

Insight: ART
FOR
CLIMATE
ACTION



*A live auction fundraiser
benefitting YVSC*

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Brought to you by



YAMPA VALLEY
SUSTAINABILITY
COUNCIL

Cover art by Sloane Speer

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: Saturday, June 29

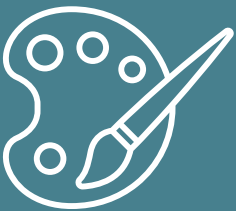
Where: The Larson Barn
32380 Wild Goose Ln

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

When: Monday, May 13

STEAMBOAT CREATES SHOW

When: starts Friday, June 4



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. Read the prompts below and choose one (or more) 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 Abby Vander Graaff.

Kate Brocato –YVSC Communications & Program Manager

kate@yvsc.org | 970.871.9299 ext. 108

Abby Vander Graaff - YVSC Operations Assistant

abby@yvsc.org | 970.871.9299 ext. 117



Artwork by Jill Bergman

Dear Yampa Valley Artist,

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. 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.

We are excited to invite you to participate in Yampa Valley Sustainability Council's (YVSC) second-annual 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 the importance of climate action efforts to a wider community.

During our inaugural year, we did just that. In 2022, Insight brought together **27 artists** who created over **35 pieces**, and, together, we raised over **\$45,000** that benefitted YVSC and furthered climate action in the Yampa Valley. However, more importantly, the event generated important conversations around the ways in which we all feel and experience climate change, with pieces ranging in subject from wildfire and species loss to Indigenous stories and the heart of the Yampa River.

New this year, we have developed a partnership with **Steamboat Creates** to bring your artwork and the message of Insight: Art for Climate Action to a wider audience. **The pieces created for this event will be shown in the Art Depot's Bliss Hall for the month of June**, leading up to the event. We hope that this new partnership will allow the broader community to enjoy the beauty of your work, increase artist visibility, and increase the event's fundraising capacity.

This year, we are again 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.

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.

To learn more about YVSC and the work that we do, visit www.yvsc.org.



Submission & Event Logistics

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.

Submission

When you are ready to submit your piece, **please fill out the artist submission form linked [here](#)**. This will include a photo of your piece, title, dimensions, medium, materials, artist bio, artist statement, estimated value, and more. You are welcome to submit more than one piece, and your piece(s) can explore more than one prompt if you choose.

Timeline

Submission Deadline: Monday, May 13
Delivery to Steamboat Creates: Tuesday, June 4
Steamboat Creates Show opening: Friday, June 7
Event: Saturday, June 29

Acceptance

Although we'd like to include every piece submitted during the Insight event itself, due to space constraints and considerations of the size of our event, we will only be able to accept about 25-30 pieces. However, at a minimum, a larger selection of pieces will be shown in the Steamboat Creates show. Submitted pieces will be judged by our artist steering committee. If you intend to submit, please notify kate@yvsc.org of your intent, and she will be happy to share the judging criteria with you. YVSC reserves the right to refuse any artwork that is considered divisive or offensive. We will not accept artwork generated using AI. The photographic representation of the piece must closely resemble the physical piece.

Things to Note

While we encourage our artists to explore any mediums, themes, forms, and styles that they feel called to, last year we noticed that what was left unsold tended to be more abstract, harder to interpret, or more difficult to display. Our audience seemed to love works that featured local landmarks and natural landscapes. If your end-goal is a sold piece, these are just some pointers to keep in mind. However, we at YVSC have appreciated seeing the diversity in the ways in which our prompts have been interpreted.

Commission & Recognition

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.

Steamboat Creates Partnership

In 2024, YVSC is excited to partner with Steamboat Creates for this event. During the month of June, all pieces created for Insight: Art for Climate Action will be displayed in Steamboat Creates' Bliss Hall. This new partnership will help broaden the reach of this powerful event and will hopefully help increase our fundraising capacity as well.

Auction Structure

New in 2024, YVSC will be utilizing online auction software. All submitted pieces will be open for bidding in advance of the event, with the auction closing on event day. During the event, we will have both a live auction and a silent auction. Our Artist Steering Committee will determine which pieces will be included in the live auction.

For more artist information and resources visit yvsc.org/artist-information/ or scan the QR code.



Prompt #1: Resilient Land & Water

For this prompt, we invite you to reflect on the below, 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.

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. In the Yampa Valley, we are experiencing rising river temperatures, decreased snowpack, increased evaporation, and more extreme drought, which are impacting soil moisture and increasing the risk of wildfires.

Healthy trees and soil sequester carbon, serving as what we call 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? It is important to recognize that we as humans can play a positive role in protecting our environment. How can we utilize art to inspire necessary actions while evoking connection and emotion with our land and climate issues?



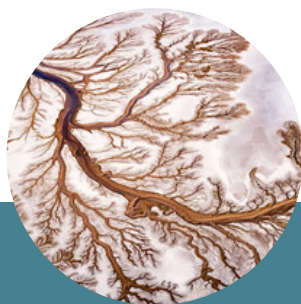
YVSC has a number of projects aimed at increasing resilience, including our Yampa River Forest Restoration Program, our Soil Moisture Monitoring Network, our Yampa Valley Climate Crew, our Sustaining Water Program and more. For more information visit <https://yvsc.org/resilient-land-and-water/>.

Examples



Insight Artist: Jill Bergman

Jill's piece, *Monarch Migration*, recalls the personally painful moment when the monarch was placed on the endangered species list due to habitat loss and increasing temperatures, among others.



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.



