

Press Release: Critically-acclaimed artists visit Eugene to discuss art and environmental stewardship

Internationally renowned sculptor, Garth Evans, and award-winning prose author, Leila Philip visit Eugene on October 12 to discuss their collaborative book, *Water Rising*.

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Garth Evans and Leila Philips

"Here"- a painting from Water Rising

EUGENE – On October 12, from 5-7:30pm at the First United Methodist Church, a sensational evening of art and conservation will be held in Eugene. **At this FREE event**, meet internationally-renowned sculptor, Garth Evans, and award-winning prose author, Leila Philip, as they present their latest, **critically-acclaimed collaboration, Water Rising** - a book of watercolors and poetry inspired by the natural world.

At its core, *Water Rising* celebrates our human need to connect to place. Through Philip's realist poems - about nature, beauty, love, and loss - set amongst Evans' abstract, deeply hued, layered watercolors, *Water Rising* is a gorgeous read and a visual feast. Evans and Philip will feature a multi-media presentation and conversation about the intersection of art, literature, and the environment.

Though Leila and Garth are based in New England, Leila has long been inspired by Oregon's breathtaking natural wonders. "The incredible beauty of Oregon was not all that I took with me when I left... Oregon sparked my imagination and nurtured my desire to be creative." In her late-teens her wanderlust told her to 'Go west young woman.' Leila spent time in Oregon on a sheep and cattle ranch near Coos Bay, then as a tree planter in the Siskiyou Mountains with a cooperative based out of Roseburg, and finally as a cheetah Ranger at the Wildlife Safari in

Winston. "I loved Oregon's natural beauty and the scale of nature and the ethos of creativity and rugged individuality."

The evening with the *Water Rising* duo will feature Leila discussing her Oregon inspiration, the process of artistic collaboration, and the deep connections between art forms and the natural world. It will also feature a raffle of the book to a few lucky winners, original paintings on display by Garth Evans, a book signing, and refreshments for attendees.

This presentation is brought to the community by [1000 Friends of Oregon](#), in partnership with [Better Eugene-Springfield Transit \(BEST\)](#), and [WE CAN Eugene](#). *Water Rising*, 1000 Friends, and our partners all share a mutual interest in the human connection to place. We are committed to making Oregon a great place, protecting our natural landscapes for future generations, and building livable communities that are connected, climate-friendly, and accessible for everyone.

All proceeds from the sale of *Water Rising* that evening will be in support of 1000 Friends of Oregon. Part of the *Water Rising* mission is to raise funds for environmental stewardship across the country.

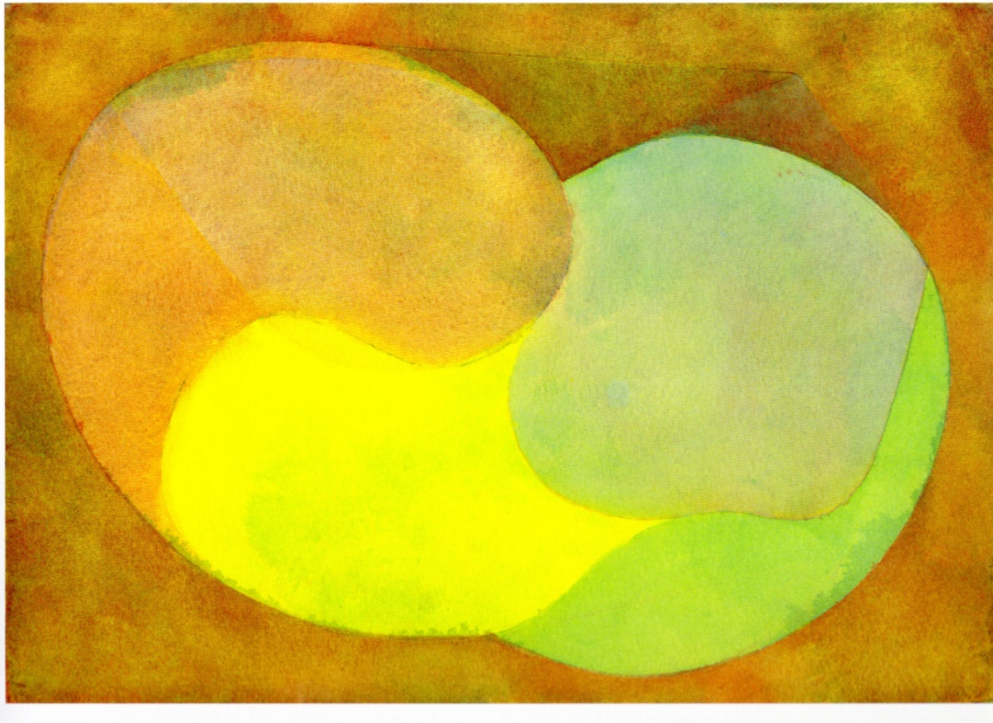
Space is limited for this unique, inspiring evening. Please RSVP at <http://bit.ly/WaterRising>

