

Press Contact

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Hope Ginsburg, Matt Flowers, Joshua Quarles; Video still from *Swirling*, 2019



Anastasia Samoylova, *Fountain*, 2017, from the *FloodZone* series

USF Contemporary Art Museum presents
Sponge Exchange + FloodZone,
two solo exhibitions with artists
Hope Ginsburg and Anastasia Samoylova
January 17 – March 7, 2020

(Tampa – December 3, 2019) On **Friday, January 17 at 6pm**, the USF Contemporary Art Museum, part of the USF Institute for Research in Art in the College of The Arts, opens two new solo exhibitions, *Sponge Exchange* with artist and educator Hope Ginsburg (b. 1974, Bala Cynwyd, PA) and *FloodZone* with artist Anastasia Samoylova (b. 1984, Moscow, Russia). These exhibitions document vulnerable and threatened environments both above and below the sea's surface to reveal human interventions into our natural ocean ecology and the ocean's intrusion into our constructed landscape. Submerging viewers within these habitats spotlights the critical issues surrounding our climate crisis, rising temperatures and sea levels, and water quality; their impact on the health, sustainability and resiliency of Florida's environment; and the social and economic life of South Florida and the Gulf Coast.

Sponge Exchange expands artist Hope Ginsburg's work with ecology and knowledge transfer in two new collaboratively-produced video and sculpture installations. *Swirling*, a four-channel video created in collaboration with diver/videographer Matt Flowers and composer Joshua Quarles, and produced with support of the Wexner Center for the Arts Film/Video Studio Program, submerges viewers in the underwater coral nurseries and outplant sites of St. Croix, capturing the often-unseen coral farming and reef restoration work that occurs beneath the surface. The exhibition also features a series of dioramas inspired by the idiosyncratic and educational dioramas of Tarpon Springs' Spongeorama Museum. Created in collaboration with USF School of Art and Art History students during a fall semester class co-taught by Ginsburg and USF Associate professor John Byrd, the three-

dimensional dioramas examine issues marine species are facing due to the effects of our climate crisis, in order to raise awareness and understanding of how the health of marine ecologies is deeply tied to the environment and economic life of our region, and to serve as a catalyst for imagining productive solutions for the future. Archival materials and ephemera from Ginsburg's decade-long exploration of the sea sponge as a pedagogical model for interdisciplinary and participatory learning will also be on view. *Sponge Exchange* is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts Art Works grant and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

FloodZone, the first solo museum exhibition of Miami-based artist Anastasia Samoylova, presents a new installation of an ongoing photographic series, reflecting the impacts of sea level rise in South Florida. Highlighting the friction between natural and constructed landscapes by focusing on the relationship among environmentalism, consumerism, and the picturesque, Samoylova's images bring to the surface the seductive and destructive dissonance between the saturation of the real estate industry's marketing images of a tropical paradise offering water views, while properties and streets are regularly flooded. *FloodZone* captures the precarious psychological state of living in a paradise sinking towards catastrophe, while revealing the role photography plays in obscuring reality and crafting perception, and in generating collective memories and imagined geographies. *FloodZone* is supported by Oolite Arts and The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts.

Sponge Exchange and *FloodZone* exhibitions are curated by Sarah Howard and organized by USF Contemporary Art Museum.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

HOPE GINSBURG creates interdisciplinary projects which are invested in the socially transformative potential of knowledge exchange, and which build community around learning. Ginsburg's work is driven by a curiosity about the natural world, its materials and the species with which we share the planet. Her ongoing projects are collaborative, cooperative, and participatory, often organized around live experiences for those directly involved, resulting in visual representations, objects, photography and videos. Ginsburg has exhibited nationally and internationally, at venues including MoMA PS1, MASS MoCA, Institute for Contemporary Art at VCU, Wexner Center for the Arts, Kunst-Werke Berlin, Contemporary Art Center Vilnius, Baltimore Museum of Art, SculptureCenter, and the Mercosul Biennial in Brazil. She is the recipient of an Art Matters Foundation Grant and a Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Fellowship and has attended residencies such as the Robert Rauschenberg Residency, Skowhegan, the Wexner Film/Video Studio, and The Harbor at Beta Local. Her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Hyperallergic*, and *Artforum*. Ginsburg is an Associate Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University. Ginsburg received her BFA from Tyler School of Art and MS in Visual Studies from MIT.



