



YAMPA VALLEY
SUSTAINABILITY
COUNCIL

Insight: Art for Climate Action

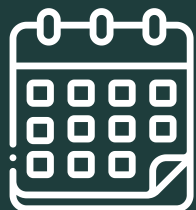
Call for Artists

What to Know



Event Description

Insight is an art auction fundraiser hosted by YVSC that celebrates the power of art in communicating the science and meaning of climate action in the Yampa Valley.



Event Details

When: Sunday, July 9

Where: La Joya Dulce

47050 CO Rd 129

Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

Submission Deadline

When: Monday, **May 15** (if displaying in your representative gallery for the month of June)

Monday, **June 19** (if not displaying in gallery)



Artist Invitation

In recognition of the ways art connects people to one another, to places, to feelings and to inspiration, YVSC invites artists to use their voices and their media to communicate the science and meaning of climate action in the Yampa Valley. Three artists prompts have been created to spur creations that increase public understanding and appreciation for key climate action sectors: Resilient Land and Water, Waste Diversion and Energy and Transportation. Read more about these prompts below and choose one you are inspired by.



Contact

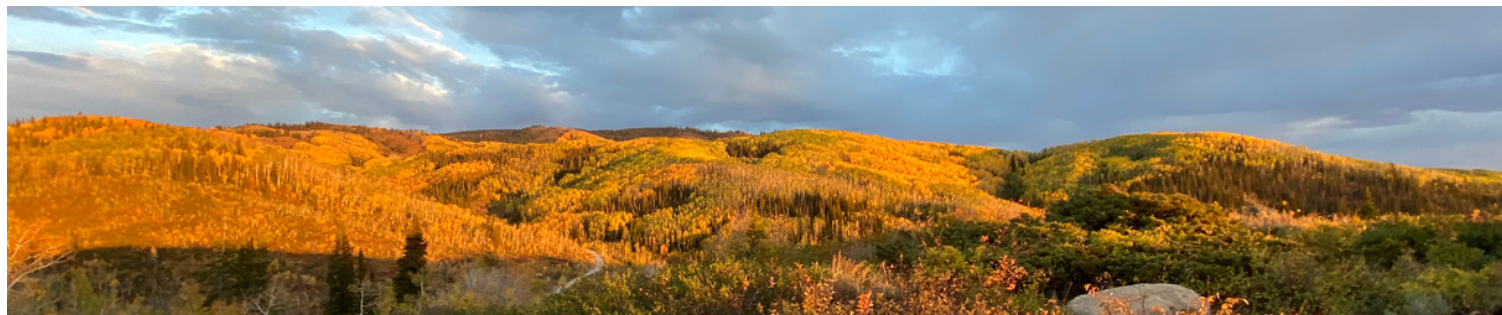
If you have questions about the event logistics, the prompts or process, or you are looking for any additional resources, please reach out to Kate Brocato and Marguerite Pilon.

Kate Brocato –YVSC Communications & Program Manager

kate@yvsc.org | 970.871.9299 ext. 108

Marguerite Pilon – YVSC Intern

marguerite@yvsc.org



Dear Yampa Valley Artist,

We are excited to invite you to participate in Yampa Valley Sustainability Council's (YVSC) first signature fundraising event - ***Insight: Art for Climate Action***, an art auction to benefit YVSC and sustainability here in the Yampa Valley! We believe that art is a powerful way to educate around climate science and communicate sustainability efforts to a wider community.

Art enables us to combine intricate scientific topics with beauty and emotion, allowing us to connect with our own humanness. Something important is ignited when we're able to see a little bit of ourselves in these issues. Art serves as an educational tool and can spark a desire for change and action. We at YVSC value art as an important means of communicating science and inspiring action, and this fundraising event has been built with those intentions in mind.



For this event, we are calling on artists to create pieces that increase public understanding of and appreciation for key areas of climate action and the Yampa Valley ecosystems that are being affected by climate change. The prompts are intended to be inspiring and educational, providing you – the artist – with additional resources to use, learn from and ultimately integrate into your pieces.

As an organization, YVSC has focused our Priority Areas on the key climate action areas identified in these artist prompts because they are the most impactful ways to address climate change. We hope you find the prompts energizing and a way to empower those around us to step forward to protect and sustain the people and places we cherish in the Yampa Valley. You are welcome to choose one prompt, or a combination of prompts, and we encourage you to use the additional resources included here to go deeper into our work and the science of climate action as you design and create your pieces.

