



# RECKONING

DEBORAH OROPALLO + ANDY RAPPAPORT



Cover: Deborah Oropallo + Andy Rappaport, Single video still from *RECKONING* (2020)

This page: Deborah Oropallo, *Video Frame: Oil and Water*, 2018, Photomontage on paper, 24 1/2 x 35 3/4 inches, Edition 1/1

## ***Deborah Oropallo + Andy Rappaport: Reckoning***

On view January 13-February 24, 2023

Rivalry Projects is delighted to present ***Deborah Oropallo + Andy Rappaport: Reckoning*** as our first exhibition of 2023. This exhibition centers a suite of composite video works by Oropallo and Rappaport, along with photomontages. Oropallo has collaborated on video works with Andy Rappaport since 2017; her photomontages layer visual sources producing dense interplay between time, place, form, and content. This exhibition is on view January 13-February 24, 2023.

Rivalry Projects will be open with amended hours from 2:00-7:00 PM Wednesday-Friday, and 11:00-5:00pm Saturday through the run of the exhibit to optimize the screening experience for Oropallo and Rappaport's videos.

Join us for an artist talk and screening of additional video works by Oropallo + Rappaport on Thursday, February 2, 2023 at 7:00 PM. The talk will be held in person with the artists joining virtually. For more information on this exhibit and additional programming contact Gallery Director, Ryan Arthurs at [ryan@rivalryprojects.com](mailto:ryan@rivalryprojects.com).

Upon entering the gallery, viewers encounter a cycle of three videos by Oropallo and Rappaport with *MELTDOWN* (2018), *CRUDE* (2018), and *RECKONING* (2020), each of which are a single channel video with 2-channel sound. Set against an unsettled sky, Oropallo and Rappaport's *RECKONING* depicts over 200 felled and defaced monuments to America's Confederacy, white supremacy, and global colonialism. Sourced from online reportage and news sites, *RECKONING* re-imagines these historical statues as monuments that reflect the present moment: toppled and splattered with paint, a corrective gesture that the artists note "references the blood that stains the hands of a white hegemony that has used these statues as visual weapons that glorify the subjugation and discrimination of BIPOC populations worldwide."

In addition to *RECKONING*, Rivalry will exhibit photomontages on paper by Oropallo, and specific to this exhibition, the artist will also exhibit new, small-scale digital artworks which remix busts of statues felled by activists from the artist's "Portraits of Protest" series.



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Video Still: *CRUDE* (2018), Single-channel video projection with two-channel sound, Edition of 8 + 3AP, Runtime: 06:39.

The still image artworks within *Deborah Oropallo + Andy Rappaport: Reckoning* are layered photomontages, each of which simultaneously layers, and dissolves images sourced from news coverage of ecological disasters. Once overlaid the images take on an internal momentum and compositional superstructure that points closer to affect of painting rather than contemporary photography.

In speaking about the work the artist reflects “When you overlay news images, they look like 17th century paintings...” Undercutting the reportage function of the images she sources, Oropallo moves past preconceived boundaries of photograph-as-document within layers of decimation and destruction.

**Deborah Oropallo and Andy Rappaport** began their artistic collaboration with the 2018 exhibition *Dark Landscapes for a White House*. Their artistic partnership is ongoing, and their collaborative work so far constitutes more than a dozen projects and large-scale installations. Their installations have been included in *Digital Nature II* at the Los Angeles Arboretum, Pasadena, California; *Natural Discourse* at the Sagehen Creek Field Station, near Lake Tahoe, California; and *FLIGHT* at The Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara, California. *FLIGHT* was also exhibited in 2020 at the Schneider Museum of Art at Southern Oregon University, Ashland. In 2020, *FLIGHT* was acquired by 21c Museum Hotels, Louisville, Kentucky for its permanent collection. In 2021, Oropallo and Rappaport’s collaborative video work, *RECKONING (2020)*, was exhibited in the major biennial *Converge45* in Portland, OR.

**Catherine Clark Gallery** exhibits contemporary art in all disciplines. In response to each exhibition, the gallery curates changing presentations of video and time-based genres within a dedicated media room. Catharine Clark Gallery serves as the primary dealer for an acclaimed roster of international artists. The gallery’s program has garnered critical attention from the *New York Times*, *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *i-D/Vice*, and *Vogue*, among other publications.

