

# Exploring the ways that creative individuals are addressing issues of climate change

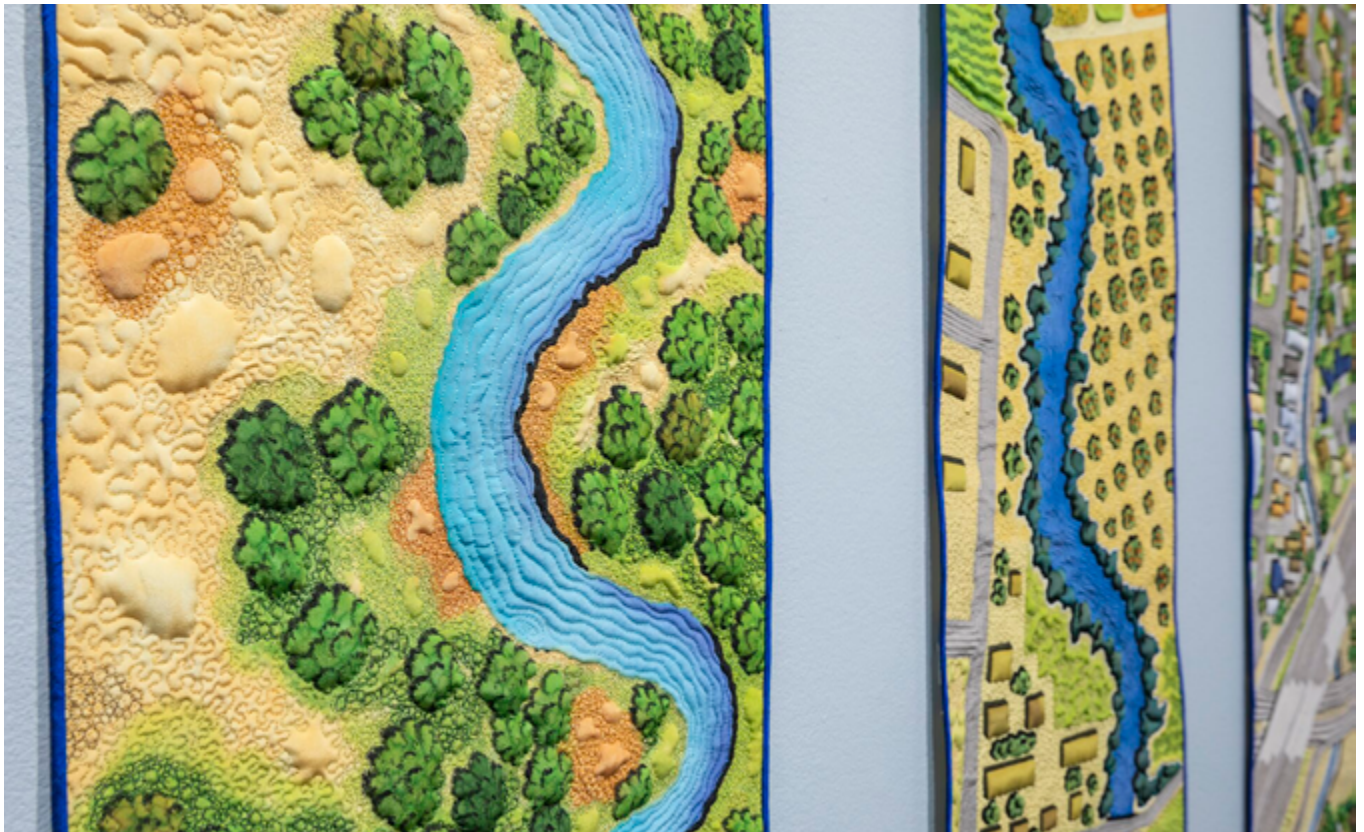
ARIEL ZACCHEO

Located in the Dogpatch district in San Francisco, the Museum of Craft and Design (MCD) has two timely exhibitions on view that explore the way creative individuals are addressing issues of climate change. *Survival Architecture and the Art of Resilience* brings together visionary architects and artists to consider artistically interpretive solutions and prototypes for emergency shelters. Large-scale and portable interactive architectural installations, photography, and drawings impress the importance and sociocultural relevance of emergency and survival housing in the age of climate change. Concurrently, the exhibition *Linda Gass: and then this happened...* highlights the work of Bay Area artist Linda Gass. The exhibit examines the human-made

and natural water infrastructures affecting the greater Bay Area, while considering present and future challenges with respect to climate change.

