

NEWS RELEASE

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New Art Exhibition on Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill to Open at NAS

WASHINGTON – Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences announces “Collapse,” an exhibition created by Brandon Ballengée in response to the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and the global crisis occurring in the world’s fisheries. Ballengée created “Collapse” in collaboration with Todd Gardner, Jack Rudloe, Brian Schiering, and Peter Warny. The exhibition opens Nov. 17, and will remain on view through March 20, 2015, at the National Academy of Sciences.

This large-scale installation, a pyramid display of 26,162 preserved specimens representing 370 species of fish and other aquatic organisms in gallon jars, recalls the fragile interrelationships between Gulf species. Empty containers represent species in decline or those already lost to extinction.

Also on view is “Ghosts of the Gulf,” a series of nine prints made from scans of chemically cleared and stained specimens collected in the Gulf of Mexico after the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The species depicted and numerous others may be in decline. The prints are meant to be seen as apparitions.

Brandon Ballengée is a visual artist, biologist, and environmental educator based in New York. He creates trans-disciplinary artworks inspired from his ecological field and laboratory research. Since 2009, he has been a visiting scientist at McGill University in Montreal and currently is also a professor at the School of Visual Arts in New York City teaching in the Fine Arts Department, the Humanities and Sciences Department, and Honors Program.

“Collapse” will be on exhibit at the NAS Building, located at 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. The galleries are open weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. A photo ID is required.

Related Event: Attend a D.C. Art Science Evening Rendezvous exploring the theme of art and environment on Dec. 11 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the NAS Building. The program features presentations by Brandon Ballengée, artist, biologist, and environmental educator, New York City; Benjamin Dubansky, University of North Texas, Department of Biological Sciences, Developmental Integrative Biology Cluster, Denton; Ariel Trahan, director of education, Anacostia Watershed Society, Washington, D.C.; and Kim Waddell, senior program officer, Gulf Research Program, The National Academies, Washington, D.C. [Registration](#) and a photo ID are required.

The **Cultural Programs of the National Academy of Sciences** sponsors exhibitions, discussion forums, theatrical readings, and other events that explore relationships among the arts and sciences. For more information, call 202-334-2436 or visit www.cpnas.org. The National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit institution that recognizes achievement in science by election to membership, and -- with the National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine, and National Research Council -- provides science, technology, and health policy advice to the federal government and other organizations.

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Images from the exhibition:



Collapse, 2010/2012, mixed-media installation including 26,162 preserved specimens representing 370 species, glass, Preffer and Carosafe preservative solutions, 12 x 12 x 8.5 feet. Brandon Ballengée in collaboration with Todd Gardner, Jack Rudloe, Brian Schiering and Peter Warny.



RIP African Pompano from the series *Ghosts of the Gulf*, 2013-2014, digital chromogenic print on handmade Japanese rice paper in an edition of 13, 18 x 24 inches, courtesy of the artist and Ronald Feldman Fine Arts, New York, NY.



RIP Bluntnose Stingray from the series *Ghosts of the Gulf*, 2013-2014, digital chromogenic print on handmade Japanese rice paper in an edition of 13, 18 x 24 inches, courtesy of the artist and Ronald Feldman Fine Arts, New York, NY.



Collapse (detail), 2010/2012, mixed-media installation including 26,162 preserved specimens representing 370 species, glass, Preffer and Carosafe preservative solutions, 12 x 12 x 8.5 feet. Brandon Ballengée in collaboration with Todd Gardner, Jack Rudloe, Brian Schiering and Peter Warny. Photo by Varvara Mikushkina.

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