



# Greg Lindquist

*Smoke and Water: Dispatches*

2017 Exhibition Catalogue

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THE LIBRARY AT CENTRAL BOOKING  
21 LUDLOW ST. NY, NY 10002

CURATED BY DIANA WEGE

## Curatorial Essay

Greg Lindquist produces works that facilitate social change, creating an active space for reshaping ideologies and mobilizing political action. Lindquist utilizes the parallel practices of painting and writing to empower communities through installation, public murals and community events. His work extends existing critical tools for challenging hegemonic capitalist ideologies which bolster the corporate control of environmental and energy policies. That beauty can embody resilience, empathy and survival is the core of Lindquist's work. His art provides a space for contemplation about the environment.

In 2014, 39,000 tons of coal ash—the byproduct of producing electricity—spilled through eighty miles of the Dan River in North Carolina and Virginia. In the years since, that spill has informed the conceptual, visual, thematic and political content of *Smoke and Water*. In partnership with Working Films, an activist film organization, Lindquist created an installation of paintings and murals from images shared by a water keeper documenting ash swirling with river water. The work was completed collaboratively with the local art, ecology and activist communities of Wilmington, a colonial and Civil War-era port city where Lindquist was born and raised.



*Duke Energy's Sutton Lake (Selenium)*, 2015

Oil on canvas

78" x 68"



*Duke Energy's Dan River*, 2014/2016  
Oil on panel  
32" x 49"



*Smoke and Water, Mercury*, 2016  
Oil, glass bead and  
iridescent pigment on linen on panel  
8" x 10"

Greg Lindquist, *Smoke and Water: Dispatches*, 2017;  
acrylic on sheetrock, 12 by 26 feet, coal ash from Belews Creek  
Power Station, NC in plexiglass vitrines (dimensions variable); related  
paintings on canvas and panel





## Artist Bio

New York-based artist Greg Lindquist's recent paintings and participatory installations have focused on interweaving the beauty of landscape and abstraction to raise awareness of ruinous water pollution from coal-fired electric plants and facilitate social change. His *Smoke and Water: Dispatches* painting installation is a continuation of an ongoing series of projects originating with the local Wilmington community and environmental organizations in his hometown and has been restaged in several locations throughout North Carolina.

Visualizing the coal ash in the recent Dan River spill, Lindquist transforms toxic swirls into abstract vortices of pulsating color. Drawing from diverse movements such as Impressionism, site specific Land Art and the grassroots activism of Environmental Justice, he stages immersive painting experiences which also employ performances and discussions to illuminate the social and political complexities in our environment.

Lindquist's work has been exhibited at the North Carolina Museum of Art, Weatherspoon Art Museum; University of Arizona Museum of Art; Y Gallery, NYC; Quint Contemporary, La Jolla, CA; among others; and has been awarded the Marie Walsh Sharpe Space Program; Milton and Sally Avery Foundation Grant; the Pollock-Krasner Grant; and ArtOMI residency. In 2015, he was Guest Critic for the November issue of *The Brooklyn Rail* and curated a concurrent exhibition. Both the show and the section were titled *Social Ecologies* and focused on the intersections and ruptures between art and ecology.