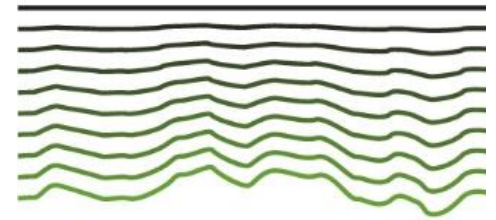


BREAKDOWN



the promise of decay

January 25 – September 28, 2025

Artists:

Selin Balci is an interdisciplinary artist and researcher. Her practice combines scientific equipment and biological mediums with traditional art materials. Balci's work is classified as bio-art, a new direction in contemporary art that employs living organisms. In her artwork, she isolates and use mold spores collected from the air, soil, plants, trees, and humans around her and incubates them in a synthetic but habitable environment to witness living organisms' interactions, struggles, and conflicts across the picture surface. In doing so, Balci makes the invisible micro-organisms around us visible and allows us to see the micro-world physically

New York-based architectural and landscape photographer **Jade Duskow** is known for her rigorously composed and eerily poetic images that examine the intersection of people, architecture, nature, and time. Duskow is best-known for her work *Lost Utopias*, *Freshkills*, and *Red Hook*. Duskow holds a BA from New York University's Gallatin School and an MFA from the School of Visual Arts. Throughout her work, a sense of timeless monumentality in juxtaposition to modern details highlights surreal aspects of the contemporary cityscape. Duskow is the Photographer-in-Residence of Freshkills Park, New York City.

Argentine American artist **Tamara Kostianovsky's** work addresses the environment, violence, and consumer culture, often employing discarded clothing to create visceral and intricate sculptures and installations. Kostianovsky's work asks for a re- imagination of human rights and environmental redemption models to consider the resultant violence as part of a more extensive, inseparable system.

Phyllis Ma is a Chinese-American artist based in Switzerland, specializing in still life photography. She graduated from Columbia University in New York City. Her ongoing series *Mushrooms & Friends* features both foraged and cultivated fungi, often in arrangements with owers and food. Beyond photography, Phyllis often collaborates with mycologists, cultivators and foragers to identify and better understand the fungi she encounters.

Born and raised primarily in New York City, with many youthful summers spent staying with relatives in Mexico, **Antonia Perez** has spent most of her life engaged in art and in using art as a means of engaging community. Her Mexican machinist and inventor father and Hungarian-American abstract painter mother provided a home filled with music and art and a love and respect for culture and history. Her father, born at the time of the Mexican revolution, never threw away an object that could still be used and instilled in her a sense of conservation and respect for environment. Her own belief that everyday objects can have a life and purpose beyond their original ones stems from this upbringing.

Lisa Schonberg is a composer, percussionist, and ecological sound artist. Informed by her background in ecology, Schonberg composes music with a focus on cryptic sounds of insects and other underappreciated beyond-humans. She documents soundscapes, insects, and habitat through music composition, writing, and multimedia collaboration, engaging the public in listening to prompt heightened consideration of these soundworlds. Currently she is developing music composition systems that interact with insect sound in real time.

Contributors:

Dr. Martin Melosi is internationally known in the areas of Environmental, Energy, and Urban History. Melosi is Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen University Professor and Director of the Center for Public History at the University of Houston. In 2000-01, he held the Fulbright Chair in American Studies at the University of Southern Denmark in Odense, and in 2007 was Fulbright Senior Specialist in Environmental Science at Tampere University of Technology in Tampere, Finland. He also has been a visiting professor at the University of Paris, the University of Helsinki, Peking University, Shanghai University, Leopold-Maximilians Universitat, Munich, and the International Institute of Management, Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers, Paris. He has a Ph.D. in History from the University of Texas at Austin and a B.A. and M.A. in History from the University of Montana.

Louis Vassar Semanchik has a diverse work experience in various roles and industries. In 2016, they became a Lead Grower at Southern Tier Mushrooms, a position they held until 2017. During the same year, they worked as a Gardener at Chalet Nursery and as an Assistant to Farm Director at The Plant. Louis also gained experience in permaculture as a Work Trade at Central Rocky Mountain Permaculture Institute. In 2017, they did remote contract work at Eco Systems Design. Since 2018, Louis has been working at Smallhold, first as a Lead Farmer and Systems Technician until 2020, and currently as Director of Cultivation and Crop R&D.

Michael Falco is a freelance photographer who has worked for a number of publications including, the National Geographic, The New York Times, Harper's Bazaar, and W Magazines. In 2009, published, "Caddell Dry Dock: 100 Years Harborside", museum press, a chronicle of one of the last remaining ship repair yards in New York Harbor. In 2011, Falco began the Civil War 150 Pinhole Project photographing the war's famous battlefields and sesquicentennial reenactments with large format pinhole cameras. This ongoing work has been recognized by the Library of Congress and has been inducted into the National Archive on the Sesquicentennial.

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