

RE | ACT: ARTS & ENVIRONMENT SYMPOSIUM

Brown Arts Initiative | Brown University
Granoff Center for the Creative Arts
Providence, RI

MARCH 3-4, 2017



Photo from *Midway: Message from the Gyre*, by Chris Jordan, 2017

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| | | | | BROWN
| | | | | ARTS
| | | | | INITIATIVE

Select RE | ACT Panelists and Performers



Marcus Eriksen



Sonali Rastogi



A performed reading of Thalia Field's
Experimental Animals



Seitu Jones



Alan Nakagawa



Jennifer Gabrys



RE | BUILD: Water and Constructed Space

Manit Rastogi, Sonali Rastogi, Shannon Scrofano, Arturo Vittori

Architects and artists who have used water in their designs and installations in environmentally responsive ways, facilitated by Sheila Bonde



RE | BUILD Panel: (L-R) Sheila Bonde, Arturo Vittori, Shannon Scrofano, Manit Rastogi, Sonali Rastogi

“Water is free; it flows. You can’t put political boundaries on it.” —Manit Rastogi

RE | BUILD brought together artists and architects addressing the “interface between the space of human habitation and the space of water,” as Sonali Rastogi noted. Working in locations as far ranging as Southern California, India and Ethiopia, the panelists detailed endeavors to create sustainable infrastructure through projects deeply rooted in those environments.

Sonali Rastogi described the Pearl Academy of Fashion, a new building located in the hot desert climate of Jaipur, India. The facility combines traditional and innovative design elements, seamlessly blending inside and out, and utilizing passive cooling techniques involving water, shadow and shade to modulate internal temperature.

Arturo Vittori explained his Water Wurka design, a water capturing device that uses local, biodegradable affordable materials and native construction methods to bring potable water to remote Ethiopian villages. **Shannon Scrofano** discussed her efforts to create a public park for the low-income, Spanish-speaking community of North Shore, CA on the Salton Sea, an 8,400-square-mile saline lake surrounded by barren desert. **Manit Rastogi** asserted that modern cities occupy two percent of the world’s surface but consume up to 75 percent of its resources. He argued that water defies political ownership as it moves freely from one region to the next, and its preservation is therefore a global concern. The Ganges River, one of the most revered and polluted bodies of water in the world, was recently declared a “legal person” by an Indian court. As Sonali Rastogi reflected, “The river is life—birth and death, trade and commerce.”