**Earth Day Curator’s Talk by LIbra Professor mp Warming**

***Precious Cargo, Precious World***

**Saturday, 22 April 2023 at 4pm**

**UMF Art Gallery**

Curator mp Warming is a multidisciplinary artist and performer and socially engaged art activist. She is the founder of the Art/NaturSci Movement and Art Science Exhibits Berlin. Her environmental art projects include international, large-scale exhibitions and installations, most recently at the Venice Biennale. Warming likens her art partnerships to a contemporary Warhol Factory, “without the beds and drugs”. Her exhibitions educate audiences on ArtSci, climate change, and possibilities for ecosystem regeneration. She works to share leading-edge perspectives with fellow artists, art writers, art educators, curators, and students of all ages. In her collaborative practice, Warming has worked alongside hymenopterists, lepidopterists, oceanographers, ornithologists, and paleontologists in major museums of natural history and in field research. Her work is also informed by innovative architects and businesses, non-profits, and technology, as together we seek pathways toward sustainability.

The talk will highlight the history of her Art Science Exhibits Berlin enterprise, created and consistently recreated by artists and scientists, and include an informal walk-through of the “Precious Cargo, Precious World” exhibition, which will expand on her multidisciplinary approach. In partnership with Captain Cornelius Bockermann and his incomparable AVONTUUR cargo schooner, Warming launched the Art/NaturSci Movement in 2020. The project continues to promote zero carbon for shipping internationally. The art that traveled aboard is showcased in this exhibition.

Warming’s performance art was in exhibition at the 2009 Venice Biennale. In 2019, her prints were exhibited at the Venice Biennale and the well-known WATOU Festival in Belgium. Her curatorial and art making for the 2019 Venice Biennale Art/NaturSci Pavilion was sponsored in part by Villa Sträuli in Switzerland, where her studio spanned the top floor of the villa. Warming’s art on paper is in permanent collections at the V.V. Nabokov Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia and the famous Philology Library designed by Foster + Partners at the Freie Universität Berlin.

This event is made possible by the Libra Professorship Program which brings scholars of national and international prominence to University of Maine System campuses to provides students and community with outstanding models of teaching, research, and public service. It is co-sponsored by the Divisions of Arts and Natural Sciences.

**Workshop: Performing the Environment**

***Burying the Anthropocene***

**Monday, 24 April 4pm**

**Meet at the stone bridges next to the Roberts Learning Center Main Street parking lot.**

Libra Professor mp Warming will lead a collaborative group performance. In paleontology, paleoceanography, and paleoclimatology our current Anthropocene period is researched, discussed, and hotly debated. Plastic molecules, pollution, and chemical compounds of our era have dramatically affected the Earth permanently. What will come after our next millennium depends on humankind. Bring a shovel (if possible) and ideas on future discoveries and sustainable actions, as we perform a ritual to move past the devastation, plant seeds (metaphoric or real) for a sustainable future, and turn the corner, collectively, in our minds’ eyes. Bring a trowel or shovel if you have one handy.

**Workshop: *The Evolution of Beauty***

**Wednesday, 26 April 11:45am**

**UMF Art Gallery**

Libra Professor mp Warming leads a drawing workshop for educators, artists, and students based on Darwinian ideas of aesthetic agency. If all species have aesthetic agency and humankind are creatives, it follows that (almost) everyone can draw. Whether it be squiggly lines, graphs, or scientific illustrations, scientists most often express their research and discoveries visually. In this exercise, students learn to teach evolution through their drawings.

In both her art practice and curatorial work, Warming has been inspired by the research of Yale Ornithologist Richard O. Prum, who reasserts and expands Darwin’s 1871 argument that sexual selection in mate choice (for instance, in many birds and fish, where females choose among flashy ornamental male suitors) is based on individual and cultural aesthetic choices that develop co-evolutionarily with males’ development of their impractically beautiful flourishes.

Prum points out important connections in the ways that artworks and aesthetic theory devised by humans have dramatically changed together across time, in close conversation and dispute. Drawing on the theory of *artworlds* framed by philosopher Arthur Danto in the 1960s to make sense of the accelerated changes and diversity in modern and contemporary definitions of art, Prum argues for dynamic artworlds of other species that develop and function in the same way as their human counterparts.

Prum’s writings (see especially“Coevolutionary aesthetics in human and biotic artworlds”) can be found on his website**:** <https://prumlab.yale.edu/>

His recent book expanding on biotic aesthetic evolution is *The Evolution of Beauty: How Darwin’s Forgotten Theory of Mate Choice Shapes the Animal World* (Anchor, 2017).

**Water Bear Confabulum**

**Saturday, 29 April 11-3pm**

**UMF Art Gallery**

**Guest Artist mp Warming**

**For Children and adults of all ages**

11:00- 3:00

Water Bear Safari:

*Safari:* Swahili, meaning *to travel.* Come to the gallery with moss, lichen or moist leaves from your yard or find some on campus and we’ll put it under the microscope and project it to meet your tiny neighbors traveling life’s journey alongside us humans. We will document our findings in colorful artworks. Build a mossy water bear habitat to take home.

Maine jellyfish workshop: build your own jellyfish or arctic char to participate in the Happening: *Ice Age Now.*

3:00: **Happening: *Ice Age Now***  Meet in front of the Emery Community Arts center. Become a glacier, a calved iceberg, an erratic, or marine life as we reenact Maine’s most recent ice age. Wear a color or costume; percussion instruments welcome. *Image by Sinclair Stammers:*