**Deborah Oropallo** (American, born in Hackensack, New Jersey, 1954) received a BFA from Alfred University and an MA/MFA from the University of California at Berkeley. Originally trained as a painter, Oropallo incorporates mixed media techniques, including photomontage, video, computer editing, printmaking, and painting into her practice. Whether still or moving images, the resulting works bear traces of the distortions that evolve or remain from the image manipulation. Her composite works layer visual sources producing dense interplay between time, place, form, and content. She has collaborated on video works with Andy Rappaport since 2017.

Her exhibition history includes monographic exhibits at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, California, the Boise Art Museum, Idaho, Montalvo Art Center, Saratoga, California, the San Jose Museum of Art, California; and work in exhibits at the Whitney American Art Museum (Whitney Biennial), the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California, The Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC, and The Jewish Museum, New York, New York. Oropallo's work is in the collections of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, California, the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York, the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, California, the Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York, and the Anderson Collection at Stanford University, California. The collaborative video work with Andy Rappaport titled *SMOKE STACKED* (2017) is in the collection of the Nevada Museum of Art as a part of an ongoing initiative to collect and support works operating at the intersection of art and the environment. The artists' video *FLIGHT* (2019) was featured in an exhibition at the Triton Museum of Art in Santa Clara, California in 2019. In 2020, *FLIGHT* was acquired by 21c Museum Hotels, Louisville, Kentucky for its permanent collection. Also, in 2020, the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive acquired Oropallo's video *GOING BALLISTIC* (2017) for its permanent collection.

**Andy Rappaport** was born in New York, New York in 1957 and has had a nearly 50-year long involvement with music, sound, photography, and technology.

Rappaport's collaboration with Oropallo on the video works for *Dark Landscapes* for a White House (2018) marked his first foray into music for moving images since scoring student films in the 1970s and draws on his experiences at that time with some of the earliest commercially available music synthesizers. In 2024, Oropallo's survey exhibition at the Schneider Museum of Art in Ashland, Oregon will also include collaborative projects with Rappaport, and a monographic catalog.



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Artwork, left: Deborah Oropallo, *Meltdown*, 2018, Photomontage, pigment print, paint on paper, 50 x 80 in, Edition 1/1.

Artwork, right: Deborah Oropallo, *Crude*, 2018, Photomontage, pigment print, paint on paper, 50 x 80 in, Edition 1/1.



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Artwork, left: Deborah Oropallo, *Meltdown*, 2018, Photomontage, pigment print, paint on paper, 50 x 80 inches, Edition 1/1, \$15,000



Artwork, left: Deborah Oropallo, *Meltdown*, 2018, Photomontage, pigment print, paint on paper, 50 x 80 inches, Edition 1/1, \$15,000



This page: Deborah Oropallo, *Video Frame: Oil and Water*, 2018, Photomontage on paper, 24 1/2 x 35 3/4 inches, Edition 1/1, \$5,000



This page: Deborah Oropallo, *Video Frame: Tornado*, 2018, Photomontage on paper, 24 1/2 x 35 3/4 inches, Edition 1/1, \$5,000



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This page: Deborah Oropallo + Andy Rappaport, Single video still from *CRUDE* (2018), Single-channel video projection with two-channel sound, Edition of 8 + 3AP, Runtime: 06:39, \$4,500