Selected Press and Media on Hope Ginsburg

- [Wexner Center for the Arts Film/Video Studio Program](#) – interview with Hope Ginsburg on her new video work *Swirling* from December, 2018
- [VCU NEWS](#) – profile on Ginsburg's inspiration and process behind her video work *Swirling*
- [Creative Time Summit 2015](#) – video presentation by Ginsburg on the art of pedagogy
- [A Blade of Grass](#) – feature on Ginsburg's collaborative, socially-engaged performance project *Land Dive Team: Amphibious James*

ANASTASIA SAMOYLOVA moves between observational photography, studio practice and installation. Her book *FloodZone* was published by renowned international publisher Steidl in 2019. In 2020, Samoylova's work will be presented at the Wilhelm-Hack-Museum and Kunsthalle Mannheim, Germany, as part of the Biennale für aktuelle Fotografie; Kunsthaus Wien in Vienna, Austria; and in solo exhibitions at Galerie Caroline O'Brien in Amsterdam and Dot Fiftyone Gallery in Miami. Recent exhibitions include Salisbury University, MD; Flowers Gallery, London; Museum of Contemporary Photography Chicago, IL; Purdue University, IN; Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, WI; Griffin Museum of Photography, MA; Aperture Foundation, NY; and numerous festivals in Brazil, Belgium, France, Israel, Netherlands, China, and South Korea. Her work is included in the collections of the Perez Art Museum, Miami; Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago; and Art Slant Collection, Paris. Samoylova was an artist in residence at Oolite Arts, Miami; Mass MoCA; Fountainhead Studios; Latitude Chicago; and Prairie Center for the Arts. Samoylova was awarded a number of grants for her ongoing project *FloodZone*, including the South Arts Fellowship and Michael P. Smith Fund for Documentary Photography. Samoylova has published with *The New Yorker*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *FOAM*, *Wired*, *Art Press*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Oxford American* and *Bloomberg Businessweek*. She has lectured as an invited artist at George Eastman Museum, NY; ParisPhoto; and School of Visual Arts, NY; among others. Samoylova received her MA from Russian State University for the Humanities and MFA from Bradley University. She is represented by Dot Fiftyone Gallery in Miami, Florida and Galerie Caroline O'Brien in Amsterdam, Netherlands.



Selected Press on Anastasia Samoylova

- [The New Yorker](#) – “Life in Miami on the Knife’s Edge of Climate Change” by David Company
- [Aesthetica Magazine](#) – “Coastal Uncertainty” Eleanor Sutherland interviews Anastasia Samoylova
- [British Journal of Photography](#) – “Miami’s Climate Crisis” by Hannah Abel-Hirsch on Anastasia Samoylova’s book *FloodZone*
- [lensculture](#) – “There is No Ark” book review by Gregory Eddi Jones

ASSOCIATED EVENTS

Gallery Talk with artists Hope Ginsburg and Anastasia Samoylova

January 17, 6pm

USF Contemporary Art Museum (CAM)

Join artists Hope Ginsburg and Anastasia Samoylova for a deeper dive into their exhibitions during a gallery conversation with USF Curator of Public Art and Social Practice Sarah Howard. The gallery talk is made possible by the generous support of Dr. Allen Root in honor of his late wife Janet G. Root.

***Sponge Exchange + FloodZone* Opening Reception**

January 17, 7pm

USF Contemporary Art Museum (CAM)

Join USFCAM to celebrate *Sponge Exchange + FloodZone*, two solo exhibitions with artists Hope Ginsburg and Anastasia Samoylova that document the habitats both above and below the sea’s surface to reveal human interventions to our natural ocean ecology and the ocean’s intrusion into the built environment. They examine the issues surrounding our climate crisis, rising sea levels, and water quality; their impact on the health, sustainability, and resiliency of Florida’s environment; and the social and economic life of South Florida and the Gulf Coast. Both exhibitions are curated by Sarah Howard and organized by USF Contemporary Art Museum. Music and refreshments provided.