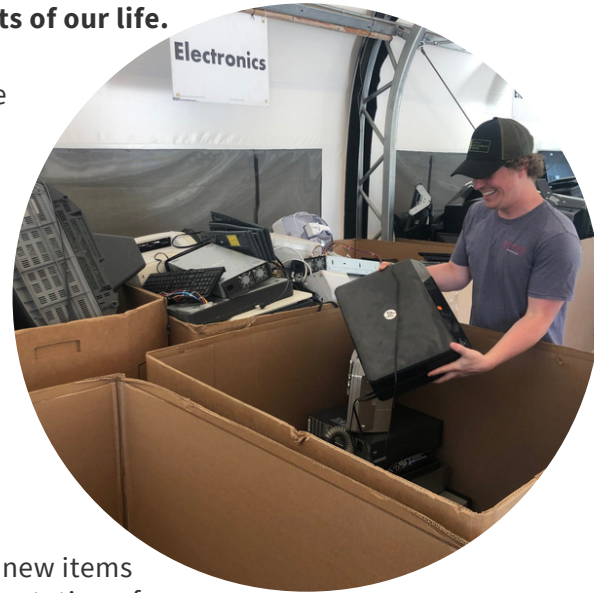
Insight Artist: Dedi Knox

Dedi's concentration on nature in her art is an example of creative form and color presentation. The contrast of colors, for example, red leaves next to green grasses, shows off the forms of nature's objects.

Prompt #2: Waste

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 reusing and repurposing materials you will help raise awareness on the importance of doing so in all aspects of our life.

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. 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. Also, consider how you can you create a piece that communicates the need to rethink the way materials currently move through our community.

YVSC works with local and state government and organizations to improve policies, engages the community and works on outreach through education, and recycles hard-to-recycle materials through our Yampa Valley Recycles Depot to help our community reach its waste diversion goals. For more information visit <https://yvsc.org/waste-diversion/>.

Examples



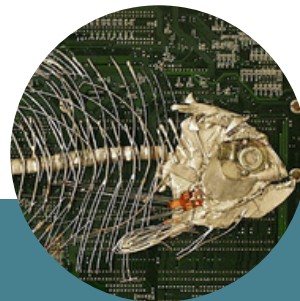
Insight Artist: **Marguerite Pilon**

Marguerite's *Portrait of a Forest* series is a snapshot of evergreen trees in the Yampa Valley. The series was created from found and repurposed aluminum cans, many from along the Yampa River.



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.



Insight Artist: **Laura Tamucci**

For *Yampa #2*, Laura utilized scraps of thread left over from other textile projects to create the body of the Yampa River.

Prompt #3: Energy & Transportation

For this prompt, 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 and still hold cultural importance in many American communities.

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. 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. Electrification of buildings and cars is an important path forward because as the energy grid shifts to renewable energy sources 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 transition away from coal will hit the underprivileged harder than others — art is one way of elevating the voices of these communities and bringing the conflicts and complications around social change to light, 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 you are powerful creators and communicators of ideas, inspiration and visions. How can you as an artist use these talents to get us closer to a future powered by clean energy? 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.

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. For more information visit <https://yvsc.org/energy/> and <https://yvsc.org/transportation/>.

Examples



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.



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.



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.



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.

Prompt #4: Community Engagement

For this prompt, help us engage our attendees in what it means to be creative climate communicators themselves.

At YVSC, our goal is to empower individuals, governments, businesses and organizations to connect their knowledge of how the Yampa Valley is changing to actions that collaboratively conserve resources, increase resilience and reduce emissions throughout the Yampa Valley. Perhaps without even realizing it, you as an artist do the same by helping others better understand or see themselves in changing environments through your artwork.

This prompt is different from the others in that we are looking for a piece or an activity that our attendees can participate in. In 2023, artist Marguerite Pilon created a community mural that was painted by event attendees. However, the sky's the limit with this prompt. We are open to murals, sculptures, pieces created using waste, take-home projects, so long as our attendees can contribute to it.



Things to keep in mind:

- Attendees shouldn't need to spend more than 5-10 minutes in participating
- The activity and instructions should be simple enough that people with zero art experience can participate
- You may need to administer the activity during the event
- The piece probably won't be finished during the event, and you may need to work on it afterwards to complete it.

Because the final piece will not be sold during the auction, YVSC will pay a modest stipend to support the cost of materials and the artist's time. This will be determined between YVSC and the artist based on the project. YVSC will help facilitate in identifying a public venue to display the final piece if applicable.

Submission

Submissions will look a little different for this prompt. Instead of the Google Form linked on page 4, please use the submission form linked [here](#). For this prompt, we will only be selecting one idea, which will be chosen by our artist steering committee. So, for your submission you'll just be submitting your idea and a photo or sketch if applicable. If you are chosen, our team and steering committee will work with you on the logistics of the activity at which point you can start putting it together. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to kate@yvsc.org and abby@yvsc.org.

Examples



Community Mural

Community murals can be created in a number of different formats, whether that be "paint-by-number" or just a simple outline that participants can fill in.



Up-cycled Sculptures

Artist Kim 'Bernard helps communities turn their trash into treasure. While she has a special machine to up-cycle plastic, this can be done in many different ways. Help create the vision and our community can supply the materials.



Collaborative Chalkboard

Collaborative chalkboards are a fun way to share inspiring messages or little doodles. Create a way for our attendees to express their emotions surrounding climate change.



Jill Bergman Sand Mandala

Jill Bergman created a line drawing of her beautiful Mandala for Steamboat Springs. Community members had the opportunity to try their hand at the sand painting technique by filling in the drawing.

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.



Artwork by Attila Feszt



Steamboat Creates

Steamboat Creates has a huge variety of free arts supplies in their Art Pantry for the community.



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

Steamboat Creates' Art Pantry has a wide assortment of frames for repurposing. Consider picking your frame first and creating your art around it.



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