

EXPEDITION INTO THE UPPER HOLOCENE

A POSTNATURAL WALKING TOUR OF DOWNTOWN TUCSON

Saturday, February 25th

2:00 to 4:30 pm

The Turtle Pond

Park Avenue and 2nd Street, Tucson

This Activity is Free and Open to the Public

The golden spike of the Anthropocene has not yet been struck. Geologists are currently searching the planet for optimal placement of this official marker. Candidate indicators range from the accumulation of fertilizer in Northern Hemisphere lakebeds to radioactive fallout from the atomic bomb to deposits of microplastics in the Great Barrier Reef.

But the unasked question of our age is whether the Anthropocene is inevitable. Instead of searching for the Anthropocene, can we rediscover the Holocene? The unspoken plea of the Anthropocene is to prevent this new geological epoch, instead of becoming the cause of it. The concept will succeed if it's self-defeating, and the Anthropocene turns out to be nothing more than an unfortunate episode within a Greater Holocene that encompasses it.

On this expedition, the public will be invited to rediscover the Holocene in Tucson. Community explorers will search downtown for signs of life after the Anthropocene. The two-and-a-half-hour expedition will be guided by Jonathon Keats and Robert Villa. Following a brief introduction to the Upper Holocene in downtown Tucson, explorers will take to the streets and collect evidence of environmental remediation and renaturalization of urban settings while also learning about the biodiversity of the city and ways in which the urban wilderness might be better cared for in the future. Materials collected on the expedition will be catalogued and exhibited together with photographic documentation of the tour.

This expedition is organized in partnership with Art and Visual Culture Education Professor Carissa DiCindio, and presented in collaboration with the University of Arizona College of Fine Arts and the Desert Laboratory on Tumamoc Hill. Funding is provided by the Technology Research Initiative Fund/Water, Environmental, and Energy Solutions Initiative.

About Jonathon Keats

Jonathon Keats is an experimental philosopher, artist, and writer whose conceptually-driven transdisciplinary projects explore all aspects of society, adapting methods from the sciences and the humanities. He is a research associate at the University of Arizona's Desert Laboratory on Tumamoc Hill, a fellow at the Berggruen Institute, a research fellow at the Long Now Foundation, a visiting scholar at San José State University's CADRE Laboratory for New Media, and consulting philosopher at Earth Law Center.

About Robert Villa

Robert has been traipsing the Sonoran Desert since he was knee-high to a desert tortoise. He has consulted on and espoused this region embraced by multiple species, cultures, and ways of knowing. He follows the careful scholarship of the great Sonoran bio-cultural explorers, and in 2019 met Sir David Attenborough while consulting for the series Green Planet. He works at the Desert Laboratory on Tumamoc Hill, and is president of Tucson Herpetological Society.

About Carissa DiCindio

Carissa DiCindio is an Assistant Professor in Art and Visual Culture Education and co-director of the Graduate Certificate in Museum Studies at the University of Arizona. Her teaching and research center on art museum education, with a specific focus on museum-community partnerships and university art museums as spaces for collaboration and experimentation.

