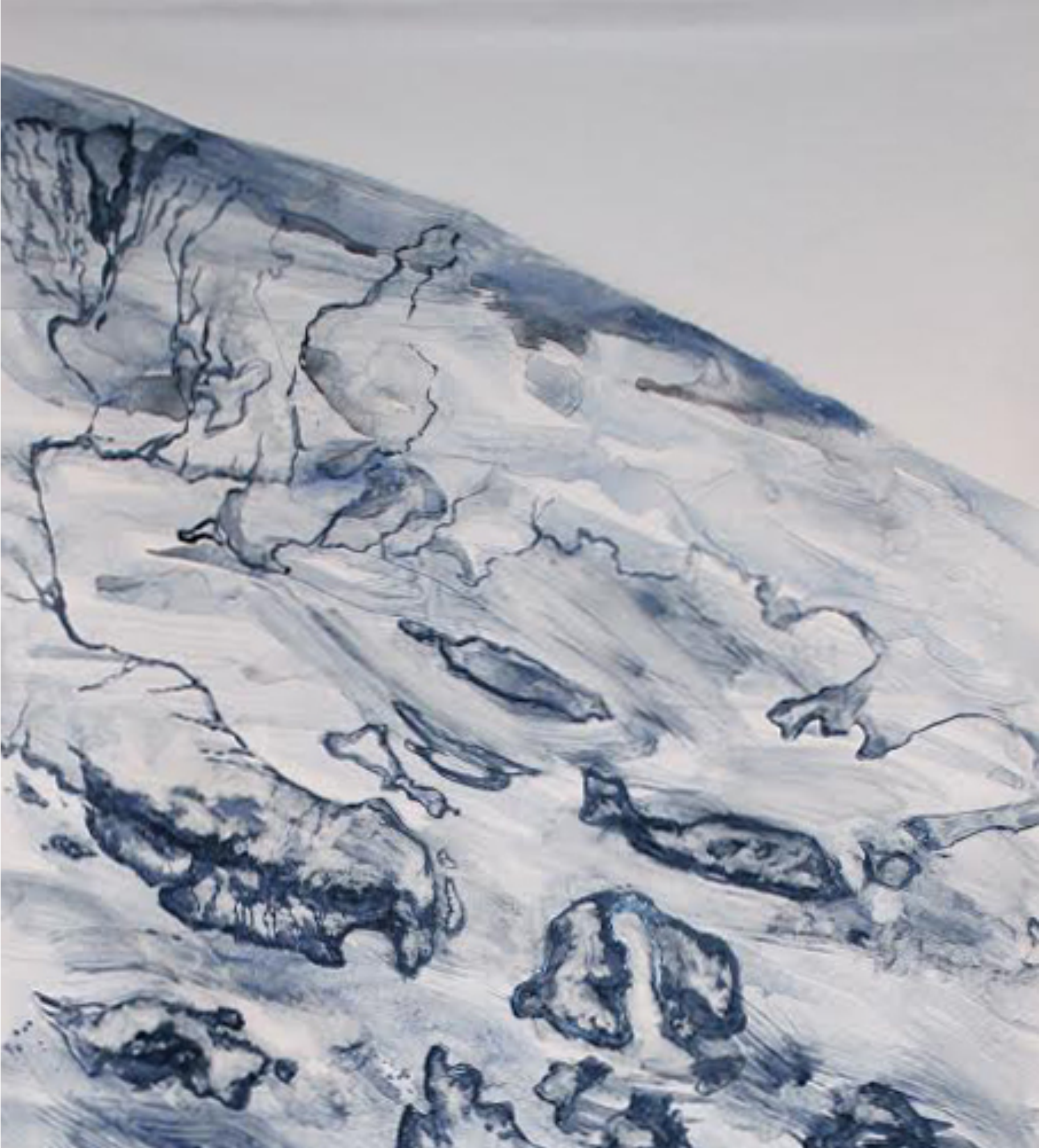


**VISUAL**







**Surge**



# CONNECTED BY CLIMATE

By AMY KEPFERLE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

It's been 35 years since La Conner's Museum of Northwest Art (MONA) first opened its doors to the public as a way to showcase the region's most interesting and innovative artists.

