

# Moving the Pine Needle Forward | Central Florida Artists & Exhibitions Spur Conversation on Climate Change

By Julie Garisto, June 27, 2018



*Clearwater-based artist Kate Helms with her mixed-media installation, Colony 1, created with resin, cloth, sandpaper and found chaise, measuring 74 x 28 x 35 inches. The piece is included in Water over the Bridge, showing through Friday at the Morean Arts Center. Photo by Daniel Veintimilla.*



*Untitled (Bend) by Selina Roman, 2011, Archival Inkjet Print. Photo courtesy of the artist.*

Florida faced not only a frightening close call with a [hurricane](#) in the past year, but other immediate and far-reaching implications around climate change have us a bit shaken and uncertain.

Considering the scope of the problem, we can't help but beg the question why climate change isn't tackled more by Florida artists.

Fortunately, we're seeing a sea change. Artists from the Sunshine State (and others) are assuming the mantle for bringing attention to a subject that is as dire as it is censored — heck, the words "climate change" are even [forbidden](#) from being included in official documents, a mandate from Gov. Rick Scott.

At the [Morean Arts Center](#), the comprehensive exhibition **Water over the Bridge: Contemporary Seascapes** displays both accessible and challenging works in a staggering variety of media. Curated by [D. Dominick Lombardi](#) of Valhalla, N.Y., and Amanda Cooper, the Morean's Curator of Exhibitions, it's a must-see for anyone who cares about supporting visual art and gaining perspective on the environment.