WATER IMBALANCE
Curated by Danielle Eubank

As the majority of the world’s population, it is incumbent upon women to be guardians of the future. We need to look after our people, our natural environment, and our water. Water is a shared resource amongst all people. It is our provider – for sustenance, fishing, farming and regulation of the earth’s climate. This exhibition makes a statement about the unifying preciousness of water by documenting it all over the world with paintings, photography, 3-dimensional mixed media, and installations by leading environmental women artists.

The conceptual theme of the exhibition will address the consequences of the human footprint globally by looking at the imbalance of the availability and cleanliness of water. We will specifically examine water scarcity, cleanliness, access, expanding deserts, urban engagement, climate change, diminishing glaciers, and change making, which all reflect an unworkable imbalance. For the visual theme, emphasis will be placed on the view of water from a geographical perspective as well as a state of mind.

The common visual theme in Water Imbalance, the geographical and perceptual view of water, will reveal itself in intimate stories as the artworks are arranged and grouped in order to create resonances and discourse. Descriptive clues will be placed among groupings to help the viewer understand the themes artists are exploring visually. Visual conversations between the works will be manifest throughout, encouraging the viewer to think about the theme and challenge their own ideas about the imbalance of water availability and cleanliness around the world.

Water Imbalance is a curated exhibition planned for the Balance-Unbalance 2015 Conference at the Arizona State University Tempe Campus. It will include large and small works of painting, photography, three-dimensional mixed media, installations, and original prints from invited environmental artists including (but not limited to) Kim Abeles, Suvan Geer, Danielle Eubank, Sukey Bryan, Ilka Raupach, J.J. L’Heureux, and Melissa Reischman.

WASTE WATER
A Sound Installation by Kristian Derek Ball

Water is something that we, as humans in modern society, have to waste to some degree. But we still have options on how we approach, view, and interact with our activities that relate to water.

The idea behind this new installation is to raise a hyper-awareness of the process of water draining away from us during its usage. The sonic experience of listening to the phenomenon of water in action, and its interfacing with those using it, can lead us into a mode of listening which may juxtapose traditional symbolic references.

Depending on the design of the space where installation is to be experienced. I will identify 3 to 4 sound sources and apply microphones in or around them. The signal will be feedback to a mixer and or interface which will be processed and returned to either speakers located at the source of the sound (via speaker) or in a listening space designated for the piece. This may be done via wireless technology or traditional or perhaps a combination of both.

THE HUMAN DELTA
Rachel Mayeri
A delta is a place where a river meets another body of water. A river carries sediment that leaves a triangular pattern where the two bodies of water intersperse. Human bodies are nutrient-rich water and sediment transportation systems. The Human Delta occurs at the toilet, an effluence of millions of gallons of sediment-rich water, which mixes with rivers, aquifers, bays, land, and the ocean.

Environmentalists deal with the human delta as a toxic concentration of bacteria, pharmaceuticals, and other chemicals; partially treated wastewater routinely pollutes waterways. Some chemicals which course through human bodies--heart medicine, antibiotics, estrogen--may adversely affect fish populations and their habitats. Yet, the chemicals which are naturally produced in urine (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium), rather than being construed as waste or pollution, can also be used as important nutrients for the soil in which plants grow. Agribusiness uses fertilizer derived from fossil fuels and mined from limited reserves, contributing to global warming. A more sustainable solution would be to recycle human urine, treat it, and use it as fertilizer, linking the Human Delta back to the ecological cycle productively, rather than destructively.

*The Human Delta* is an art-science project intended to increase public awareness about human "waste" at its point of departure: the bathroom. A series of posters (two have already been created and deployed) are installed in conference bathrooms, and are available for distribution. Toilets are interstitial, potentially contemplative spaces, which underscore the hidden, segregated, white-tiled, and taboo nature of the subject.

One poster is about the flow of pharmaceuticals from human bodies into a river delta. Informed by scientific research, which has found concentrations of caffeine in the Puget Sound, the poster depicts the Starbucks logo as a flow of caffeine, hormones, antibiotics, and medicines entering and leaving the human body, and cycling back as disturbed (caffeinated, aggressive, effeminate) fish.

Another poster is about the potential of urine as a fertilizer. It depicts a farmer fountain: a stream of water pours forth from kidneys and bladder, fertilizing a field of corn. Text on the poster reads: "urine is fertilizer" / "nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium."

Posters can be easily installed with tape and tacks in bathrooms and in other spaces. The posters were previously displayed as part of an art-science panel at the 2014 Bay Delta Science Conference in Sacramento, California, curated by Enid Baxter Ryce.