Yampa Valley Sustainability Council (YVSC) is a nonprofit organization based in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, that creates and promotes climate action in the Yampa Valley region through programs, partnerships and education. Guided by research and in the service of the community, YVSC develops and promotes actions that sustain our valley's rich natural and cultural heritage and foster resilience moving forward. Our mission is to serve as a leader, catalyst and resource for building a sustainable and resilient Yampa Valley. We employ this work through our five Priority Areas: Resilient Land and Water, Energy, Transportation, Waste Diversion, and Community Engagement. To learn more about YVSC and the work that we do, visit www.yvsc.org.

Guidelines for Submission

Keeping in mind that the goal of the ***Insight: Art for Climate Action*** is to showcase the arts as a powerful means of communicating the science and meaning of climate action, submitted pieces should demonstrate engagement with the event prompts. YVSC reserves the right to refuse any artwork that is considered divisive or offensive.

Submission

- Please submit a digital file or photo of your piece to kate@yvsc.org. Files and photos should be no larger than 5 mb.
- Please include in your submission: title of piece, dimensions, optional methods of display, year of creation, medium and materials, artist bio, estimated value for the piece, special instructions for event display (i.e. installation or sculptural based work), and a link to your website or social media that we can use for marketing and a logo (if you have one)
- To create additional conversation around our work, please provide a written artist statement to display alongside your work explaining why you were inspired to create your piece and how you worked with the prompt. Your artist statement will be an important educational component of the event.

Share Your Journey

You are encouraged to share progress updates and images of your process creating your piece that we can share with the public to build excitement leading up to the event.

Gallery Representation

If you have local gallery representation, we encourage you to work with your gallerists to display your submission piece for the month of June. Please contact kate@yvsc.org to learn more.

Logistics

Please send your final submissions by **May 15, 2023** (if displaying in your representative gallery for the month of June) or by **June 19, 2023** (if not displaying in gallery) to Kate Brocato, kate@yvsc.org, and let YVSC know that you intend to participate in the event.

The final pieces will be up for auction at our event on **July 9**, with the proceeds supporting YVSC's climate action programs. The work will be sold with the purposes of being displayed in homes or businesses, so keep this in mind when considering size and functionality.

As a participating artist, you will receive **25% of the final sale** as compensation for your time and efforts spent creating your piece(s). Should the piece not sell, you will be welcome to keep the piece to do with it what you please. In addition to compensation, you will also receive name recognition during the event and on event marketing materials as well as YVSC's website and social media.

Pieces valued in the \$0-300 range will be displayed in our online auction. Those in the \$301-2000 range will be displayed in a silent auction during the event. Those in the \$2001+ range will be a part of the live auction during the event. However, determinations for the live auction will be made closer to the event.



Prompt #1: Resilient Land & Water

All things are connected, below our feet, tangled deep underground, and reaching way into the sky, each being and natural process playing an essential role within our ecosystems. When we look at our waterways and trees, we can see the ways that these natural processes work together to create balance. Land is an integral component of maintaining a balanced climate. In the valley, we know that our forest, riparian areas, and wetlands along rivers need restoration due to development and loss. Trees are one of our beautiful methods for repairing these ecosystems, serving as an important tool for improving riparian health while also sequestering carbon. Our river temperatures are rising, and trees, like our native Narrowleaf Cottonwood, play an essential part in shading the river to lower water temperatures.

These concerns around our changing water resources are connected to other climate related issues in the Valley – decreased snowpack, increased evaporation, and drought are central issues impacting soil moisture and the increasing risk of wildfires. Healthy trees and soil sequester carbon, serving as a part of our natural climate solutions, land and water based solutions that can help reduce greenhouse gases and build resilience to the impacts of climate change.



Artists for millennia have been inspired by the natural world around them. Today, as we experience these impacts of climate change first-hand on our land and water in the Yampa Valley, how is our communication and imagery evolving as our relationship with the natural world changes? How will we respond to these impacts and changes? We believe deeply in the concept of ‘resilience,’ meaning that we in the Yampa Valley can bounce back from impacts in the face of climate change. We are in this together, and we are connected to each other in a living ecosystem that also includes the land, water, and climate around us. Just as these all play a role in protecting our environment, it is important to recognize that we as humans can play a positive role as well. How can we utilize art to inspire necessary actions while evoking connection and emotion with our land and climate issues?

For this prompt, we invite you to reflect on the above, thinking about the ways in which you view climate change impacts on our natural world, how you interpret change, the positive ways that we encourage resilience, or how we celebrate the land and water of the Yampa Valley.

