

# 54<sup>th</sup>

## Comparative Literature Symposium

*"Perspectives on Water on the Llano Estacado"*



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY, LUBBOCK, TEXAS

*March 31 – April 2, 2022*

## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

*Thursday, March 31, 2022*

Stewarding Our Aquifer Field Day. FiberMax Center for Discovery (formerly Agricultural Museum), 1121 Canyon Lake Drive, Lubbock, Texas. Parking available at FiberMax Center. (10:30am – 3:30pm)

*Friday, April 1, 2022*

Presentations and Poster Session. International Cultural Center (Hall of Nations), Texas Tech University, 601 Indiana Avenue. Parking available at International Cultural Center. (8:30am – 5:00pm)

*Saturday, April 2, 2022*

Talks and Music Performance. Department of English, Room 106, Texas Tech University. Parking available at Lot R05 (off of 15th Street and Flint in front of English and Philosophy Building). (9:00am – 4:00pm)

Exhibits and Reception. School of Art, Landmark Gallery. (4:00pm – 6:00pm)

For more details, contact Dr. John Beusterien at [john.beusterien@ttu.edu](mailto:john.beusterien@ttu.edu).

## 54th Comparative Literature Symposium

*“Perspectives on Water on the Llano Estacado”*

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY *March 31 – April 2, 2022*

Modality: In-Person. All events open to the public

Water flows through Lubbock, the Llano Estacado, and the Earth itself. Fostering an acute awareness of the local importance of water builds sensitivity to the importance of water for the planet as an integral system.

The 54th Comparative Literature Symposium at Texas Tech University will jumpstart a conversation among community practitioners and academics in the humanities and sciences about the indispensability of water.

The symposium will include presentations that approach water from archeological, historical, legal, engineering, scientific, and humanities perspectives, especially focusing on the Southern High Plains. The symposium also includes a field trip (with Ogallala Commons), a musical performance (with Andy Wilkinson), and an art exhibition (with the Texas Tech School of Art).

Planned outcomes for the symposium include a book volume with Texas Tech University Press and the communication of the ideas from the symposium to children through the creation of teaching modules or an exhibition.

Cover Image: Sara Drescher “Untitled Mountain Landscape” watercolor on paper, 18x25 inches, 2022

## DETAILED SCHEDULE

### *Thursday, March 31, 2022*

Stewarding Our Aquifer Field Day. FiberMax Center for Discovery (formerly Agricultural Museum), 1121 Canyon Lake Drive, Lubbock, Texas

**10:30am: Lucille Contreras** (CEO and Founder of Texas Tribal Bison Project)

**11:30am: Alex Hunt** (West Texas A&M University, Vincent/Haley Professor of Western Studies; Director, Center for the Study of the American West)

**12:00pm:** Sandwich Lunch provided at the FiberMax Center for Discovery.

**12:30pm – 3:30pm:** Bus departs from and returns to FiberMax Center. Organized by Ogallala Commons (register by contacting Darryl Birkenfeld: [darryl@ogallalacommons.org](mailto:darryl@ogallalacommons.org) or call (806) 336-1713)

### *Friday, April 1, 2022*

International Cultural Center (Hall of Nations), Texas Tech University, 601 Indiana Avenue

**8:30pm – 5pm:** Poster Session

**8:30am:** Coffee.

**8:45am:** Introductory Remarks. **John Beusterien** (Coordinator of Comparative Literature and Director of Spanish and Portuguese, Texas Tech University)

**9:00am – 9:30am: Venkatesh Uddameri** (Professor and Director, Water Resources Center Department of Civil, Environmental, & Construction Engineering, Texas Tech University), “The Ogallala Aquifer and the State of Water and in West Texas”

**9:30am – 10:00am: Amy Hardberger** (McCleskey Professor of Law; Director, Texas Tech Center for Water Law and Policy, Texas Tech School of Law), “Land Use and the Legal Future of Water”

**10:00am – 10:30am:** Coffee Break. Poster Session.

**10:30am – 11:00am: Stance Hurst** (Graduate Faculty Heritage and Museum Sciences and Field Manager Lubbock Lake Landmark, Texas Tech University), “Geoheritage Perspective on the Occurrence and Abundance of Water on the Southern High Plains Landscape”

**11:00am – 11:30am: John E. Stout** (Physical Scientist at Wind Erosion and Water Conservation Research Unit, United States Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service), “Consequences of Aquifer Depletion on the Llano Estacado.”

