansandnature.org/the-spirit-of-change>
- 2015 "Blued Trees on the front lines journal excerpts" *The Brooklyn Rail* available at:
<http://brooklynrail.org/2015/11/criticspage/blued-trees-on-the-front-lines-journal-excerpts> November 5th
- "Blued Trees" *CSPA Quarterly* Issue 12, August 3
- 2014 A Community of Resistance: Collaborative Work with Science and Scientists." *WEAD Magazine* (an online magazine). Issue 7, *CREATING COMMUNITY*, 2014. Available online:
<https://weadartists.org/communities-art-science>.
- "Fish Story Memphis: Memphis is the Centre of the World" *Journal for Environmental Studies and Sciences* [online] Vol. 4 (2; June): 176–179. Available at:
<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs13412-013-0150-z>.
- 2013 "Triggering Change: A Call to Action." *Public Art Review* Vol. 24, Issue 48, Spring/Summer.
- 2012 "Mapping Trigger Point Theory as Aesthetic Activism." *PJIM*, Vol.4, Issue 2, Winter pp.1-9.
http://piim.newschool.edu/journal/issues/2012/01/pdfs/ParsonsJournalForInformationMapping_Rahmani_Aviva.pdf. August 28, 2015.

Selected Writing by Others in Books

- 2014 Lippard, Lucy. *Undermining: A Wild Ride Through Land Use, Politics, and Art in the Changing West*. New York: New Press.
- 2011 Kagan, Sacha. *Art and Sustainability; Connecting Patterns for a Culture of Complexity*. Bielefeld: transcript Verlag.

- 2010 Boetzkes, Amanda. *At the Limit of Form: The Ethics of Contemporary Earth Art*. Published by University of Minnesota Press.
- 2008 Kagan, Sacha & Steinbrugge, Bettina. Eds. *Everything Will Be Fine*. Germany: Universitat Lueneberg.
- 2006 Love, Barbara J. and Cott, Nancy F. *Feminists Who Changed America, 1963-1975*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press.
- 1997 Lippard, Lucy. *The Lure of the Local*. New York: The New Press
- 1994 Braude, Norma and Garrard, Mary D., Eds. *The Power of Feminist Art*. New York: Abrams.
- 1993 Harris, Craig. *Leonardo Almanac* Massachusetts: MIT Press.
- 1988 Raven, Arlene, Ed. *Art in the Public Interest*. Michigan: UMI Press.
- Raven, Arlene. *Crossing Over: Feminism and Art of Social Concern*. Michigan: UMI Research Press
- 1975 Chicago, Judy. *Through the Flower*. New York: Doubleday.

Selected Writing by Others in Additional Publications

- 2020 Heartney, Eleanor. "How the Ecological Art Practices of Today Were Born in 1970s Feminism" *Art in America* May 2020 <https://www.artnews.com/art-in-america/features/ecofeminism-women-in-environmental-art-1202688298/>
- Al-Sweel, Ruba, One-on-One interview for *Canvas Magazine* November/ December 146-147.
- 2017 Kaplan, Isaac. "This Nonprofit Is Willing to Bet That Art Can Change the World" *Artsy* May 1 <https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-nonprofit-bet-art-change>
- Bajaj, Jaya. "Art, Copyright, and Activism: Could the Intersection of Environmental Art and Copyright Law Provide a New Avenue for Activists to Protest Various Forms of Exploitation?" *Northwestern Journal of Technology and Intellectual Property* 15, No 1
- 2016 Lim, Audrea. "How Land Art Lived and Died to Stop a Fracked Gas Pipeline and How It Lives Again" *Village Voice* available at: <https://www.villagevoice.com/2016/06/29/how-land-art-lived-and-died-to-stop-a-fracked-gas-pipeline-and-how-it-lives-again/> June 27.
- Rossi, Izzy. "Local Activists Use Art to Block Pipeline" *Collegiate Times*, November 19 http://www.collegiatetimes.com/news/local-activists-use-art.blockpipeline/article_33bfd510-ae9a-11e6-8034-1719d6c51df1.html
- Gresham, Hunter. "Art Raises Awareness about Trees in Pipeline's Path" Virginia Tech website posting, available online: <https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2016/11/110816-dsa-bluedtrees.html> November 4.
- Stambouli, Anissa. "Trash Talk, Eco-Activist Artwork and Sustainable Creativity" (pages 180 - 182) published by the online magazine, *INSPADES*.
- Averett, Nancy. "An artist uses her creativity to fight the construction of natural gas pipelines," *Earth Island Journal* June 16 http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/elist/eListRead/copyrighting_nature/
- Denson, Roger. "Earth Day EcoArt Confronts Deforestation, Fracking, Nuclear Hazards In Eastern US Woodlands," *Huffington Post*: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/g-roger-denson/earth-day-ecoart-confront_b_9721354.html April, 21.
- Williams, Wes. "Landowners Put Hope in Art Project to Combat Pipeline," *WVTF.org* online publication available at: <http://wvtf.org/post/landowners-put-hope-art-project-combat-pipeline#stream/0> April, 19.
- 2015 Koepfel, Frederic. "'Memphis Social' Vast project spans breadth of city's arts scene." *The Commercial Appeal* [Memphis] 9 May 2013: 1M and 4M. Print.
- Ingram, Mrill. "Washing urban water: diplomacy in environmental art in the Bronx, New York City." *Gender, Place & Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography*. Available online: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2013.769429>.
- Collins, Shay. "Aviva Rahmani's Blued Trees and the Fight Against Pipelines" *The Cornell Daily Sun* online publication available at: <http://cornellsun.com/2015/12/03/aviva-rahmanis-blued-trees-and-the-fight-against-pipelines/> December 3.
- Baumgardner, Julie. "Nine Artists Respond to Climate Change" *Artsy* September 22

