



# The Liquidity of a Right

Felipe Lopez

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As our society constantly reshapes our idea of a relationship to the sun, the light of the sun and its effect changes our lifestyle and the choices we make.

As our social, economical, and ecological practices change over time, the idea of our relationship with the sun changes as well. This view of light and our relationship to light is cyclical with the sun. Just as we alter our environment and our connection to light, nature's relationship is also altered and changed due to our existence and choices.

Therefore, obscuring the light is metaphorically obscuring the idea. This is what keeps us from true cultural and practical change in regards to protecting and sustaining our environment.

Because society constantly reshapes our idea of the natural world, we are also subjected to a spiritual shift. Within the day-to-day of our modern and technological culture, we are further and further away from nature itself.

Yet we constantly read about the studies concluding that nature is the answer to many of our issues. Even doctors prescribe time in nature to their patients. It is this paradigm shift, this fight between blue screen light vs sunlight, that keeps us from a developed understanding and elevated sense of the importance of natural light in our lives.

Spiritually, there is a co-dependency between light and water because life depends on both of these elements. Now it is just a question of how this becomes more commonplace within our social, economical, and environmental constructs in order to honor and project the natural world.

In regards to this concept within the pieces of this exhibition, the materials help reverberate light and nature. The resin found within the light bulbs is a petrochemical by-product suspending hand tied fishing lures, refracting light through a man made material in a miniature ecosystem.

The faucet pieces help depict the daily use of natural resources the way we use or abuse them in our own lives. The pyramid shape in the hanging of these works resembles a waterfall that exhibits the trickle down effect of our impact on the environment while the projections help note the way nature responds to our actions.

The use of a common faucet also signifies the precious commodity that water is for all humanity. As it becomes harder for some to access clean water, we find ourselves faced with more crisis in every country. We are allowing old tech to effect the future of our health in an age when we know how precious life's greatest asset is which makes up 60% of our physical state. Regardless of people's thoughts towards climate change, politics, or manufacturing practices, water is as precious as life itself."

Felipe Lopez



Felipe Lopez, *Untitled*, 2019, Faucet, resin, hand-tied fly fishing lure, 6" x 6" x 4"

Carrying with him his heritage as a first generation Cuban American, Lopez's work has always centered around nature and man's relationship with the natural. Using water, fishing, and landscapes as the base, Lopez has transformed traditional and non-traditional materials into microcosms of the majestic along with large scale landings of landscapes that carry heavy conceptual weight.

Forma110, in order to help foster awareness of our environmental crisis, commissioned Felipe Lopez a series of 40 *faucets* that reflect on the concept of water and contemporary sculpture, that conforms this exhibition.

These works speak to the necessity of water in our daily lives and also to the fragility of our water supply. Regardless of social status or culture, clean water is what ties us together along with nature depending on the same resource. The hand tied fishing flies coming from the faucet signify how one must consider how important our ecosystem is to our own daily lives. These works are truly a contemporary catharsis for Lopez who has risen from the flood waters to produce pieces of contemplation and connection.

Lopez starts the year with another major accomplishment: Mayor Sylvester Turner and the City of Houston approved Houston Arts Alliance recommendation to award Lopez a Support for Artists and Creative Individuals grant which will help fund his multi-location public art project entitled *Nature Illuminated*.



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