When it comes to the future, that aforementioned number is equally important. As part of the venue's annual climate change event, "Surge," the keynote address by Steve Moddemeyer will talk about what the *next* three-and-a-half decades will bring to the region.

Moddemeyer's Sun., Sept. 19 presentation, "Resilience Thinking in a Time of Accelerating Change: Action, Joy and Mystery," will focus on the impacts climate change will have in our region in coming years—whether they have to do with agriculture, energy, food and water, recreation, transportation or the built environment—and how humans can learn to adapt to them.

Artistic elements will be part of his address as well. As a landscape architect and the great-nephew of celebrated Northwest painter Morris Graves—who early on taught Moddemeyer to appreciate the wonders of Puget Sound's natural world—he has a special link to MONA.

But at "Surge," the climate is what connects all of the events, whether they're concerned with art, science or all of the above. This means that in addition to viewing thought-provoking works by artists such as Christine Awad Shmalz, Heather Cromwell, Mary Coss, Madeline Crowley, Alice Dubiel, Mona Fairbanks, Eve McCauley-Chomiak, Lin McJunkin, Colleen Monette, Jazz Morgan, Julie Morse, Yvette Neumann, Richelle Potter-Kypuros, Jennifer Yates, and others, patrons can also expect to learn a few things.

"'Surge' is a partnership among scientists, educators and artists to explore changes and impacts such as rising sea levels, changing river flows, and how these affect people and the ecosystem we live in and depend upon," read a recent press release about the Sept. 17-25 art show and related events. "This year's exhibit is fundamentally about interconnectedness.

"The exhibits involve forests and forest ecosystems, magnitude and movement of freshwater and



## ATTEND

**What:** "Surge"

**When:** 10 am

Sat., Sep. 17 -25

**Where:**

Museum of  
Northwest Art,  
La Conner

**Cost:** Entry is  
free

**Info:**

[http://www.m  
onamuseum.o](http://www.monamuseum.org)

[rg](http://www.monamuseum.org)

sediment, coastal and estuarine areas, and invite curiosity about the interconnectedness of the physical (storm surge, sea level rise, flooding, salt) and living (plants, animals, human) worlds. ‘Surge’ offers the opportunity for that curiosity to result in greater awareness that can lead to community efforts to inspire change.”

Additional events through Sept. 25 will help people put art into action. “Exploring Biodiversity with Pop-Up Paper Creatures” happens Sat., Sept. 17 with artist Jess Levine, who will teach participants how to make origami, pinwheel and pop-up creatures such as plankton, starfish, octopi and more.

That same day, visitors can view Richelle Potter-Kypuros’ multimedia “Moments of Adaptation,” a performance that was created in response to last spring’s storm surge event that affected coastal communities in both Western Washington and Oregon. The dance piece—which will be repeated Sun., Sept. 25—documents the impact of the storm on the beach communities of Camano Island.

By the time “Surge” comes to a close Sept. 25 with a panel discussion featuring scientists, artists, elected officials and community leaders discussing climate change and its impact on our coastal communities, attendees will have a better understanding of the topics at hand. Hopefully, they’ll also be part of the conversation.



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## River Visions

WHEN STORYTELLING AND ECOLOGY COLLIDE

The artists of the Sepik River in Papua, New Guinea create striking, evocative work, acclaimed by collectors and museums worldwide. In a pair of brilliant exhibitions at the Museum of Anthropology of the University of British Columbia, the lyrical Sepik storytelling collides with a...

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## Time Travel

### OPERATION ART WALK

We'd secured tickets for an 8:30pm showing of *Blazing Saddles*, and my date and I found ourselves with an hour-and-a-half to kill before the movie began.

When I suggested cramming as many Art Walk stops as we could into the limited time frame—starting from our house in the York...

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## Island Insights

A GOOD REASON FOR A GETAWAY

I have often retreated to the relative peace and quiet of our family's cabin on Lummi Island when the real world gets to be too much to handle. Examples include the second time George W. Bush was elected president; when I got the news my 98-year-old grandmother had passed away; and avoiding...

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