

For Immediate Release

## Blued Trees

***Ecological Artist Aviva Rahmani Conceives a Bold, Strategy  
To Prevent The Destruction of Art, Habitat, and Community  
And Expand the Sphere of Ecological Protection***

**Installation in Westchester County Seeks Copyright  
Second Portion of Installation Slated for October 4, 2015**

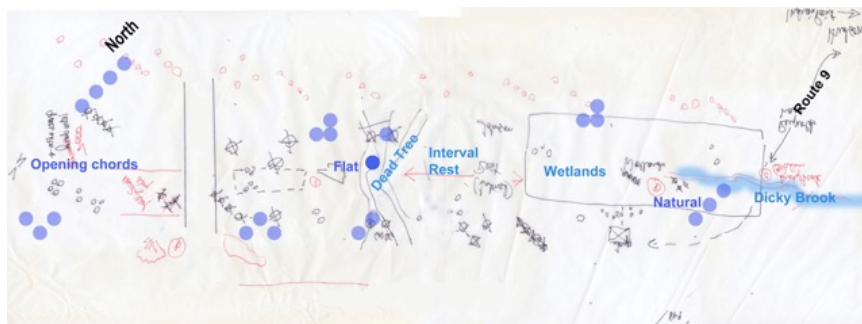


September 2015 -- *Blued Trees* is an interdisciplinary symphonic installation conceived by ecological artist Aviva Rahmani at the invitation of New York resident-activists, whose most beloved places were threatened with destruction by fossil fuel expansions. The goal is to explore whether copyright law could protect habitat from natural gas pipelines. Rahmani had previously initiated artworks that resulted in wetlands restoration in Maine. She is an affiliate with the Institute for Arctic and Alpine Research at the University of Colorado in Boulder, and a PhD candidate at the University of Plymouth, UK. *Blued Trees* became part of Rahmani's Gulf to Gulf, a NYFA sponsored project to effect global warming policy with art.

An overture for the *Blued Trees* symphony launched June 21, 2015 in Peekskill, NY, as a permanent installation on private land located in the path of destruction from the proposed Algonquin pipeline expansion, owned by Spectra Energy. The *Blued Trees* project is now an international project, but the original installation is threatened by land condemnation to expand gas pipelines.



The *Blue Trees* artwork is integrated with the trees and all living things on and in the soil at the site. Sine waves painted on trees were conceived as notes for a musical composition. An international “Greek Chorus” was simultaneously initiated as part of the overture. Shortly after the fall solstice, on October 4, 2015 a full symphony will be performed and video-documented at multiple locations.



**Blue Trees**  
An iterative measure for an improvisational operatic symphony to be performed for a forest  
A viva Rahmani

$\text{♩} = 60$

Soprano

Mezzo-soprano

Alto

Tenor

Piccolo

Flute

Tenor Saxophone

Rahmani has filed a federal copyright to protect *Blue Trees* as a site-specific artwork. The legal basis for protection is the Visual Artists Rights Act (VARA), which asserts the “moral rights of art” against destruction. A cease-and-desist notification to Spectra is the next legal step.

Excavation for the Algonquin pipeline expansion is scheduled sometime in October 2015. Hence the deadline to legally halt this ecological threat. The Spectra Energy expansion will carry high-volume, high-pressure “natural” (fracked) gas through people’s private properties and within just 105 feet from the Indian Point nuclear power plant. An accident there would affect millions of people, not only in Westchester County and New York City, but residents of Staten Island, Long Island, central New Jersey, New Haven, and the Catskills.

- *Blued Trees* is an element or aspect of Gulf to Gulf, a fiscally sponsored NYFA project, which has investigated how art might impact climate change policy since 2010.
- Mapping for all *Blued Trees* locations will be available at:  
[http://www.gulftogulf.org/project\\_item/blued\\_trees/](http://www.gulftogulf.org/project_item/blued_trees/)
- A five minute film of the *Blued Trees* “overture” launch can be viewed at:  
<https://vimeo.com/channels/94313>
- Instructions for painting trees are available at:  
<http://pushingrocks.blogspot.com/2015/06/greek-chorus-for-blued-trees.html>

### About Aviva Rahmani

Ecological artist Aviva Rahmani’s art work has reflected environmental and social concerns throughout her career. Her projects range from complete landscape restorations to museum venues that reference painting, sound and photography. Early influences on her work include interdisciplinary classical studies, activism, city planning and the merging of science with aesthetics. Aviva Rahmani is an affiliate at the Institute for Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR) at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Colorado. She is a PhD candidate at the University of Plymouth, UK, has exhibited and published internationally and has been the recipient of numerous grants. I am recommending her because she is using art to effect environmental change in innovative ways. Her most recent work, *Blued Trees* launched June 21, 2015. It contests the definition of eminent domain with the moral rights of art. More information is available at [www.ghostnets.com](http://www.ghostnets.com).

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