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## **Exhibition**

### ***The Future We Remember***

Feb 1, 2016- June 5, 2016

Main Gallery and Potter Gallery

Curators: Cora Fisher, SECCA Curator of Contemporary Art & Sarah Higgins, Independent Curator

How will we render culture visible to the future? What will our futuristic visions look like once they become natural history? The exhibition *The Future We Remember* brings together a group of contemporary artists whose work collapses the distance between past and future, offering up fictions and fantasies of what culture, technology and ecology will become, while generating new artistic forms in the process. The exhibition includes a wide range of artworks, new and old geological artifacts, and will involve the creation of a time capsule with the public.

### **New Artifacts**

The exhibition activates the work of art and material artifact as a vessel for fictional narratives. For the artists in the exhibition, the interest in imagined futures takes form through a hybrid topography of sculpture, video, digital media, drawing and painting. Archaeology, ecology, and technology are fluid domains, as is the altered sense of time evoked in their work. Past, present, and future converge in new material forms.

Anxieties around ecological change, and the encroachment upon the organic world by our synthetic, disposable culture provoke a conversation between these dueling materialities, the organic and the synthetic. As one emblem of our human-generated material culture, this exhibition presents a new class of rock that has recently washed up on the shores of Hawaii. The rock, called plastiglomerate by geologists, consists of plastic fused with stone. It stands for human impact as well as a collapse of geological and the ever-accelerating present, holding a terrible beauty.

### **Sending Up a Time Capsule**

A plastic rock, a chunk of meteor and a seed: these artifacts in *The Future We Remember* represent the cosmic time, geological time, and the idea of an uncertain future. These objects can also be understood as time capsules – the seed being the most promising among them.

The time capsule is a device to make the idea of the future tangible. Through the creation of a time capsule, this exhibition extends the role of the artist as storyteller in their work to interactive experiences of storytelling designed to open up public imagination. Artists in the exhibition will

select objects for a time capsule. These objects will then be used as props for interactive, object-based storytelling with visitors in SECCA's Main Gallery. Visitors, guided by guest storytellers, are invited to create fictions that will be recorded and transcribed. The stories and the objects will then be assembled and placed on SECCA's grounds.

*The Future We Remember* exercises our ability to shape the future as we imagine it. Ideas of the future are always speculative, yet they also reflect the present state of culture and our collective outlook on civilization and change. The future provokes us to explore the hypothetical realm of possibility and find there what will be memorable, beautiful, and strange.

**Artists:** Sterling Allen (New York); Vija Celmins (Lithuania); Ragnheidur Gestsdottir (Iceland); Dario Robleto (Texas); Michael Jones McKean (Texas); Tejal Shah (India). Other artists TBD