**11:30am – 12:00pm: Anindyo Roy** (Associate Professor Emeritus, Colby College, Department of English, scholar of colonial and postcolonial studies, water activist, field worker in livelihood and ecology in the Eastern Himalayan foothills), “The Strange Materiality of Water: Science, Belief, and Resistance among the Indigenous Riverine Communities of the Eastern Himalayan Foothills”

**12:00pm – 2:30pm: Joel Zapata** (Assistant Professor of History and Cairns K. Smith Faculty Scholar, School of History, Philosophy, and Religion, Oregon State University), “Cactuses Hold Water: Plains Water and the Mexican People through Centuries”

**12:30pm – 1:30pm:** Lunch. Poster Session.

**1:30pm – 2:00pm: Carol Flueckiger** (Associate Professor, School of Art, Texas Tech University), “The Voice of Weather and the Shape of Water”

**2:00pm – 3:00pm: Lucas Bessire** (Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Oklahoma), “A Reading from Running Out.” Introduced by Darryl Birkenfeld (Executive Director, Ogallala Commons, Nazareth, TX).

**3:00pm – 3:30pm:** Coffee Break. Poster Session.

**3:30pm – 4:00pm: Luis I. Prádanos** (Iñaki) (Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Miami University), “A Systems View on Water: Prosperity in a Postgrowth Cultural Ecology”

**4:00pm – 4:30pm: Bruce Clarke** (Paul Whitfield Horn Distinguished Professor of Literature and Science Baruch S. Blumberg NASA/Library of Congress Chair in Astrobiology), “Water Gaia Revisited”

**4:30pm – 5:00pm:** Poster Session.

*Saturday, April 2*

Department of English, Room 106

8:30am – 9:00am: Coffee

9:00am – 9:30am: **Jorge Salazar-Bravo** (Director of the International Center for Arid and Semi-Arid Land Studies and Associate Professor in Department of Biological Sciences), "The Impact of Reduced Surface Water on the Natural History of Texas"

9:30am – 10:00am: **John William Nelson** (Assistant Professor, History Department, Texas Tech University), "Water Diplomacy: Cross-Cultural Encounters on the High Plains during the Era of Early Contact"

10:00am – 10:30am: **Danny D. Reible** (Paul Whitfield Horn Professor, Donovan Maddox Distinguished Engineering Chair, Professor of Chemical Engineering and Civil, Environmental, and Construction Engineering), "The Reasons for Our Water Challenges."

10:30am – 11:00am: **John Moretti** (Research Assistant, Museum of Texas Tech University; PhD. Candidate at Jackson School of Geosciences, The University of Texas at Austin), "The Natural History of Water on the Southern High Plains: A Perspective from Vertebrate Fauna of the Late Cenozoic"

11:00 – 11:30pm: **Alex Hunt** (West Texas A&M University, Vincent/Haley Professor of Western Studies; Director, Center for the Study of the American West), "Historical Springs, Terminal Culture"

11:30am – 12:00pm: **Jim Bertram** (former Lubbock Director of City Planning) and **John Beusterien** (Coordinator of Comparative Literature and Director of Spanish and Portuguese, Texas Tech University), "Lubbock Waters"

12:30pm – 1:00pm: Lunch.

1:00pm – 1:45pm: **Darryl Birkenfeld** (Ph.D., Executive Director, Ogallala Commons, Nazareth, TX); **Elvia Gallegos** (landowner, Plains, TX); **Dr. Chris Grotegut** (Grotegut Farms, Hereford, TX), "After the Fall: Recovering the Southern Plains"

