Modern Art West
521 Broadway, Sonoma, CA

INDICATORS: NATURE IN FLUX

September 17 – November 10, 2022

Reception: September 17, 4-7pm

**Sonoma, CA**—Modern Art West presents a solo exhibition of new work by Peter Hassen. The Sonoma-based artist is known for conceptual and public art projects that invite thought on social and environmental issues. The exhibition will feature prints, mixed media, and sculpture that explore cultural phenomenon, spiritual practice, scientific discoveries, and climate predictions in search of indicators for our future existence.

In 2021, Peter Hassen’s 8-foot steel sculpture *Cycles 3: Extinction* was displayed in Sonoma Plaza and called attention to the importance of biodiversity. The work’s interlocking disks feature silhouettes of frogs, bees and birds which are among the **indicator species** that are currently in rapid decline due to man-made environmental factors, including climate change. For this opening, Hassen will be unveiling his latest two sculptures; *Cycles 7: Indicators*, and *Cycles 4: Geometry*.

These vulnerable creatures, as well as butterflies, fish, and aquatic insects, reappear in Hassen’s *Anthropocene* series of digital collages. Inspired by David Attenborough’s documentary, *A Life On This Planet*, Peter consulted with scientists from the UC Davis Dept. of Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology, and the Natural Capital Project at Stanford University, to identify these indicator species. In kaleidoscopic color, each species is centered on a floral pad, floating on a background of earthly elements and symbols for climate gasses.

Other works are inspired by recent revelations in space exploration such as the gripping images from the James Webb Space Telescope in a continuing drive to spot ever-more-distant galaxies. Hassen’s *Metronome* series examines our fraught relationship between the certainties of science and the vast unknowable possibilities of deep space.

Peter states, “As our concept of the natural world expands, our role as caretakers vs. corruptors is called into question. My hope is to spark curiosity and wonder, to portray my own fascination with universal systems and further conversations that may lead to transformational change.”

Indicators will be on view through November 10th. Gallery hours are Wed-Sat, 12-5 and by appointment.

**About the Artist**
Peter Hassen was born in Cincinnati, Ohio and graduated from University of Colorado with a BFA in Studio Arts. In 2009 he started a series of landscape interventions throughout the American West that invite discovery and contemplation (*Sacred Sculpture Project* and *Discovery Series*). In 2012, he launched *The Values Project* which helped communities in Napa, Sonoma and Sacramento identify shared values and paint words such as Gratitude, Tolerance, Charity and Compassion in public parking lots.

In 2019 Peter was a resident at the Voigt Family Sculpture Foundation, and his work has recently been featured at the Marin Civic Center, Bolinas Art Museum, Bedford Gallery, Marin Art and Garden Center, and AXIS gallery.

**Modern Art West** features museum-quality Bay Area art including painting, sculpture, and works on paper, from the modern and post-war periods. They work closely with several artists’ estates and major collections. The gallery maintains access to more than 100 noted Bay Area artists and seeks to promote the visual arts in our community by contributing to local educational efforts and supporting regional art initiatives. Find more information at [www.modernartwest.com](http://www.modernartwest.com)