



# ART & SCIENCE COLLIDE

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## Press Release

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## LA JOLLA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES PARTICIPATION IN THE NEXT PST ART

### ***Helen and Newton Harrison: California Work***

(La Jolla, CA) September 1, 2024 – The La Jolla Historical Society (LJHS) is proud to announce its participation in the next edition of the region-wide arts initiative PST ART, scheduled to open in September 2024. LJHS is one of fifty-plus cultural, educational, and scientific institutions throughout Southern California to receive support from Getty for their projects, all of which will explore the intersection of art and science. Dozens of cultural, scientific, and community organizations will join the latest edition, PST ART: *Art & Science Collide*, with exhibitions on subjects ranging from ancient cosmologies to indigenous sci-fi, and from environmental justice to artificial intelligence. *Art & Science Collide* will share groundbreaking research, create indelible experiences for the public, and generate new ways of understanding our complex world.

*Helen and Newton Harrison: California Work* will explore the juncture between art and science, art and ecology, and art and social activism in the work of Helen Mayer and Newton Harrison, known as the Harrisons. The husband-and-wife team were among the earliest and most notable ecological artists. This is the first exhibition to focus on their California work, nearly 20 projects produced between the late 1960s and 2000s. Responding to

growing environmental awareness, the Harrisons pushed conceptual art in new directions. The couple agreed that they would only take on projects that benefited the ecosystem. *Helen and Newton Harrison: California Work* revisits the Harrisons' groundbreaking ecological concepts through re-staged performance artworks, drawings, paintings, photography, collages, maps, archival documentation of large-scale installations, and unrealized proposals for real-world ecological solutions.

A 17,600-square foot immersive four-part exhibition about this pioneering couple in Ecological Art will be presented as a multi-site exhibition in four locations around San Diego simultaneously, including La Jolla Historical Society (organizer), California Center for the Arts in Escondido, San Diego Central Library Art Gallery in downtown, and Mandeville Art Gallery at UC San Diego. The exhibition locations will examine the California works chronologically and thematically: *Urban Ecologies*, *The Prophetic Works*, *Saving the West*, and *Future Gardens*. Through immersive installations, *California Work* will reveal the innovative ways in which the Harrisons engaged with science and how, grounded in prescient concerns about the issue of climate change (a topic they first addressed in 1974), they took on an increasingly planetary frame of reference.

LJHS Executive Director Lauren Lockhart says, "We are immensely proud to present this ambitious retrospective of the work of the Harrisons. It will bring greater awareness to their work, which remains powerful and relevant today."

California Center for the Arts, Escondido will host *California Work: The Prophetic Works* and will introduce the viewer to the heart of the Harrisons' research on and visualization of the existing conditions of Northern California's water system and prophetic reflections on the accelerating greenhouse effect and climate change. The viewer will have a rare opportunity to experience the Harrisons' landmark monumental installation, *The Lagoon Cycle* (1974-84), a complex 360-degree photo mural in 60 parts that has never been displayed in totality in San Diego, nor seen in public since its acquisition by the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris in 1997.

San Diego Public Library Art Gallery (downtown) will host *California Work: Saving the West* in its gallery atop the downtown library at the center of San Diego's urban core. *Saving the West* will allow the visitors to delve deeply into the series of works associated with the Harrisons' research on the fragile and environmentally threatened ecologies of the Pacific Coast fog forest and the Sierra Nevada mountains that mapped out their complex ecosystems and watersheds. The selected series of works shows the Harrisons' increasing concern with the issue of global climate change (a topic the artists first addressed in 1974) and related environmental degradation.

The Mandeville Art Gallery will present *California Work: Future Gardens*, which will speak to the Harrisons' hope of saving the planet in the face of the crisis posed by climate change and its threat to Earth's many ecosystems. The viewer will enjoy original drawings, phototext panels, photographs, and conceptual design proposals. Through immersive installations, *Future Gardens* will reveal the Harrisons' concept of Force Majeure and their adaptive responses to the pressure on planetary systems that are negatively impacted by industrial processes as global warming accelerates.

The La Jolla Historical Society joins a diverse community of Southern California institutions presenting exhibitions, publications, performances, and public conversations and programs as part of Pacific Standard Time. "PST Art and Science strikes at the heart of the enduring human intertwining of science and art. Neither has limits, both speak to the imagination, and when they are put together, each is even more powerful," says Katherine E. Fleming, President and CEO of the J. Paul Getty Trust. "It's very exciting that my first PST will bring together wide audiences and practitioners to share the creative collision of art and science. In converging the two, we start to think and talk about them in new and different ways, even as a new merged category."

*Helen and Newton Harrison: California Work* is among more than 70 exhibitions and programs presented as part of PST ART. Returning in September 2024 with its latest edition, PST ART: Art & Science Collide, this landmark regional event explores the intersections of art and science, both past and present. PST ART is presented by Getty. For more information about PST ART: Art & Science Collide, please visit [pst.art](http://pst.art).