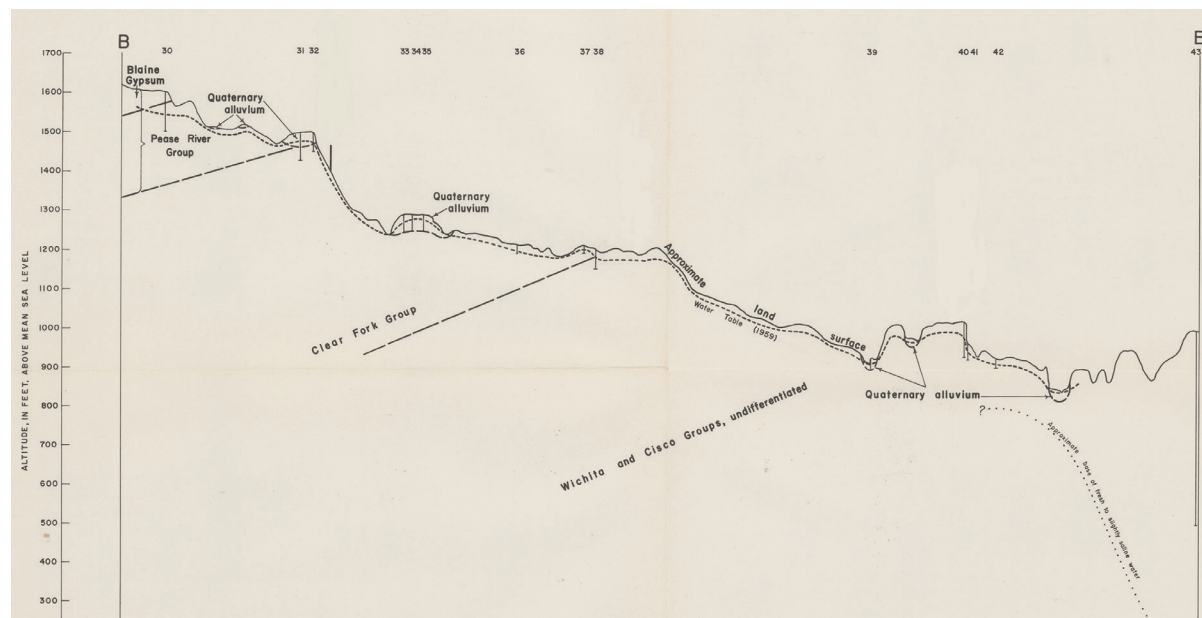
1:45pm – 2:45pm: **Luke Cole** (Ph.D., Associate Director, Santa Cruz River Program, Sonoran Institute), "Tucson's Past and Future: Some Comparative Perspectives for Lubbock"

2:45pm – 3:00pm: Coffee Break.

3:00pm – 3:30pm: Roundtable: Communicating the Symposium Vision.  
**John Beusterien** (Coordinator of Comparative Literature and Director of Spanish and Portuguese Texas Tech University), **Sara Spurgeon** (Director of Social Justice, and Environment Program (LSJE) and Professor of English, Texas Tech University), **Juske Horita** (Professor in the Department of Geosciences, Texas Tech University), and **Charles Michelson** (Ph.D., Director of Symposium Outcomes)

3:30pm – 4:15pm: **Andy Wilkinson** (Director of Special Projects, University Outreach and Engagement, Texas Tech University), with **Trevor Rogers**, "Featured Musical Performance"

4:15pm – 6:00pm: Art Exhibits & Reception, School of Art, Landmark Gallery



## *The Tap*

Visioning the Ogallala Aquifer on the Llano Estacado

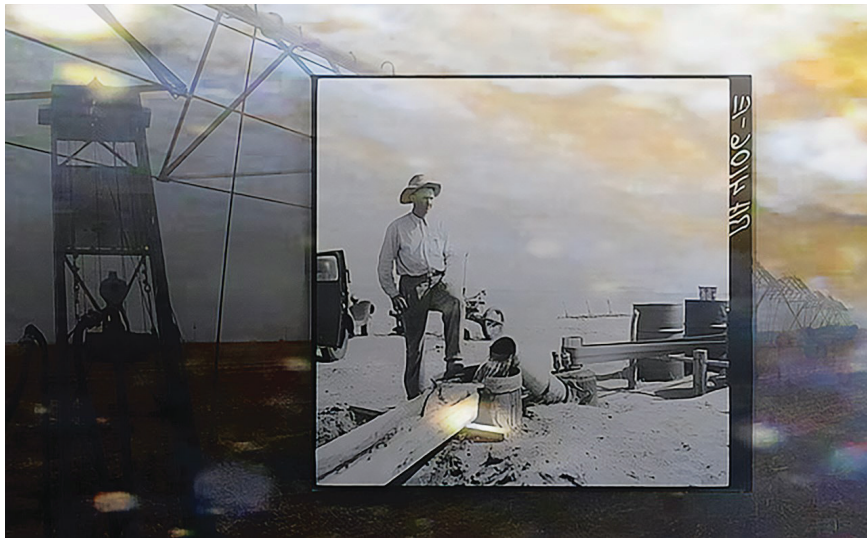
Art Building Landmark Gallery, *March 21 – April 24, 2022*