Exhibition Panel Discussion – *Rising Above: Art and Climate Resiliency*

January 18

Coffee Reception: 10am, USF Contemporary Art Museum (CAM)

Panel Discussion: 11am, SoM Conference Center (MUS172)

Enjoy a special viewing of the *Sponge Exchange + FloodZone* exhibitions prior to a panel discussion with artists Hope Ginsburg and Anastasia Samoylova, and invited scholars and experts, as they explore new patterns for resiliency in the face of climate crisis. Moderated by USF Curator of Public Art and Social Practice Sarah Howard. ASL interpretation will be provided.

Art Thursday: Curator’s Talk + Reception

January 23, 6pm

USF Contemporary Art Museum (CAM)

Join Curator of Public Art and Social Practice Sarah Howard for a gallery tour and discussion of the exhibitions *Sponge Exchange + FloodZone*.

CAM Club presents Films on the Lawn

February 6, 6pm

USF Contemporary Art Museum (CAM)

Settle in on the lawn to watch a series of short documentaries, featuring WLN’s *Troubled Waters: A Turtle’s Tale* and Jack Black’s *Saving Miami*, which explore our impact on the health and well-being of the waters, species and ecologies of South Florida. Popcorn and refreshments provided. Presented by CAM Club

Art Thursday: Gallery Talk + Reception

with artist Anastasia Samoylova & Ksenia Nouril, PhD

February 13, 6pm

USF Contemporary Art Museum (CAM)

Join artist Anastasia Samoylova and Ksenia Nouril, PhD, Jensen Bryan Curator, The Print Center, in a talk contextualizing Samoylova’s work within the historical and contemporary role of photography in society. Light refreshments will be served and ASL interpretation will be provided.

SYCOM for *Sponge Exchange + FloodZone*

February 21, 7pm

USF Contemporary Art Museum (CAM)

Students in the USF School of Music SYCOM composition and electronic music studio program perform original compositions inspired by *Sponge Exchange + FloodZone* exhibitions.

Artist Talk with Hope Ginsburg

February 23, 3pm

Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art, St. Petersburg College, Tarpon Springs

Dive deeper into the practice of artist and educator Hope Ginsburg as she presents on her past and current interdisciplinary projects which explore the sponge as a model for the ecological exchange and learning and as a catalyst for social change. Presented in partnership with the Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art.

Land Dive Team: Tarpon Springs Public Performance

February 23, 6pm

The Sponge Exchange, Tarpon Springs

The fourteenth performance in Hope Ginsburg's *Land Dive Team* body of work proposes the practice of present moment awareness as a tool for coping with the overwhelming fear associated with climate change. This new site-specific, public performance involves trained participants meditating in full scuba gear and a live musical



Land Dive Team: Amphibious James, Hope Ginsburg with Composer Joshua Quarles, Performance still, 2018.

score that incorporates the breath of the composer. Together they create an amplified immersive soundscape and opportunity to engage audiences in contemplation of our environment and its species. Supported by USFCAM Art for Community Engagement (ACE) funders and presented in partnership with The Sponge Exchange and Tarpon Strings Music.

ABOUT USF CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM

The University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum (USFCAM) organizes and presents significant and investigative exhibitions of contemporary art from Florida, the United States, and around the world, including Africa, Europe, and Latin America. Exhibitions and educational programs are designed to introduce students, faculty, and the community to current cultural trends. USFCAM also publishes relevant catalogues, schedules critically important traveling exhibitions, and underwrites new projects by artists emerging on national and international fronts. USFCAM maintains the university's art collection, comprising more than 5,000 art works.

The USF Contemporary Art Museum is recognized by the State of Florida as a major cultural institution and receives funding through the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts. The USF Contemporary Art Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.



Dr. Allen Root
in honor of his late wife
Janet G. Root

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