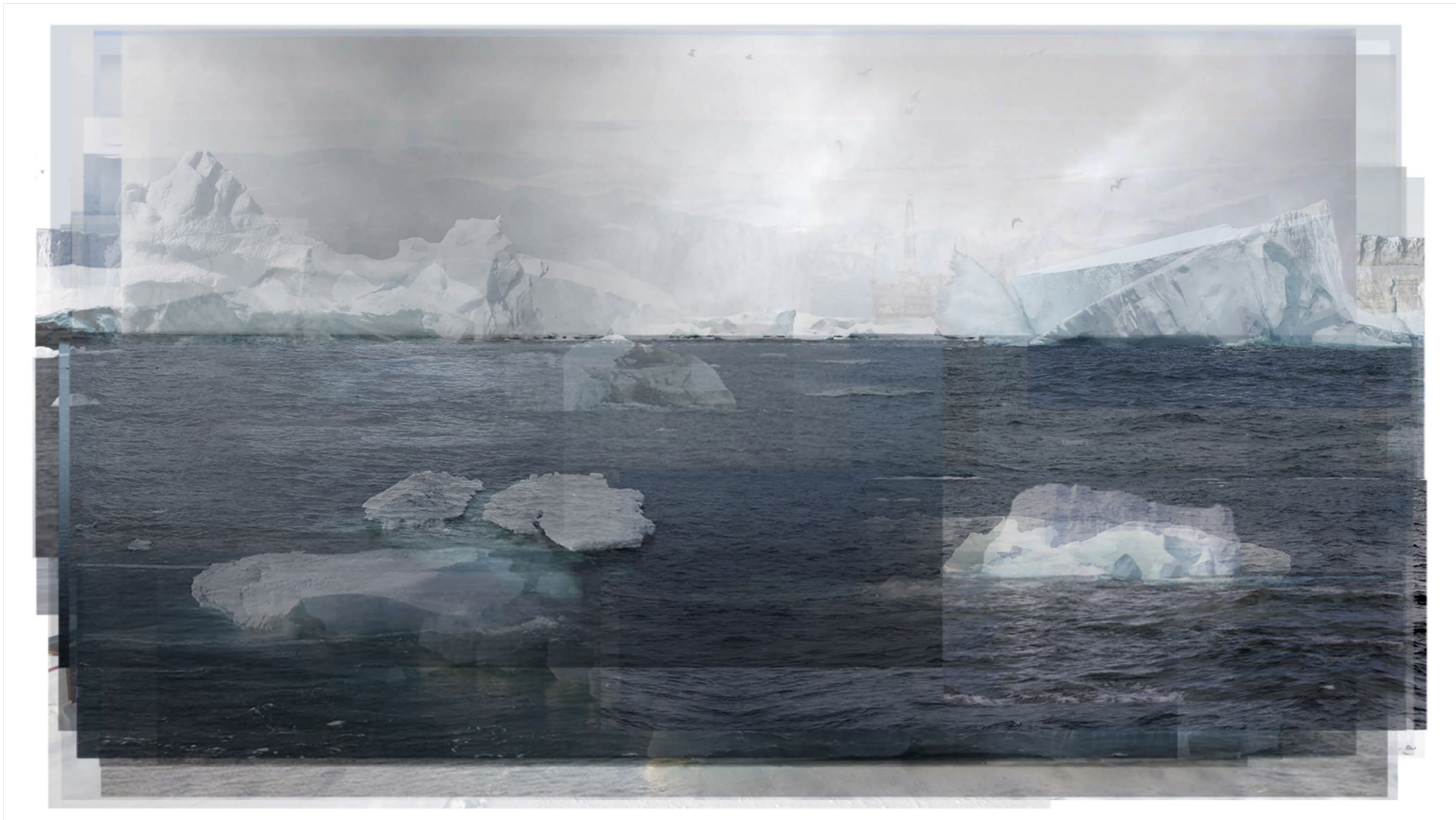


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Video Still: *MELTDOWN* (2018), Single-channel video projection with two-channel sound, Edition of 8 + 3AP, Runtime: 06:39.



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This page: Deborah Oropallo + Andy Rappaport, Multiple video stills from *MELTDOWN* (2018), Single-channel video projection with two-channel sound, Edition of 8 + 3AP, Runtime: 06:39, \$4,500



## RIVALRY PROJECTS

Ryan Arthurs, Director / Curator  
ryan@rivalryprojects.com

Dana Tyrrell, Gallery + Studio Associate  
dana@rivalryprojects.com

Address  
106 College Street  
Buffalo, NY 14201

716-217-2923

**RIVALRY PROJECTS**, or **RIVALRY**, is a commercial art gallery and arts production space located at 106 College Street in Buffalo's historic Allentown neighborhood.

Rivalry is founded on the competing motivations of artist and curator, Ryan Arthurs, to create an arts space that can function as both a site of exhibition and production of contemporary art. Rivalry exhibits emerging, mid-career and underrepresented artists working in all media, but with an emphasis toward contemporary photography.

