

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# A Call to Action: Imagine Our Parks

June 13 & 14 Artist Point, Yellowstone National Park, WY

June 17 & 18 City of Rocks National Reserve, ID

June 22 & 23 Oregon Desert Trail, OR

June 27 & 28 Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, CA

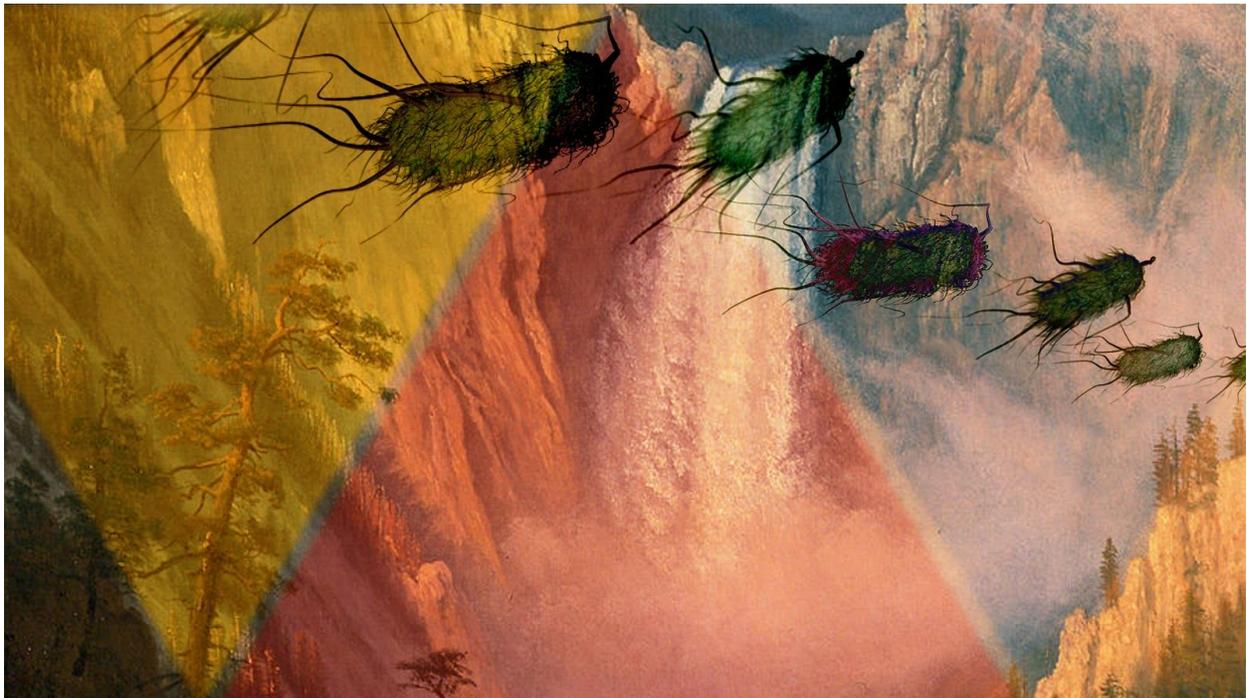
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Imagine Our Parks (IOP) is an experimental artist installation that investigates contested boundaries, shifting borders, territories, and crossings. A collaboration between **Krista Caballero & Trudi Lynn Smith**, IOP has invited **artists** from both Canada and the United States to partner at several locations beginning in (present-day) Yellowstone National Park in an ever-changing campsite installation.

IOP started as a tongue-in-cheek response to **Imagine Your Parks**, a call for projects created by the USAmerican National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Park Service (NPS). The call from the NEA and NPS invites “a new generation of Americans to find their park” as a way of marking 100 years of parks (2016) and 50 years of public arts funding (2015).

As artists interested in the legacies of land surveys and their photographic and painterly representations in North America, Caballero & Smith came together believing that they would apply for the official call -- and then quickly realized that they were ineligible -- as are all individual visual artists. The official [call for applications](#) was complex and confirmed the challenges of thinking about 'public arts' and 'public lands': Who gets access to public funding for the arts and why? What are 'public lands' and who can access them, for what activities? Who or what counts and who or what becomes excluded?

Caballero & Smith launched a counter project.

Beginning at the infamous "Artist Point" in Yellowstone National Park, Caballero & Smith and partner artists will create a moving artist installation made of objects, performances, readings, soundscapes, and ephemera. The works will be mounted for only a short duration, will combine virtual and physical forms, and include performative elements. After Yellowstone, they will travel to: City of Rocks National Reserve, ID; Oregon Desert Trail, OR; and Jedediah Smith Redwood State Park, CA.

#### **Artist Biographies:**

[Krista Caballero](#) (USA) is an interdisciplinary artist exploring issues of agency, survival, and environmental change in a more-than-human world. Moving freely between traditional craft and emerging media, her work creates situations for encountering alternative systems of knowing and perceiving. She received her MFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts/Tufts University and in 2009 attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Her work has been presented across the United States as well as internationally in exhibitions and festivals such as the 2014 International Symposium on Electronic Art in Dubai, "Paradoxes in Video" at Mohsen Gallery in Tehran, and the 2013 Balance-Unbalance International Festival in Queensland, Australia. Caballero is currently the Associate Director of the [Design Cultures & Creativity](#) program at the University of Maryland in College Park.

[Trudi Lynn Smith](#) (Canada) is trained as an anthropologist, artist, and curator (PhD, Anthropology and Visual Art, University of Victoria, Canada). Over the past 15 years she has theorized photography as event through academic research and writing, art installations, and performance to advocate for invisible and under-represented aspects of more than human worlds. Recent publications include "The Anthropology of Historical Photography in a Protected Area: Life and Death in Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta" in *Anthropologica* (2013); recent international recognition includes the Michael M Ames award for innovative museum anthropology with the curatorial collective [Ethnographic Terminalia](#), and recent presentations of her work in Canada and internationally include *finding aid* (Southern Alberta Art Gallery); *Portable Camera Obscura* at site-specific locations across North America. She teaches at University of Victoria, BC.

#### **Partner Artists:**

[Rebecca Clark](#) (USA): Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming (virtual)

[Hali Felt](#) (USA) Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, California

[Katie Hargrave](#) (USA): Oregon Desert Trail, BLM, Oregon

[Sharon Mansur](#) (USA): Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, California (virtual)

[Emily Nilsen](#) (Canada): City of Rocks National Reserve, Idaho

[Ebony Rose](#) (Canada): City of Rocks National Reserve, Idaho

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