



MEDIA ALERT

**MOUNT WILSON PRESENTS ARTISTS
REBECA MÉNDEZ AND STEPHEN NOWLIN
IN A SCIENCE/ART EXHIBITION INSTALLED IN
THE HISTORIC 100-INCH TELESCOPE DOME AT
MOUNT WILSON OBSERVATORY**

**‘OF SEA AND SKY’ PREMIERES JULY 20, 2024
AND RUNS THROUGH OCTOBER 20**

WHAT:

Mount Wilson Observatory presents a new installation in its Arts @ the Observatory offerings with “Of Sea and Sky”, a two-person perspective on examining human-to-nature relationships against the backdrop of space cosmology and Earth ecology. Showing in the upper-level of the 100-inch telescope dome, “Of Sea and Sky” includes an immersive video piece by **Rebeca Méndez** projected on a 25-foot diameter screen and large-scale print works by **Stephen Nowlin** mounted along the dome’s perimeter encircling the massive 100-inch telescope — the largest in the world until 1949. In their thematically related practices, both Mendez and Nowlin create art that lives in the intersections of the poetic and scientific .

SPECIFICS OF THE EXHIBIT:

Stephen Nowlin is a curator, designer, and writer, currently making limited edition archival prints. Works in “Of Sea and Sky” are drawn from three of his ongoing print series. ***This Land*** series centers on the breakdown of older Earth-centric perspectives which is prompted by new discoveries in the sky via telescopes and exploratory spacecraft. The series ***Marginalia*** scans pages of rare 16th to 19th century books with artist-created commentary in the margins. It also looks at other imagery from space telescope archives, digitally interwoven with texts drawn from history and from Nowlin’s own writings. The series ***Chronicles of Fallacy*** shows pictorial disturbances imposed on pages from historical astronomy and theology books which declare

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falsehoods as the truths of their time. This series examines the broad presence of fallacy intertwined in history's ongoing search for truth.

Presented on a custom-made circular screen, Rebeca Méndez' ***CircumSolar, Migration 1*** is a 26-minute video that highlights the epic journey of the Arctic tern, a pelagic bird renowned for making the longest migration of any creature. ***CircumSolar*** was filmed on location in Iceland, Norway and Finland, and encompasses themes of human and animal migration, and climate change's ecological impacts. Mendez ultimately underscores that humanity is an integral part of the planetary ecosystem and challenges us to reconsider our relationship with the natural world.

WHO:

Stephen Nowlin is an artist/curator and former Vice-President, Exhibitions and Williamson Gallery Director at ArtCenter College of Design, where he initiated art and design exhibitions and collaborations with national scientific institutions exploring the intersection of science and art. He is a co-founder and co-organizer of several Pasadena Art/Science (AXS) Festivals. Nowlin's art-science writings have appeared in numerous publications including the national Sci-Art Magazine, the MIT Press Journal Leonardo, London's Interalia Magazine, and KCET's Artbound among others. Nowlin received his BFA degree from CalArts and an MFA from ArtCenter. He is currently co-curator (with Julie, Joyce and Christina Valentine) for ArtCenter's PST ART: Art and Science Collide exhibition, 2024

<https://stephennowlin.com/>

Rebeca Méndez is an interdisciplinary artist, designer and educator examining reciprocal relationships and environmental justice amid a world of climate change and mass extinction. Solo exhibitions include the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Laguna Art Museum, and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Oaxaca. She earned a BFA, an MFA, and received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts from Art Center College of Design. Mendez is a tenured professor in the Department of Design Media Arts and founder and director of the Counterforce Lab at UCLA. <https://rebecamendez.com/>

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**WHERE:**

Located on Mount Wilson, a 5,710-foot peak in the San Gabriel Mountains near Pasadena, California, the Mount Wilson Observatory was conceived and founded by George Ellery Hale in 1904. The home of some of the most important telescopes in the development of modern astronomy - including the two largest telescopes of their time - it is a site of significant scientific and Los Angeles history. The Observatory and grounds are open to the public to visit, and during the spring and summer hosts public programs including observing through the historic telescopes, lectures, concerts, educational programs, and more.

The world's largest telescope from 1917 to 1949, the Observatory's 100-inch Telescope forever changed our understanding of the scale and nature of our Universe and launched a revolution in astronomy that continues through today. This world-heritage class instrument, used by many of the greatest astronomers of the Twentieth Century, provides a unique setting for this exhibition. www.mtwilson.edu

GENERAL EXHIBIT HOURS:

Artists' Reception: July 20, 2024. 1-5 pm (open to the public)
"Of Sea and Sky" is open weekends July 20 through October 20, 2024. 1-5 pm
(except concert dates: August 11, September 8, October 6)

COST:

A donation is appreciated, not mandatory – online or at the door.
<https://www.mtwilson.edu/events/ofseaandsky/>

MORE INFO: <https://www.mtwilson.edu/events/ofseaandsky/>

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