Funding for *Helen and Newton Harrison: California Work* is generously provided by Joan and Irwin Jacobs, the M&I Pfister Foundation, of The Seth Sprague Educational and Charitable Foundation, Michael Bernstein and Patti Harp, and Heath and Terry Fox. Additional support provided by Monica and Charles Cochrane.

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

La Jolla Historical Society: September 19, 2024 – January 19, 2025

California Center for the Arts Escondido: September 21, 2024 – January 19, 2025

San Diego Public Library Gallery: September 21, 2024 – January 19, 2025

Mandeville Art Gallery at UC San Diego: September 28, 2024 – December 7, 2024

**Press ready images available [HERE](#).**

*The Survival Piece V: Portable Orchard*

*The Book of the Lagoon*

*The Fourth Lagoon*

*The Seventh Lagoon*

*The Sacramento Meditations*

*The Future Garden UCSC*

**For more information about PST ART: *Art & Science Collide*, visit:**

<https://www.getty.edu/news/getty-announces-pst-art-art-science-collide-exhibitions/>

For LJHS' *Helen and Newton Harrison California Work*, visit:

<https://pst.art/en/exhibitions/helen-and-newton-harrison-california-work>

<https://www.lajollahistory.org/helen-and-newton-harrison-california-work>

**About La Jolla Historical Society:** La Jolla Historical Society celebrates the history and culture of this region along the water's edge through interdisciplinary programs, exhibitions, and research that challenge expectations. It balances contemporary and historic perspectives to create understanding and connection.

**Opening reception dates:**

La Jolla Historical Society: **September 19, 2024, 6-7:30 pm.**

California Center for the Arts Escondido: **September 20, 2024, 6-8 pm.**

San Diego Public Library Gallery: **September 21, 2024, 12-2 pm.**

Mandeville Art Gallery at UC San Diego: **September 28, 2024, 2-6 pm.**

**Exhibition opening events:**

**La Jolla Historical Society** invites visitors for the opening reception of *Helen and Newton Harrison: California Work* on **Thursday, September 19, 2024, from 6:00 PM-7:30 PM**. Guests will enjoy live music, refreshments inspired by the work of the Harrisons, and can take home soil from the seminal work *Making Earth* (1969-ongoing), featured in the exhibition. **La Jolla Historical Society will hold a special exhibition preview for members from 5:00 PM-6:00PM.**

**California Center for the Arts in Escondido** will celebrate the opening of *Helen and Newton Harrison: California Work* with a reception on **Friday, September 20, 2024, from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM** in the Museum courtyard. Visitors will enjoy music, lite bites, refreshments, and rousing live performances of poetry written by the Harrisons.

**San Diego Central Library Gallery** in downtown invites visitors on **Saturday, September 21, 2024, from 12:00 PM-2:00 PM**, to delve deeply into the series of works associated with the Harrisons' research on the fragile and environmentally threatened ecologies of the Pacific Coast fog forest and the Sierra Nevada mountains. Light refreshments and live music curation by Nick Lesley are included and 2-hour FREE parking is available with validation.

**Mandeville Art Gallery at UC San Diego** invites visitors for the opening of *Helen and Newton Harrison: California Work* on **Saturday, September 28, 2024, from 2:00 PM-6:00 PM**. Visitors will enjoy light refreshments. Exhibition curator Dr. Tatiana Sizonenko will lead a tour at 3pm. Parking and Directions:

<https://mandevilleartgallery.ucsd.edu/visit/index.html>

### Exhibition keynote events:

**November 9, 2024, 2:00-4:30 PM, CCAE. *How Do We Feed Ourselves?*** A panel discussion on *The Lagoon Cycle* with **Betsy Damon, Monica Manolescu, and Chris Marciello**. Moderated by **Anne Douglas and Chris Fremantle**.

**November 12, 2024, 5:30-8:00 PM, San Diego Central Library Judith Harris Art Gallery. *Thinking with the Harrisons: How Do We Regenerate the Pacific Forests?*** Keynote address with **Josh Harrison**, Climate Science Alliance **Dr. Megan Jennings, Joeline Tamm, Will Madrigal, Jr., Ruth Wallen**, and moderated by **Anne Douglas and Chris Fremantle**.

**November 16, 2024, 10:00 am-12:00 PM, La Jolla Historical Society. *Thinking with the Harrisons: What Does Re-Making Civic Environments Mean?*** Roundtable conversation about the future of our cities with **Lauren Bon, Teddy Cruz, Fonna Forman, Leslie Ryan, and Cris Scorza**, and moderated by **Anne Douglas and Chris Fremantle**.