YVSC has a number of projects aimed at increasing resilience, including our Yampa River Forest Restoration Program, our Soil Moisture Monitoring Network, our Yampa Valley Climate Crew, our Sustaining Water Program and more.



Prompt #1: Resilient Land & Water

Resources

- [YVSC's Resilient Land and Water Priority Area](#)
- [What are Natural Climate Solutions?](#) – The Nature Conservancy
- [Resilience Theory](#)
- [Integrated Water Plan by the Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable](#)
- [This giant climate hot spot is robbing the West of its water](#) - The Washington Post
- [The environmental disaster happening in Routt County](#) - The Steamboat Pilot
- [Routt County Climate Action Plan](#)
- [Yampa River Forest Restoration Program](#)
- [Snowpack, Soil Moisture, and Streamflow](#)
- [Braiding Sweetgrass](#) by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- [Finding the Mother Tree](#) by Suzanne Simard
- [Emergence Magazine - Forest](#)
- [WEAD: Women Eco Artists Dialogue](#) - a directory, magazine, and events by women artists working with environmental topics.

Examples



Jill Bergman

Jill Bergman's linocut with watercolor, *Mother Earth*. This print was designed to raise money for environmental organizations.



Paul Nicklen

Paul Nicklen is a documentary photographer that focuses on themes of conservation, marine science, and human-land interaction. *The Delta Series* chronicles the plight and resilience of the Colorado River as it longs to reach the sea in Baja, Mexico.



Olafur Eliasson

Olafur Eliasson is an Icelandic-Danish artist creating large-scale installation art, focusing on using elemental mediums like light, water, or air to create conversations around climate change and environmental degradation. This piece, *Ice Watch*, looks at glacial melt.



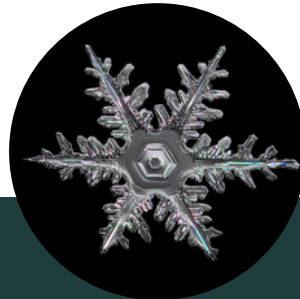
Yampa River Art & Science Exhibition

This exhibition, curated by Emmanuelle Vital, brought the Yampa Valley Community together in honor of its beloved river and in support of its restoration and protection.



Jennifer Baker

Steamboat Springs glass artist, Jennifer Baker, created topo map style views of the Yampa River from kiln formed glass. Pictured here is the stretch along Little Yampa Canyon.



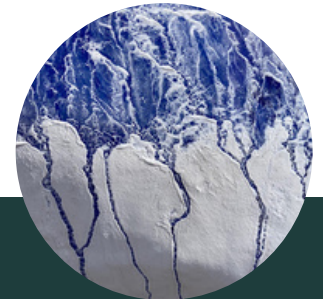
Julie McNally

Steamboat Springs photographer, Julie McNally, photographs snowflakes using a microscope. "My love for shredding Steamboat powder led me to investigate snowflakes more closely. I keep a glove in the freezer, and when it snows, I catch snowflakes on the glove—this is when the photo shooting process begins."



Plein Air Painting

Plein air painting is a great way to document seasons, climate, natural landscapes, or maybe a Yampascaped garden. Here is Susie Jackson, Steamboat Springs artist, painting on a bridge over a small stream.



Mia Mulvey

A Professor of Studio Art at the University of Denver, Mia Mulvey was inspired by her time in Svalbard. *Albedo*, the title of this work, is the measure of how much light that hits a surface is reflected or absorbed. These events, however small, heat glacial surfaces by reducing their reflectance.

Prompt #2: Waste Diversion

Did you know that only 9% of our waste in the Yampa Valley is diverted? The recently adopted Routt County Climate Action Plan has set an ambitious goal to increase diversion to 46% by 2030, and it will take systemic change to get there: increased recycling and tackling food waste are integral paths of action. Unnecessary waste creates greenhouse gas emissions and pollution in our ecosystems. Materials and organic waste are essential resources that can be used again and again if we care for, recycle, and compost them properly. However, when they are sent to the landfill, the life of that material ends there.

Artists are resourceful and inventive around materials, sometimes out of necessity and sometimes out of principle. This prompt could be a place to showcase the reuse and repurposing of materials. Every item that can be cared for and used long term, or converted into something different, will mean fewer new items produced, less pollution and emissions produced in the creation and transportation of new materials, and less waste in the landfill, thereby showing its continued value (e.g. turn old clothes into a quilt, old skis into a coat rack, old records or pieces of wood into canvases for paintings)? Or, how can you create a piece that communicates the need to rethink the way materials currently move through our community?



