

LG Williams and The Estate of LG Williams™

Press Release -- For Immediate Release

June 1, 2019

OUTDOOR PUBLIC ART EXHIBITION ADVISORY: *DON'T LOOK AT THAT TREE*

Exhibition: Don't Look At That Tree
On View: June 28-June 30, 2019
Location: City Park, Streator, Illinois

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New Local Public Artwork For Streator, IL City Park Delineates Global Climate Catastrophe Denial

(Los Angeles—June 1, 2019) LG Williams and The Estate of LG Williams™ are pleased to present Don't Look At That Tree, his newest monumental outdoor artwork installed at City Park in Streator, Illinois.

Don't Look At That Tree consists of a 100-foot-high hickory tree strewn with several rolls of yellow crime scene tape. Visitors can view the artwork on June 28 and it will remain visible to the public until June 30. The artwork will be situated at the intersection of Park and Hickory streets, near the park's entrance.

This artwork explores The Mechanism of Denial, a defense mechanism first proposed by Anna Freud which involves an individual or groups refusal to accept reality, thus blocking external events from awareness. "So far", writes LG Williams, "our response to the challenge of our climate catastrophe exposes a fundamental failure of collective engagement and imagination."

Williams's first monumental outdoor tree artwork appeared in 2013 at Parc du Domaine les Crayères, Reims, France, curated by Baron Osuna. As with other works by the artist, such as Party Down! (1999), How To Explain Art To The Sports Generation (2004), Angelina Jolie Was Here! (2011), and ME (2015), subversive ingenuity is key to the experiential nature of the artwork.

Taken whole, *Don't Look At That Tree* speaks to the expanse of art history — from ancient traditions of creating artworks on cave walls, to modern forms of visual culture in the age of apocalypse and cutting-edge feats of artistic digital labor.

Don't Look At That Tree was made possible with the generous support and private gifts from Julie Cravatta, Benna McFadden Hermanson, Greg Williams, The LODGE, Teke's Bar, Creative Logic, Inc., Living the Brand® Academy, Ed Brozak / Streator Tourism, The SHS Class of 1979, and The Derazhne-Fridman Charitable Trust. The Estate of LG Williams™ has dedicated this project to Jim Olmsted and Charlie Brown, former art instructors at Streator Township High School.

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LG Williams Biography

LG Williams is an American artist. His practice spans a broad range of media including painting, drawing, digital, sculpture, photography, neon, video, printmaking, and installations. Williams lives in Los Angeles, California.

LG Williams received his M.F.A. from the University of California, Davis. He has exhibited at various national and international venues, among them The Internet Pavilion of La Biennale Di Venezia 2011, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, di Rosa Art Preserve, Laguna Art Museum, Klaipėdos Kultūrų Komunikacijų Centras, Cologne Art Fair, Artissima, LISTE, Art-O-Rama, ARCO, Super Window Project, Gloria Maria Gallery, Lance Fung Gallery, Steven Wirtz Gallery, and Gallery Subversive, among others.

Williams's artworks are featured in museums and private collections in Europe, US and Japan. According to Kenneth Baker, an art critic for the San Francisco Chronicle, "Williams wants to hold open a space in which painting might resume in earnest." His exhibition, *In Abstentia*, held at Super Window Project in Kyoto, was reviewed in *Artforum* magazine in May 2011. In 2014 Donald Preziosi (Emeritus Professor of Art History, UCLA) featured Williams in his *Art, Religion, Amnesia: The Enchantments of Credulity* (Routledge). In 2012 Baron Osuna (Super Window Project) for Gloria Maria Gallery co-curated *LG Williams / The Estate of LG Williams, Anthology: 1985-2012*, a mid-career retrospective exhibition in Milan. The catalogue essay for the accompanying publication was written by Thomas Frangenberg, University of Leicester.

An heir to West Coast and Beat Generation art, LG Williams is one of the youngest members of the Rat Bastard Protective Association, whose membership includes Bruce Conner, Wally Hedrick, Jay DeFeo, Joan Brown, Manuel Neri, and Wallace Berman.

Williams has taught studio art, art history, art appreciation, and graphic design courses at the University of California-Davis, University of Southern California, California College of the Arts, Arizona State University and the University of Hawaii, among others.

Cengage Learning / Wadsworth published Williams's Drawing Upon Art: A Workbook for Gardner's Art Through the Ages — an innovative pedagogical tool designed to facilitate learning art history through drawing. In 2011-12 Williams was the art critic for The Tokyo Weekender, the oldest free English publication in Japan.

In 2016 Williams (PCP Press) conceived and produced Wasted Words and Dust Bunnies by Dave Hickey, the latter edited by Julia Friedman. Both publications were reviewed in the Times Literary Supplement — while The UCLA Hammer Museum, SITE Santa Fe, The Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA), and The Las Vegas Contemporary Art Center (CAC) featured events and appearances with Hickey and Friedman. Additionally, Wasted Words appeared in Netflix's Velvet Buzzsaw, the art horror film set in Los Angeles starring Jake Gyllenhaal.

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