Although Linda Gass' exhibition is smaller in scale than *Survival Architecture and the Art of Resilience*, it carries a significant impact. The beauty of Gass' stitched paintings draws you in while shedding light on the impact of changing waterways, sea-level rise, fire, and drought in California. Gass' exhibition includes work that is hyperlocal in context, including *Dogpatch: the sea is rising* (2019), which examines the impact of sea-level rise on the Dogpatch neighborhood where MCD is located. This series shows three aerial street views of Dogpatch: as it looks today, how it would change after the impact of three feet of sea-level rise, and the devastation after six feet of sea-level rise. Another localized piece, *Severely Burned: Impact of the Rim Fire on the Tuolumne River Watershed* (2014) represents the devastation caused by the 2013 Rim Fire and the fire's effect on water resources for the city of San Francisco and many other Bay Area cities.

Gass comments, "Our current water infrastructure was designed during an era when our climate was more stable and the average annual rainfall was higher than it is now. Human development has permanently altered and destroyed



much of our natural water infrastructures, such as wetlands and watersheds. My textile, glass, and mixed-media artworks address these concerns—how our infrastructure and development policies are failing under climate chaos—and invite the viewer to ponder the question: ‘What can we do better?’”

A perfect complement to the conversation, *Survival Architecture and the Art of Resilience*, guest curated by Randy Jayne Rosenberg of Art Works for Change (AWFC), follows the idea that addressing climate change must include ensuring durable, long-term housing solutions for vulnerable populations. Tina Hovsepian’s *Cardborigami* (2016) installation showcases her lightweight, sustainable cardboard shelters that are big enough for two people to sleep in and can fold small enough to carry. In a similar vein, the projects and design concepts in the exhibition highlight how we need to rethink and develop robust housing designs that are flexible, resilient, and adaptable to survive the future effects of a changing environment.

Science, technology, architecture, and art converge within the *Survival Architecture* exhibition to question the nature of what it means to survive climate change and natural disasters. “Climate change represents a vastly different kind of environmental challenge, requiring out-of-the-box thinking in how we adapt to and survive the expected onslaught of extreme weather and other disruptions,” said Rosenberg. “Artists are uniquely adept at re-envisioning our world and how we relate to it, as this exhibition shows.”

*Survival Architecture and the Art of Resilience* and *Linda Gass: and then this happened...* are on view at the Museum of Craft and Design through May 3, 2020. Sierra Club members receive free admission to the Museum of Craft and Design with the mention of their Sierra Club membership. Visit [sfmcd.org/events](http://sfmcd.org/events) for special events including curator walkthroughs, MakeArt Family days, and related speaker events.

*Ariel Zaccheo is the Assistant Curator of the Museum of Craft and Design.*



## Volunteer opportunity in Yosemite National Park

The Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center (formerly known as LeConte Memorial Lodge) is a National Historic Landmark that represents the rich heritage of the Sierra Club in Yosemite National Park. The building houses interpretive displays, a children’s library, a natural history library, and evening programs.

Since 1904, a curator and Sierra Club volunteers have provided information about the Sierra Club, the YCHC, and Yosemite National Park to park visitors. Today, each season, the YCHC welcomes over 15,000 visitors to the Sierra Club’s home in Yosemite Valley. *Volunteers are currently being sought to fill the 2020 season.*

Volunteers spend a week from Saturday to Saturday in Yosemite National Park assisting the Club’s curator, interacting with park visitors, and carrying on the Sierra Club tradition of encouraging visitors to enjoy, explore, and protect our natural environment.

The volunteer workweek consists of up to 25 hours of service in the YCHC, with Monday and Tuesday free days to explore Yosemite. This opportunity includes free admission to YNP and free camping in a group campsite with the other YCHC volunteers. Restricted to volunteers only; no family members, friends, or pets are permitted. Camping is limited to tents only and volunteers bring their own food and supplies. A brief application, liability waiver, and background check are required. Potential volunteers must:

- ◆ Be current Sierra Club members;
- ◆ Be outgoing and comfortable interacting with park visitors;
- ◆ Have visited Yosemite within the last two years and have current park knowledge;
- ◆ Be familiar with current Sierra Club programs and initiatives; and
- ◆ Be able to stand up for 3 hours per day.

To become a volunteer at YCHC, please contact Bonnie Gisel, curator, at [bonnie.gisel@sierraclub.org](mailto:bonnie.gisel@sierraclub.org).