For this prompt, we invite you to help us think about creative ways to share the possibilities of recycling, reusing, and composting. Work that utilizes repurposed materials or pieces that engage with topics of our waste, recycling, and composting will fit this prompt. By demonstrating the value in and reusing and repurposing materials you will help raise awareness on the importance of doing so in all aspects of our life.

YVSC works with local and state government and organizations to improve policies, engages the community and works on outreach through education, provides zero waste services for events, and recycles hard-to-recycle materials through our Yampa Valley Recycles Depot to help our community reach its waste diversion goals.



Prompt #2: Waste Diversion

Resources

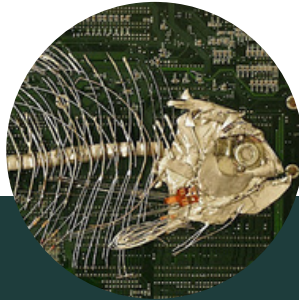
- [YVSC's Waste Diversion Priority Area](#)
- [The Yampa Valley Recycles Depot](#)
- [What is "wishcycling?"](#)
- [Lifecycle Approaches to Waste](#) - United Nations
- [7 R's of Recycling](#)
- [What is a Circular Economy?](#)
- [Why, How, and What to Compost](#)
- [40 Terrific Works of Art made from Common Trash](#)

Examples



Margaret Byrd

Margaret Byrd is a Seattle-based artist who is inspired by natural elements such as glass, ice, stone, and metal. Through an installation she did in Oaxaca, Margaret worked alongside a dye master to create dyes using natural materials of the Sierra Madre de Oaxaca.



Peter McFarlane

"To me, waste is just lack of imagination ... Everything I encounter presents possibilities for my art; from obsolete circuit boards to my father's shoe, to broken chainsaws and old ice skates, all materials present a possibility to resolve an idea," Peter McFarlane says of his work using recycled materials.



Frederico Uribe

Frederico Uribe's art rises from intertwining everyday objects in all possible and surprising ways, but still with a formal reference to the history and tradition of classical art. He creates exquisitely made objects that are assemblages of items such as color pencils, shoelaces, electrical wires, etc.



Missy Borden

Steamboat Springs artist Missy Borden tapes the edges of her acrylic paintings on paper, and then reuses the painted tape to make new abstract work encased in resin.



Michelle Ideus

Michelle Ideus, Steamboat Springs painter, photographer, and collage artist, often embeds collage materials into her paintings.



Dolan Geiman

Dolan Geiman is a Dever-based mixed media artist known for intricate collage works using salvaged materials found through a lifetime of exploration.



Huguette Roe

Photographer Huguette Roe turns her eye to the recycling process through her work that makes compressed cans, pipes, and paper look like abstract art.

Prompt #3: Energy & Transportation

The heat for our buildings and fuel for our vehicles are the two biggest contributors to greenhouse gases nationally and here in the Yampa Valley due to our current reliance on fossil fuels. This can be traced back to the Industrial Revolution, and in just over 100 years has led to rapid change in human lifestyles and the world itself. The State of Colorado has set a goal to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2040. Fueling our cars and heating and cooling our buildings with renewable energy puts us on track to lowering carbon emissions. To meet these goals, we have to decarbonize – literally take the carbon (fossil fuels) out of – our energy and transportation systems. Electrification of buildings and cars is an important path forward because as the energy grid shifts to renewable energy sources (e.g. wind, solar, geothermal) electricity will produce less and eventually no carbon emissions.

The energy transition away from coal and fossil fuels comes with social and economic consequences for some. Many American communities were built around coal, including several important communities in our valley (Oak Creek, Yampa, Hayden, Craig, and others). The energy transition is uneven in its consequences throughout our region, and it is vital that all members of the Yampa Valley work together to build an inclusive new energy future with equity and respect in mind. The Colorado Office of Just Transition was created with the purpose of supporting coal workers, employers, and communities as they plan for the future closings of coal plants upon which their communities depend to ensure that individuals and communities are valued as what was once an integral part of their economy must change. The transition must honor the heritage of the innovations that allowed humanity to advance at a rate never before seen, while also paving the way for innovations that will chart a path forward for future generations.

While most of us aren't architects, vehicle designers, policy makers, or in control of energy companies, as artists we are powerful creators and communicators of ideas, inspiration and visions. We can also draw our reflections on the banal or day to day, helping people see or experience something familiar in a new or more awake way. How can we use these talents to get us closer to a future powered by clean energy? We can think of this as a new and exciting challenge to rewrite the narrative on what energy production looks like and how it is valued. Help us visualize the way in which we view renewable energy production as a valuable piece of a future America or showcase the important technological advancements that have been made to help us rewrite the future of our environment.

