

~ A Gift From The Bower ~

Sculptor - Jack Massing

Poet - Toussant St. Negritude

Music - Dorough + Gatwood

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THE COLLABORATION:

This project is dedicated to our environment. The musicians, Aralee Dorough, Colin Gatwood, and their son Corin Gatwood; along with my long time friend, the poet, Toussant St. Negritude have each been invited to work individually on their own parts. I imagine these parts to resemble a ‘jazz like’ collage when added together. I have directed myself and the collaborators of this project to base their work on the following concept.

- ANTHROPOCENE EPOCH -

For me the idea of the Anthropocene is jarring. The Anthropocene is the recently named geological epoch following the Holocene that we find ourselves living in. The consensus is that we are so severely degrading and changing our environment that we may be creating negative feedback loops in our climate that will become far out of our ability to repair it without killing off the majority of the human population. Therefore we must all join together in our own way and focus on as many solutions as possible, on all fronts, to begin to heal the damage to our planet that we have caused and continue to cause. Otherwise we may indeed perish as a species and become extinct. The idea of the Anthropocene was first expressed in the 1970’s by biologist Eugene Stoermer and made popular by Paul Cruetzen. It is most favorably thought to have begun in July 1945 with the Trinity nuclear test and subsequent detonations that have deposited a thin dusting layer of not before seen, man made, radioactive material, across the entire globe. Timothy Morten describes our newly named epoch and its conditions on Earth as a Hyperobject.



In the Anthropocene the archaeological record ceases to be observed from a distance, but is something we exist within. It is not an assemblage of material culture, but a Hyperobject of vast temporal and geographical scope, in which ecofacts increase in prominence and the role of artefacts recedes. The Anthropocene, the concept that the Earth has moved into a novel geological epoch characterized by human domination of the planetary system, is an increasingly prevalent framework for debate both in academia and as a wider cultural and policy zeitgeist.

Jack’s rendering for his Gift From The Bower