What: An evening of art and conservation with critically acclaimed artist duo, Garth Evans and Leila Philip. Come out for this FREE, sensational program discussing the intersection of painting, poetry, and the natural world through the book *Water Rising*. *Water Rising* is a celebration of the human need to connect to place. Books will be raffled off and sold, refreshments served, and community built! 100% of the proceeds from book sales will go to the non-profit 1000 Friends of Oregon.

When: October 12, 2016, 5:00 – 7:30pm

Where: First United Methodist Church – 1367 Olive St. Eugene, OR

Who: Hosted by 1000 Friends of Oregon, in partnership with Better Eugene-Springfield Transit and WE CAN Eugene



'Four Zucchini' – an excerpt from *Water Rising*

Twist of hand
and the slim batons crack
free, only to slip
from my grasp,
white clouds cut loose,
August heat.

Down at the pond a flurry
just under water, while here
in the hot dirt
four zucchini,
green zeppelins
untethered now,
the surprising weight
of them lifting
my basket.

About the Artists:

Leila Philip is the author of three books, including *The Road Through Miyama* (Random House 1989, Vintage 1991), for which she received the 1990/PEN Martha Albrand Special Citation for nonfiction, and the award-winning memoir *A Family Place: A Hudson Valley Farm, Three Centuries, Five Wars, One Family* (Viking 2001, Vintage 2002, SUNY 2009). Philip has received numerous awards for her writing, including from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, The National Endowment for the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Garth Evans is a British sculptor with an international reputation whose practice is central to the narrative of British sculpture. His work is included in major public collections, including: The Metropolitan Museum, Museum of Modern Art, NY, the Brooklyn Museum, Joseph H. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Tate Gallery, Victoria and Albert Museum, the British Museum, and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Australia, among many others.

About 1000 Friends

1000 Friends of Oregon is a nonprofit land use advocacy organization with offices in Bend, Eugene, Grants Pass, and Portland. At 1000 Friends, we love Oregon and work to protect it every day. We do this through our state's land use planning program, ensuring it effectively works for all Oregonians. That means we have great communities for everyone, healthy working lands to provide resources, and breathtaking iconic spaces protected for future generations. Founded in 1975, 1000 Friends works with Oregonians to enhance the state's quality of life and is the only statewide group working for responsible land use across Oregon.

More info can be found at www.friends.org.

About Better Eugene-Springfield Transit (BEST)

Better Eugene-Springfield Transit (BEST) is an educational nonprofit organization formed in 2012 by concerned citizens to give voice to the public support for EmX bus rapid transit and better transit. BEST's mission is to promote a thriving, equitable, and sustainable Eugene-Springfield area with a world-class network of safe, practical, and affordable options for people to ride the bus, bicycle, and walk. BEST pursues this mission by educating the public, convening community leaders, helping forge consensus, and advocating in the public interest. BEST is a diverse group of people, from both Eugene and Springfield, who believe that better transit is good for the economy, the well being of people, and the environment—for our quality of life.

More info can be found at www.best-oregon.org

About WE CAN Eugene

WE CAN (Walkable Eugene Citizens Advisory Network) is an ad hoc group of homeowners, renters, and property owners who support successful, diverse, and community-supported walkable 20-minute neighborhoods in Eugene, and who believe that all Eugene residents should have choices for housing that fit their lifestyle and budget. WE CAN works to promote sustainable residential infill for sufficient and varied housing, to support housing affordable for all residents, to improve infrastructure for walking, and to participate in the city's planning process to accomplish these goals and more.

More info can be found at www.wecaneugene.org