

FORM+CONTENT

210 N 2nd St • Mpls, MN 55401 • 612-436-1151 • Thur-Sat 12-6 pm GALLERY

July 1, 2010 for immediate release

AMAZON VISIONS, VANISHING ACTS

What

Multi-media exhibition by Christine Baeumler

When

Thursday, August 12 through Saturday, September 18, 2010

Gallery hours: Thursday – Saturday

12:00 – 6:00 pm and by appointment

Free and open to the public

Opening Reception and Film Screening

Saturday, August 21, 2010; 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Free and open to the public

7:00 pm screening of the film *Dream People of the Amazon*

directed by Lawrence M. Lansburgh (description of the film follows below)

7:45 pm exhibition reception

Where

Form+Content Gallery

Whitney Square Building

210 North 2nd Street, Suite 104

Minneapolis, MN 55401

Metered street parking until 10:00 pm

Info

Gallery: 612/436-1151

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Description

In the solo multi-media exhibition, **Amazon Visions, Vanishing Acts**, Twin Cities artist Christine Baeumler creates an installation that reflects upon the vitality and fragility of the Amazon Rainforest.

In the summer of 2008, Baeumler traveled to the Lago Preto Conservation Concession as part of an Earthwatch expedition. This area is one of the most biodiverse habitats in the Amazon and is the home to an extraordinary number of avian species, as well as a great diversity of primates, fish and frog species found in the region.

The exhibition presents the lush environment of the Amazon Rainforest through video and sound installation displayed in the Mobile Rainforest Unit. The video records the vibrant twilight on the Amazon River and a night glittering with fireflies, lightning and echoing with the sounds of frogs and birdlife. Prints of species photographed both in the Amazon and in the Natural History Museum in Lima, Peru disappear into darkness or are seemingly eroded by light.

While the oil spill disaster in the Gulf of Mexico dominates the current news, the largest oil related environmental catastrophe occurred in the Amazon rainforest. Chevron-Texaco dumped billions of gallons of waste byproduct from oil drilling directly into the rivers and streams of the rainforest covering an area the size of Rhode Island. By burning hundreds of millions of cubic feet of gas and waste oil into the atmosphere, Chevron-Texaco poisoned the air and created 'black rain' which inundated the area during tropical thunderstorms (Bob Herbert, *Disaster in the Amazon*, New York Times, June 4, 2010).

Film Screening

The exhibition opening reception will begin at 7:00 pm on Saturday, August 21 with the screening of the film *Dream People of the Amazon*, written, produced and directed by Lawrence M. Lansburgh, ©2005. The film runs for 30 minutes. The film screening and opening reception are free and open to the public. A donation to benefit Rainforest Action Network (RAN) is suggested.

Dream People of the Amazon tells the story of the Achuar, indigenous people who live in a remote and pristine part of the Amazon rain forest in southeastern Ecuador. The Achuar had no contact with the outside world until the early 1970's. Today, while still retaining their traditional culture, they are becoming increasingly knowledgeable about the world beyond their forest. They know that the outside world is desperate for the oil that lies under their territory. They also know that oil operations have brought environmental and cultural devastation to their indigenous neighbors in northeastern Ecuador, a few hundred miles away.

Christine Baeumler Biography

Christine Baeumler grew up in Buffalo, New York. She received a B.A. in Fine Arts from Yale University and an M.F.A. from Indiana University at Bloomington. Baeumler is an Associate Professor in the Department of Art at the University of Minnesota and is currently the Artist-in-Residence for two watershed districts through Public Art Saint Paul.