

## **Studio Maureen, Next Door Gallery Hosts 'Wilderness Trips' Exhibit**

*Local artist raises awareness with environmental collages, proceeds benefit Environmental Health Coalition*

SAN DIEGO, June 16, 2014 - Advocacy in San Diego doesn't always appear as a press conference of sign-waving. Environmental advocate amelia Simpson brings environmental issues to the forefront using her own platform: artwork. Until July 6, South Park's Next Door Gallery features Simpson's collages in a show called [Wilderness Trips](#). The highlight of the two-month show is its opening reception on Saturday, June 21, from noon - 3 p.m., with ten percent of the profits benefitting [Environmental Health Coalition](#).

*Wilderness Trips* features collages that showcase the complex relationship of human beings to the natural world. "The show plays with themes of contamination, rising waters, and our fossil-fueled trips to oblivion," says artist Amelia Simpson. "I wanted to explore our fixations, our folly and the wonders of nature."

Simpson creates her features from found and manipulated images and objects and her own photographs. She has been making collages for twenty-five years. In addition to her work as an artist, Simpson is a grant writer at [Environmental Health Coalition](#). "There's a convergence between the pieces I picked for the show and Environmental Health Coalition's focus on environmental justice and the urgency of taking action," says the artist.

Simpson has a Ph.D. in Latin American literature and culture and an M.A. in Latin American studies. She has published on a variety of issues including environmental justice and globalization.

Studio Maureen & The Next Door Gallery is a place for art lovers, collectors and hobbyists to find affordable artful gifts and crafts. Celebrating the work of local artists from the San Diego/Tijuana binational region, it strives to bring a diverse cross section of art to its corner of South Park and the region as a whole. The art show is already open to the public at Studio Maureen & The Next Door Gallery, 2963 Beech Street. The opening reception will be on June 21. For more information, [please click here](#).

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Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) is a nonprofit organization that empowers residents to advocate for the environmental health of their children, families and neighborhoods. For more information on EHC, please visit [www.environmentalhealth.org](http://www.environmentalhealth.org).