**The Tap** is an artwork and gallery installation by M12 Studio presented by Landmark Arts at Texas Tech University. A meditation on the Ogallala Aquifer at the Llano Estacado, **The Tap** takes us on a subterranean journey through time and space, sound and vision.

One of the largest aquifers in the world, the Ogallala lies beneath eight states with the region's footprint home to some of the oldest species on the planet—bison, sandhill cranes, pronghorn antelope and others. As part of the Great Plains, this area was once an American Serengeti, a landscape full of life and diversity from fields to the flyways. Today, the Ogallala region is mostly farm and ranch land. Continual challenges include aquifer recharge which is prevented by drought combined with relentless large-scale farming practices. Communities in the region are feeling the consequences of being out of balance with the living world beneath us. Water health is reflected through the built environment, economic, natural, and spiritual livelihood. In the Ogallala region, people depend on the sustained health of the aquifer below. **The Tap** challenges viewers to think overtly and relationally about water and sustainable futures in our communities and through our commons.

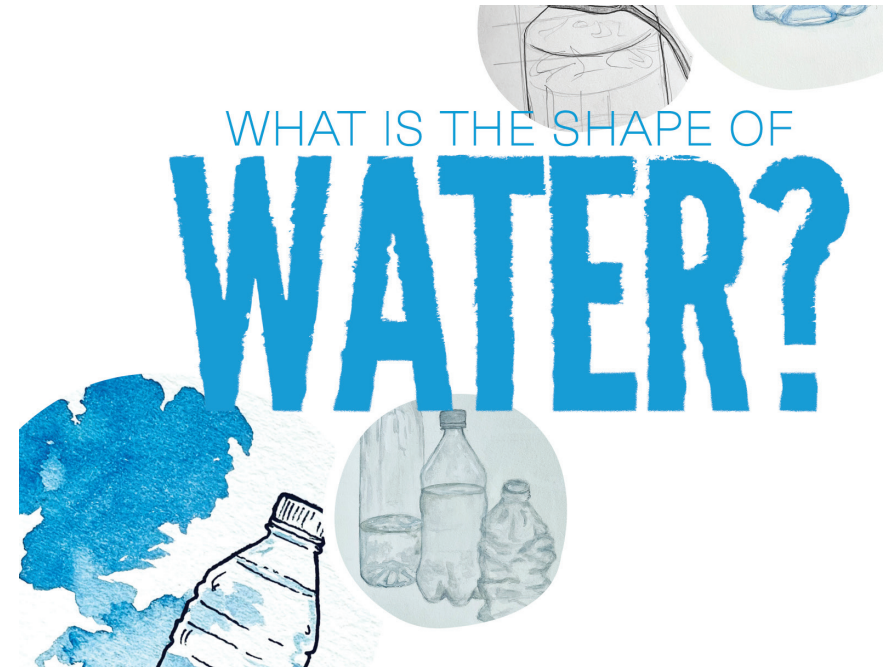
### *BEYOND THE GALLERY...*

In addition to the Landmark Gallery, **The Tap** can be experienced at At'l Do Farms, in Shallowater, TX, where M12 Studio has installed a cast polished brass water tap. Special thanks to J. Eric Simpson's Museum of Post-Agricultural Art at At'l Do Farms. Guided presentations will be available at **The Tap** on weekends by appointment.



## DRAWING THE SHAPE OF WATER

School of Art South Gallery, *March 21 – April 10, 2022*



Exhibition of drawings produced by students in various student groups: Drawing I (ART 1303), Art, Environment, Sustainability (ART 4303/ART 5304) and Developing Reactive Engineers through Artful Methods (CE 5331-050/ENGR 5000-050).

Image Courtesy M12 Studio, THE TAP, Landmark Arts, Texas Tech University. Arthur Rothstein. Farm Security Administration, Library of Congress, LC-USF34-004106-E. 2022.



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