

Interdisciplinary Major Proposal: Ecological Art

Environmental art in itself is an umbrella term, which encompasses various forms of art, and is categorized by the motivation to represent the natural world, approaches to nature in historical contexts, as well as ecological and politically motivated types of works¹. Ecological art is a distinguished sector within environmental art.

“To artists, the prefix “eco” infers a theme (concern for the well-being of eco system conditions, functions, and their inhabitants), and an intention (to remediate, preserve, and vitalize these systems)”²

“Professionals dedicated to the work of eco-art define their cross disciplinary work within communities to achieve the following:

- Focus attention on the web of interrelationships in our environment—to the physical, biological, cultural, political, and historical aspects of ecological systems;
- Create artworks that employ natural materials, or engage with environmental forces such as wind, water, or sunlight;
- Reclaim, restore, and remediate damaged environments;
- Inform the public about ecological dynamics and the environmental problems we face;
- Re-envision ecological relationships, creatively proposing new possibilities for co-existence, sustainability, and healing.

Eco-artwork is created in order to inspire caring and respect, stimulate dialogue, and encourage the long-term flourishing of the social and natural environments in which we live”³

The newly solidified field of Ecological Art is dependent upon an interdisciplinary foundation of knowledge and is directly representative of my personal desires as a photographer and artist. Most specifically I, as an artist, want to engage in the art of image making (with photography as my medium) in order to inspire informed conversation about agriculture, farming and food within various communities.

The purpose of Ecological Art and my major can therefore best be achieved through combining the following disciplines: Studio Art (Photography), Botany, Philosophy (Aesthetics) and Sociology. The significance of these disciplines is explicit within the definition of eco-art and its overall purpose in the world. This interdisciplinary major will foster the ability to cultivate perspectives and understandings of ways to photographically communicate the necessity for balance among plants, ecosystems, and all living things. This will enhance my ability to articulate the assumptions made through dialogue inspired by images, which is the purpose of eco-art.

The photography courses listed will enable me to master the advanced skills to produce film-based photography, develop and print images, as well as other