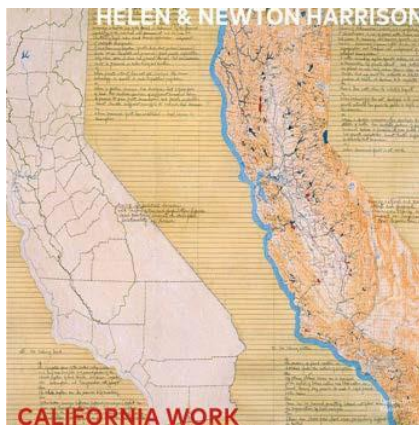
**November 19, 2024, 6:30 PM, Mandeville Art Gallery at UC San Diego (SME 149). *Thinking with the Harrisons: Re-imagining the Arts in the Global Environmental Crisis***. Keynote lecture by **Anne Douglas and Chris Fremantle**. Lecture introduction and Q & A by **Alena J. Williams**.

**November 23, 2024, 2:00-4:00 PM, Mandeville Art Gallery at UC San Diego (SME 149). *Future Gardens as Eco-Cultural Collaborations***, a panel discussion with **Josh Harrison, Leslie Ryan, Barbara Benish, Laura Smith-Filmore, and Benny Filmore**. Moderated by **Anne Douglas and Chris Fremantle**.

**December 6, 2024, 11:00 AM-2:00 PM. "Strawberry Jam" (for Helen Mayer Harrison)**. Performance and lecture on eco-feminism and Helen Harrison's contributions to Environmental art by **Barbara Benish**.

**January 13, 2025, 6:00-8:00 PM, San Diego Central Library Judith Harris Art Gallery. *Thinking and Working with the Harrisons***. A panel discussion with **Ruth Wallen, Robin Brailford, and Leslie Ryan**. Moderated by **Tatiana Sizonenko**.

### Exhibition catalog:



Tatiana Sizonenko (Ed.) *Helen and Newton Harrison California Work*  
Pages 224  
Ills. 180 color  
Format 29.0 × 29.0 cm  
HC 978-3-422-80211-7 En  
ENGLISH  
SEPTEMBER 2024 DEUTSCHER KUNSTVERLAG

***Documentation of 50 years' work by Helen and Newton Harrison, the founders of Eco Art***  
***Concepts and strategies to solve current environmental problems – and an urgent call to action***

The publication addresses a highly topical subject: the interaction between art, science, and social processes - the basic working principle of the two outstanding artists Helen Harrison (1927–2018) and Newton Harrison (1932–2022), who are seen as the founders of Eco Art. It examines the development of their ideas, processes, and techniques in the field of ecological art and their influence on nature and society using the example of their Californian works from the last 50 years, which were a laboratory for a wealth of innovative artistic strategies. The Harrisons later used these strategies in other parts of the world to help solve current environmental problems in local and global contexts. The volume contains critical essays as well as a revealing interview with Newton Harrison, in which he reflects on the development of their Californian oeuvre, and numerous illustrations documenting many of the artworks for the first time.

With contributions by Monica Manolescu, Edward Shanken, and Tatiana Sizonenko.

### Exhibition related publications:



*Thinking with the Harrisons: Re-imagining the Arts in the Global Environment Crisis*  
AUTHORS Anne Douglas, Chris Fremantle

PAPERBACK  
978-94-6270-426-8  
248 pages  
285 × 195 mm  
19 September 2024

EBOOK  
978-94-6166-616-1  
248 pages  
ePDF/ePDF/ePub/ePub 19 September 2024

### What is the role of the arts in the global environmental crisis?

Helen Mayer Harrison and Newton Harrison, known as ‘the Harrisons’, dedicated five decades to exploring and demonstrating a new approach to artistic practice, centered on “doing no work that does not attend to the wellbeing of the web of life.” Their collaborative practice pioneered a way of drawing together art and ecology. They closely observed, often with irony and humor, how human intervention disrupts the dynamics of life as a web of interrelationships. The authors of this book ‘think with’ the Harrisons, critically tracing their poetics as a reimagining and reconfiguring of the arts in response to the unfolding planetary crisis. They draw parallels between the artists’ poetics and rethinking in the philosophy of science, particularly drawing on the work of Isabelle Stengers and Alfred North Whitehead.

*Thinking with the Harrisons* is for anyone concerned with the implications of ecology as part of a reimagining of public life, including through the interaction of art and science. Throughout their joint practice, the Harrisons sought to engage policy makers, governments, ecologists, artists, and inhabitants of specific places, sensitizing us to the crises that emerge from grounded experiences of place and time.

**Anne Douglas** is a professor emerita, Gray’s School of Art, Robert Gordon University, Scotland, who explores the changing place of the artist in public life. Her research has increasingly focused on art and the environmental crisis from a practice-led 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, including 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.