Join us in reimagining what a fossil fuel-free world and valley can look like, while paying respects to the ways in which fossil fuels have helped us develop as a species and the cultural importance they still hold in many American communities.

YVSC works with local and state government and organizations to facilitate transitions away from carbon-based energy and transportation systems, while improving the efficiency of current systems through technical assistance, residential and commercial energy assessments, and education surrounding electric vehicle adoption and electric vehicle infrastructure.



Prompt #3: Energy & Transportation

Resources

- [A Fossil Fuel-Free Industrial Revolution](#)
- [Art and the Industrial Revolution](#)
- [Climate Impacts of Fossil Fuel Use](#)
- [Coal at Sunset](#) - an eight episode podcast series that explores the history of coal in Craig, Colorado and the rapidly changing energy landscape
- [Art and Energy: How Culture Changes](#) - Margaret Atwood and Barry Lloyd on a world without oil
- [In a World on Fire, Stop Burning Things](#) - Bill McKibben
- [Artists and Climate Change's Renewable Energy Series](#)
- [CSU's Center for New Energy Economy - Energy Communities in Transition](#)

Examples



Local Work

Tony Urbick, artist, Matthew Rochon from Routt County Riders, Essam Welch from Iron Wheel Bikes, and many mechanic volunteers created a summer workshop for kids through Steamboat Creates to give new life and paint to old bikes.



Charlie & Gail Holthausen

While Spike and Phoenix aren't electric vehicles, the Holthausen's dragons are much loved by the Steamboat Springs community, and could perhaps get us thinking about a way to create art, or a small scale example, or a design for an arty vehicle or mode of transport that doesn't burn fossil fuel?



The Solar Panel Art Series

These decommissioned solar panels were distributed to artists to use as a canvas to create artwork and raise awareness about clean energy. The artist of the above panel is Ian Shevack.



The Land Art Generator Initiative

The goal of the Land Art Generator is to accelerate the transition to post-carbon economies by providing models of renewable energy infrastructure that add value to public space, inspire, and educate.



The Sun

One of our greatest sources of renewable energy, the sun, has been inspiring artwork for millennia. In the Friedrich piece above, *Woman Before the Rising Sun*, a sense of nature worship and reverence for the dawn of a new day is potently conveyed.



Elena Paroucheva

Artist Elena Paroucheva is known for her sculptural pieces that can functionally produce renewable energy. Her wind sculptures humanize and feminize the reshaping of our energy systems.



Olafur Eliasson

Eliasson's 2003 installation, *The Weather Project*, installed at Turbine Hall of Tate Modern in London employed visitors to think about the ways in which weather has had an effect on their personal lives.

Material & Supply Resources

Throughout this process, we encourage the use of repurposed, recycled, or sustainably produced materials and mediums with special attention paid to those that can be sourced locally. Below is a list of material and supply resources that may be helpful to you as you create your piece.



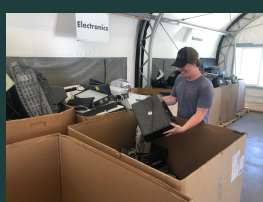
Steamboat Creates

Steamboat Creates has a huge variety of free arts supplies in their Art Pantry for the community. Contact jill@steamboatcreates.org to visit and see what they have currently available.



Milner Mall

The Milner Mall has everything from building supplies to sporting equipment to antiques. They won't be open again until May, unfortunately, but are worth a visit!



Yampa Valley Recycles Depot

YVSC's YVR Depot is a facility that recycles materials like electronics, batteries, lightbulbs, and more. Stop by to see if there's anything you might be able to repurpose for your piece.



Watercolors

Want to try some new watercolors? Boulder Colors has Colorado made paints created by extracting the dye from plants.



LiftUp of Routt County

Steamboat's favorite thrift store, has endless possibilities for repurposed art supplies.



Frames

We will be working with local frame shops to repurpose frames and matboard. Contact kate@yvsc.org to learn more.



HDPE Pipe

YVSC's Paul Bony has HDPE pipes for geothermal energy uses that are highly bendable and meltable. He is offering them to an artist that would be comfortable repurposing them. Contact paul@yvsc.org.



DIY Dyes

Use food waste to make your own dyes! Here is a [guide](#) by Annette Browning and here are some [tutorials](#) by Margaret Byrd.



ReCreative Denver

ReCreative Denver is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting creativity, community and environmental stewardship through creative reuse & arts