

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Safari 7 Reading Room



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October 15-December 31, 2009

**Opening party: Thursday, October 15, 7-9pm**

**Press Preview: 6-7pm, with the exhibition curators**

Oysters, dogs, humans, worms, snakefish, cormorants and germs are some of the species that populate the length of the MTA 7 train. Affectionately known as the "International Express," this physical, urban transect cuts through New York City's most diverse range of ecosystems. The 7 line runs from Manhattan's dense core, under the East River, and through a dispersed mixture of residences and parklands (including Sunnyside Gardens and the 1939 and 1964 World's Fair grounds), terminating in downtown Flushing, Queens: the nation's most ethnically diverse community.

Led by the Urban Landscape Lab (Janette Kim, Kate Orff) at Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation and MTWTF (Glen Cummings), Safari 7 began in the summer of 2009 as a series of podcasts and maps that uncover the complexity, biodiversity, conflicts and potentials of New York's ecosystems, and of New Yorkers' relationships the animal life around them. Materials imagined subway cars as eco-urban classrooms and invited travelers to act as active, self-guided park rangers in their own city.

Opening in conjunction with the conference *ECOGRAM II: Architecture for a Crowded Planet* at Columbia University GSAPP, the *Safari 7 Reading Room* brings these subway classrooms to Studio-X, inviting New Yorkers to become citizen-scientists in our shared urban zoo. The Reading Room presents for the first time a series of 3D maps, audio listening stations, curated reading materials, and a set of large-scale drawings of animal habitats, behaviors and life cycles in relationship to urban culture and history at selected sites along the 7 line.

*Safari 7 Reading Room* will be on view at Studio-X from October 15-December 31, 2009. See the Studio-X website for additional *Safari 7 Reading Room* events.



Studio-X / 180 Varick Street, Suite 1610 / New York, NY 10014 / 212 989 2398



The **Urban Landscape Lab** at the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation is an inter-disciplinary applied research group dedicated to affecting social equity and positive change in urban ecosystems. [www.urbanlandscape.org](http://www.urbanlandscape.org)

**Kate Orff** is an Assistant Professor of Architecture and Urban Design at Columbia University GSAPP, where she leads studios and seminars that integrate the earth sciences into the design curriculum. She is the Founder and Co-Director of the Urban Landscape Lab. Her office, SCAPE, has won local and national design awards and is working on seven active projects for the City of New York, among others.

**Janette Kim** is an architectural designer and educator based in New York City. She is principal of All of the Above, an architectural research and design practice, and teaches at Barnard College and Columbia University GSAPP, where she is Co-Director of the Urban Landscape Lab.

**Glen Cummings** is a partner at MTWTF, a interdisciplinary graphic design studio in Lower Manhattan that partners other disciplines, such as architecture, fashion and urban planning, to create identities, environments, products and publications. He is a lecturer in Graphic Design at Yale University. MTWTF's work has been awarded and published by the American Institute of Architects and The American Institute of Graphic Designers, among others. [www.mtwtf.org](http://www.mtwtf.org)

Safari 7 May 2009 podcasts were created by students in a seminar on urban ecology at the **Barnard and Columbia Colleges Architecture Program**. Safari 7 team members include: Yuval Borochoy, Jordan Carver, Susan Choe, Eliza Dzik, Lisa Ekle, Robin Fitzgerald-Green, Steven Garcia, Kathryn Hotler, Sayli Korgaonkar, Jenny Noguchi, Jonathan Pettibone, Evan Sharp and Gena Wirth.

**Studio-X** is a downtown studio for experimental design and research run by the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation of Columbia University. [www.arch.columbia.edu/school/studiox](http://www.arch.columbia.edu/school/studiox)

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