

## **HAZARDOUS BEAUTY**

### Artists Bios

#### **Alejandro Durán**

Brooklyn based, multimedia artist Alejandro Durán examines the fraught intersections of man and nature, particularly revealing the pervasive impact of consumer culture on the natural world. Transforming a trashed landscape is distinctly portrayed in his Washed Up series that documents products washed up ashore from fifty-eight countries around the world.

Durán's subject matter conveyed through the medium of photography, installation, and video has brought him international recognition from considerable exhibitions around the world, notable press, publications, and awards.

Originally born in Mexico City in 1974, Alejandro received his MA in teaching from Tufts University in 1999, and an MFA in poetry from the New School for Social Research in 2001. He continues to be an educator in photography.

#### **Willie Cole**

Finding beauty in the commonplace is artist Willie Cole's strength. He calls himself a 'perceptual engineer' for his ability to rejigger the consumer world around us into something more fantastic. Cole creates the illusion that his art springs from the mystical intersection of folk culture, utility, design, contemporary art, and mythology. He 'surrendered to a dream' and began to up-cycle plastic bottles into magnificent works of art.

His sculptures and wall works have been the subject of several one-person museum exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art and Brooklyn Museum among many others. Cole has participated extensively in group exhibitions and his sculptures have been selected for numerous public museum collections throughout the country.

A Newark, NJ native, Willie Cole is a highly acclaimed award-winning artist who just received the Alain Locke Award from the Detroit Institute of Arts' Friends of African and African American Art. Cole (b.1955), has a BFA from The School of Visual Arts, and the Art Student's League, NY.