- <https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-nine-artists-respond-to-climate-change>
 Bogok, Gusti. "Art and Activism: The Blued Trees symphonic movement to put 'public' back in 'public benefit'" *readersupportednews.org* August 28, 2015
http://readersupportednews.org//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=32089
 Clarity. "'Blued Trees.' Art to Stop a Pipeline?" *Sane Energy Project*, online publication July 26
 available at: <https://saneenergyproject.org/2015/07/26/blued-trees-art-to-stop-a-pipeline/>
 Steinhauer, Jillian. "Art to Stop a Pipeline" *Hyperallergic*, September 9
<http://hyperallergic.com/235429/using-art-to-stop-a-pipeline/>

Selected Podcasts, Interviews and Video

- 2019 "Chasing the Light" guest on environmental podcast *Outside/In* interviewed by Taylor Quimby, Dec 19, 2019 <http://outsideinradio.org/shows/yearofwonders-fx7dn>
 "The Art of Protecting Lands: Aviva Rahmani" guest on *State Of The Art* podcast, April 11, 2019\ <https://art19.com/shows/state-of-the-art/episodes/41e5ab5d-611a-47f8-9238-c262581562df>
The Sarah West Love Show, guest with Gale Elston and Robin Scully, live radio conversation April 2, 2019 <https://www.facebook.com/TheWorkFM/videos/349790569212554/>
 "Using ecological art to spark environmental conservation (interview with Aviva Rahmani)" guest on the *Green Dreamer* podcast, with Kamea Chayne, episode # 154, July 11 2019 <https://greendreamer.com/podcast/aviva-rahmani-ecological-artist>
- 2018 "Artist Blocked Pipeline with Blued Trees Symphony," interview by Mitch Ratcliffe for the Podcast *Earth911* May 8, 2018 <https://earth911.com/inspire/artist-blocks-fracking/>
 "Making the trees sing: Using art to try to stop pipelines" guest on *Day 6* hosted by Brent Bambury CBC Radio, April 27, 2018 <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/day6/making-the-trees-sing-using-art-to-try-to-stop-pipelines-1.4634839>
 "Can Art Stop a Pipeline?" A Blade of Grass Film, Produced and Directed by RAVA Films and A Blade of Grass <https://www.abladeofgrass.org/fieldworks/can-art-stop-pipelinefeaturing-artist-aviva-rahmani/>
 "Artist Series: Aviva Rahmani's work with VARA, land use and environmental law," interview with Steve Schindler & Katie Wilson-Milne for The Art Law podcast, November 8, 2018 <http://artlawpodcast.com/2018/11/08/artist-series-aviva-rahmanis-work-with-vara-land-use-and-environmental-law/>
- 2016 *PIPELINE - 19 - BLUED TREES – REVISED*. Director, Marino, Colmano. A Lucid Media Production, YouTube, Nov 12, 2016 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkbJKUI9S_w
- 2015 *Feed the Green: Feminist Voices for this Earth*. Director Jane Caputi, produced by Susan Rosenkranz, distributed by Women Make Movies

Teaching Experience

- 2017 Lecturer, Sustainability Department, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY
 2014 Lecturer, Art Department, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY,
 2003 - 2011 Artist Mentor, graduate mentoring Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier, VT,
 1982 - 1985 Taught "Figurative Painting," San Diego Community College, San Diego, CA
 1979 - 1986 Taught in the Art Department, University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, CA
 1972 - 1974 Teaching Assistant for Allan Kaprow, California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA