

San Diego Central Library Gallery

Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 5:30-8:00 pm

Exhibition Title: *Helen and Newton Harrison: California Work*

Event Title: "How do We Regenerate a Forest? Thinking with the Harrisons."

Program description:

The program will start at 5:30 with a welcome reception, to be followed by the panel discussion, including Q&A with the audience.

Panel discussion summary:

How do we regenerate the Pacific Forests? This is the central question in artworks made by Helen and Newton Harrison, starting with *The Serpentine Lattice* in 1993 and continuing to the present day with their research initiatives led by the Center for the Study of the Force Majeure at UC Santa Cruz. Their earlier work addresses forest clear-cutting, while the more recent work focuses on how forests are impacted by related public policy and climate change itself.

Join us for a panel to explore how artworks in the exhibition speak to the current crisis in our forests. The panel is moderated by **Anne Douglas** and **Chris Fremantle**. Featured speakers include:

- **Josh Harrison**, the Harrisons' son and current Director of the Center for the Study of the Force Majeure at UC Santa Cruz.
- **Megan Jennings**, Conservation Ecologist, Climate Science Alliance advisor, and Co-Director of San Diego State University's Institute for Ecological Monitoring and Management.
- **Ruth Wallen**, artist and long-time collaborator with the Harrisons.
- **Joelene Tamm**, Squaxin Island Tribal member, Entomologist and Researcher, and Natural Resources Director of the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians
- **Wesley Ruise Jr.**, Third generation Indigenous prescribed Burn Boss, Fire Chief and tribal member of the La Jolla Band of Lusieño Indians.

Speakers:

Joshua Harrison is a filmmaker, environmentalist and educator. After a lifetime of connection to their process, principles, and outcomes, he began working directly with Newton and Helen Harrison in 2012 to support strategy, large projects and overall development for the Center. He became Director following the recent death of Newton Harrison. Josh has been engaged in the intersection of art and ecology since participating in middle school demonstrations on the first Earth Day in 1970. His work

focuses on bringing together artists, scientists, engineers, planners and visionaries to design regenerative systems and policies that address issues raised by global temperature rise at the scale that they present.

Megan Jennings, PhD, is a Conservation Ecologist and Co-Director of San Diego State University's Institute for Ecological Monitoring and Management. The research she works on is primarily focused on informing conservation and management planning in terrestrial systems with particular interest in incorporating landscape dynamics into connectivity planning. She worked for over a decade as a wildlife biologist for the US Forest Service in San Diego where her years of experience in land management for a federal agency informed her perspective as a researcher. Dr. Jennings strives to work at the interface of science and management, developing applied research to address management and conservation issues and communicating results and recommendations to decision-makers and managers. Dr. Jennings is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at San Diego State University, an affiliated researcher with the Scripps Center for Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation, and an advisor to the Climate Science Alliance.

Ruth Wallen is a multi-media artist and writer whose work is dedicated to encouraging dialogue around ecological and social justice. Her interactive installations, nature walks, web sites, artist books, performative lectures, and writing have been widely distributed and exhibited. She was a Fulbright scholar and is Emeritus Faculty in the MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts at Goddard College. Ruth Wallen collaborated with Helen and Newton Harrison over many years having studied with them at University of California San Diego.

Joelene Tamm was awarded the 2023 Climate Leadership Award for her remarkable contributions to addressing climate change and fostering adaptation and resilience. Joelene has demonstrated exceptional dedication and expertise in her research on the Goldspotted Oak Borer (GSOB). Her groundbreaking work in understanding the GSOB's impact on oak ecosystems is helping to mitigate the devastating effects of this invasive species on California's native oak trees. Her research not only contributes to the preservation of vital ecosystems but has contributed to the understanding of how "good fire" can be applied to protect infected oak trees. Joelene has exhibited an unwavering commitment to building capacity and community resilience, particularly on the La Jolla Reservation.

Wesley G. Ruise Jr. is a third generation Indigenous Prescribed Burn Boss, and Fire Chief of the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians. He began his career working with the forest service and gained 35 years of experience with prescribed burning and wildfire. He retired after serving as the District Fire Management Officer, Battalion Chief, and Hot Shot building a Type 1 Interagency Hotshot Crew, literally from the ground up. He still maintains a strong relationship built on respect and accomplishments with the local communities, County, State and Federal Agencies. Working within a network of peers established over decades, Wes has built the foundation and support structure to reintroduce cultural broadcast burning in Southern California on land that fire has been excluded for over 100 years.

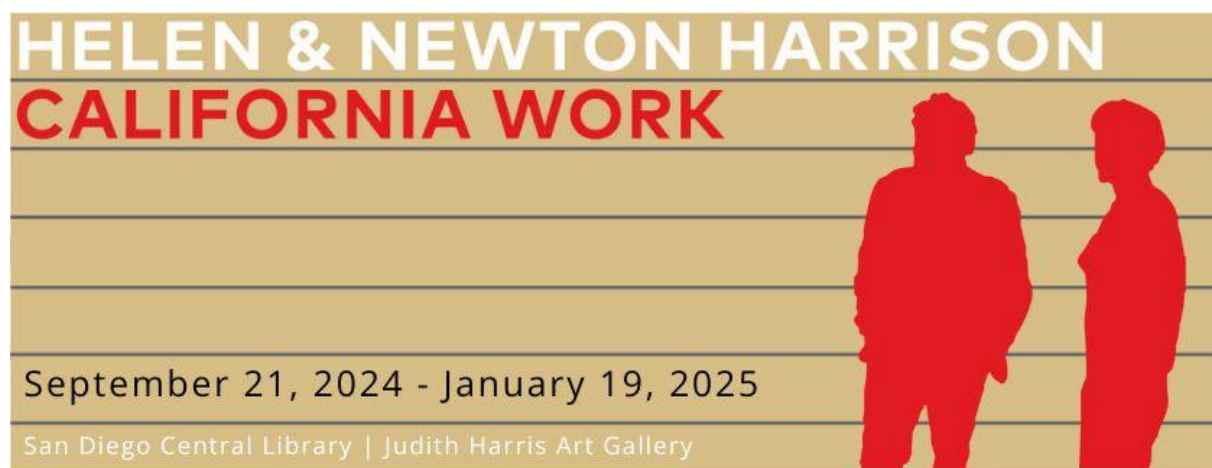
Moderators:

Anne Douglas is Professor Emerita, Gray's School of Art, Robert Gordon University, Scotland, exploring the changing place of the artist in public life. This research has increasingly focused on art and the environmental crisis from a practice-led research perspective. She co-produced the Harrisons' work "On the Deep Wealth of this Nation, Scotland" (2017) in collaboration with Newton Harrison and the Centre for the Study of the Force Majeure, University of California Santa Cruz.

Chris Fremantle is a researcher and producer of award-winning projects. He was producer on the Harrisons' project "Greenhouse Britain: Losing Ground, Gaining Wisdom." He is a longstanding member of the international ecoart network and co-editor of "Ecoart in Action," a collection of activities, case studies and provocations drawn from the network. He lectures at Gray's School of Art, Robert Gordon University, Scotland.

IMAGE:

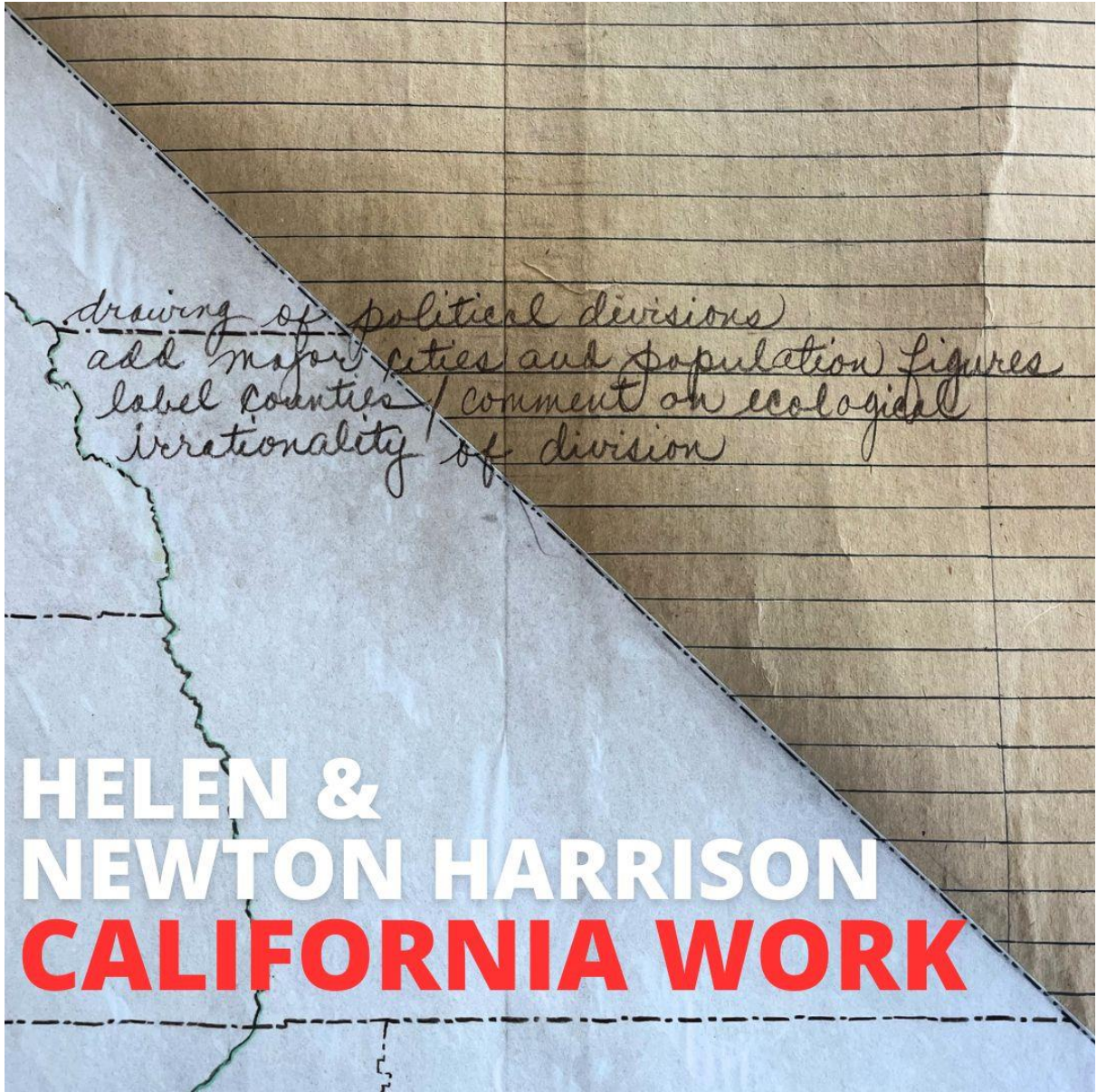
Detail of the *Serpentine Lattice*, Map, 1993
Mixed media on paper
44-feet long x 8-10 feet wide
Courtesy of the Harrison Family Trust



ART &
SCIENCE
COLLIDE

Presented by

Getty



*drawing of political divisions
add major cities and population figures
label counties / comment on ecological
irrationality of division*

**HELEN &
NEWTON HARRISON
CALIFORNIA WORK**