



Keepers of the Fire

WATER

October 12, 2023 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Water is life. Tonight we gather at the channel of the Golden Gate to consider the histories of water here in the Golden State and more specifically in San Francisco: a semi-arid peninsula that was once a mosaic of rolling sand dunes and grasslands.

As an anchor to our program, the San Francisco-based artistic collaborative Hughen/Starkweather (Amanda Hughen and Jennifer Starkweather) present *Pipe Dreams*, in the artists' words, "a meditation on water dousing, the practice of using a tree branch, metal rods, pendulums, or similar objects to locate underground water. This method has been used for centuries by dowsers (also called diviners or water witches) who rely on their intuition and these tools to guide them. Rendered here in glass, they rest on shapes of water systems made of sand, a dwindling natural resource in high demand for concrete buildings, infrastructure, computer screens, and silicon chips. The installation references drought, desertification, dwindling resources, changing landscapes, and the hopes and pipe dreams of finding water where it no longer exists."

We are fortunate to be joined by artist and performer Monique Jenkinson, LA-based environmental journalist Rosanna Xia, local historian Joel Pomerantz, Bay Area author and cold-water swimmer Bonnie Tsui, and Bay Area poet Amanda Moore for an evening of dance, story-telling, history, and poetry about this essential element and the role it plays in our region and lives.



Keepers of the Fire is a series of evenings by five Bay Area curators responding to the five elements: earth, fire, water, air, and ether. These intimate, twilight gatherings bring together artists and public audiences to commune around fire pits for curated films, conversations, and live performances inside the bastions of Fort Point National Historic Site. WATER is curated by Veronica Roberts, John and Jill Freidenrich Director of the Cantor Arts Center at Stanford University.

Monique Jenkinson is an artist, choreographer, performer, and writer. Her work dwells at the intersection of contemporary dance and cabaret and considers the performance of femininity as a powerful, vulnerable, and subversive act.

Hughen/Starkweather is the collaboration of artists Jennifer Starkweather and Amanda Hughen, who have worked as a team for almost 20 years. Together they create research-based, abstract artworks about specific topics or locations.

Bonnie Tsui is a longtime contributor to *The New York Times* and the author of *Why We Swim*, a *New York Times* Book Review Editors' Choice and a *Time* magazine and *NPR* best book of the year.

Rosanna Xia is an environment reporter for the *Los Angeles Times*, where she specializes in stories about the coast and ocean. Her first book, *California Against the Sea*, examines the future of our vanishing coastline in the face of rising water.

Joel Pomerantz is the maker of Seep City maps of San Francisco water history. His research involves interviews, archives, and lots of exploring around the city.

Amanda Moore's debut collection of poetry, *Requeening* (ECCO 2021), was selected for the *National Poetry Series* by Ocean Vuong, featured in *Oprah Magazine's* Favorite Things issue, and a finalist for the Northern California Book Award.

Hughen/Starkweather, *Pipe Dreams*, 2023, glass and sand, dimensions variable
Hughen/Starkweather, *Sea Winnowed Light*, 2023, video, 9:30 minute loop

Keepers of the Fire is presented by FOR-SITE in collaboration with the National Park Service and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy. *Keepers of the Fire* is made possible thanks to generous support from Joanna Drake & Christopher Smith, Tad J. Freese & Brook Hartzell, Peter & Beverly Lipman, Robert Joseph Louie Memorial Fund, and Claire & Holden Spaht.