

**Liz Chalfin FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Zea Mays Printmaking**  
**413-584-1783**  
**[liz@zeamaysprintmaking.com](mailto:liz@zeamaysprintmaking.com)**

**Art and Science Team Up to Fight Climate Change**

*Opening Reception at Exhibition Aims to Educate Public, Inspire Urgency*

**Amherst, MA:** To address climate change, experts from all walks of life will need to collaborate. That is one of many messages of the Fall 2021 exhibition *Rising Waters/Blazing Earth* and a particular focus of the opening reception on September 10, at the Augusta Savage Gallery at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Gabrielle Russomagno, photographer and installation artist, and Professor Robert M. DeConto, geoscientist, will take part in a 40-minute discussion on climate change to share their knowledge and experience on issues raised by the artwork displayed.

*Rising Waters/Blazing Earth* is an exhibition presented by Florence, MA studio Zea Mays Printmaking. It features multimedia works by 30 artists about the political, social, and personal issues related to natural resource exploitation—its forms and its consequences, including its effect on art making and human life. The exhibition is associated with a pan-global art project, *Extraction: Art on the Edge of the Abyss* (recently featured in *Orion Magazine*), “a multimedia, multi-venue, cross-border art intervention that will investigate extractive industry in all of its forms from mining and drilling to the reckless exploitation of water, soil, trees, marine life, and other natural resources.”

The opening reception discussion, co-moderated by artists Elisa Lanzi and Lynn Peterfreund, will be guided by the following questions, asked of both participants:

- When did climate issues become a focus of your attention?
- How do you live with what you know as a scientist or an artist? How do you express that urgency in both graphic and aesthetic ways?
- How can telling stories about climate change become an important part of our social fabric and sensibility?

Russomagno’s mission as an installation artist to explore social and political themes, and DeConto’s experience serving on international science advisory boards and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, make them uniquely equipped to lead a spirited conversation on the importance of collaboration and urgency.

*Rising Waters/Blazing Earth* will run from September 8th to October 20, 2021 at Augusta Savage Gallery, New Africa House, UMassAmherst, 180 Infirmiry Way, Amherst, MA.

**About Zea Mays Printmaking:** Zea Mays Printmaking is a studio, workshop, gallery, educational facility and research center dedicated to the safest and most sustainable printmaking

practices available. Under the leadership of Director Liz Chalfin, Zea Mays Printmaking has collaborated with studios all over the world, including the University of Fukui in Fukui, Japan, Artist Proof Studio in Johannesburg, South Africa and the San Alejandro Academy of Fine Arts in Havana, Cuba, to explore and develop methods of green printmaking.