EXHIBITION PROSPECTUS
Watershed
June 6–September 20, 2020 | A. Alfred Taubman Gallery I

Exhibition Overview

Watershed (noun)
1. a region bounded by a divide and draining ultimately to a particular body of water
2. an event or period marking a turning point

This exhibition focuses upon the Great Lakes and its watershed, which spans two countries, eight states, and expansive native lands, and the world's largest concentration of freshwater. The term *watershed* refers both to the geographical networks of the Great Lakes basin: the five lakes (Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior), including the rivers, streams, and reservoirs that feed into them, and also signals a crucial turning point in history. Michigan itself is at the center of the Great Lakes basin and its physical boundaries encompass watersheds of three of the five lakes. Given this unique geographical position, and the current and looming crises of flooding and pollutants affecting the region and its communities, *Watershed* foregrounds those artists confronting these serious issues.

Featuring thirteen contemporary indigenous, regional, and global artists, *Watershed* highlights the urgent work of making visible the relationship between local landscapes, culturally-constructed boundaries, and the detrimental effects of human-inflicted pollution in the Great Lakes region. Using multiple mediums—photography, collage, sculpture, and textiles—these artists explore issues of water security, pollution, and untold histories specific to the Great Lakes basin, an increasingly vulnerable, yet significant, resource. Each work on view was created within the last five years, though many of the artists on view are surfacing previously unprivileged histories from the Great Lakes region's past. Their approaches are strikingly different, but all emphasize the materiality of the region's water and land.

Working checklist of artists: Barry Ace; Khaled Al-Saai; Michael Belmore; Dawoud Bey; Matthew Brandt; Bonnie Devine; LaToya Ruby Frazier, Doug Fogelson; Cai Guo-Qiang; Sacramento Knoxx, Dylan A.T. Miner; Pope.L; Meghann Riepenhoff