

**What will digital media be and do, after us?**

**What will my laptop, phone, or tablet look like in a million years?**

**How will our devices weather or grow over time?**

**What else might our techno-waste be, and how might we sense and feel this?**

**Where might electronics lead our environmental and economic politics?**

**Can we plan and act toward new and different futures?**

Artist, teacher, writer Nathaniel Stern (b. 1977) asks us to rethink our conversations, thoughts, and actions around technology production, use, and waste. Using towering jungles of computer detritus and biological reclamation, fossilized and re-configured phones and laptops, and reimagined and re-formed electronics, he materially speculates what our devices might become over the next decades, thousands, or millions of years. Stern uses art and aesthetics to resituate, to speculate, to wonder, and to propose. He asks us to be curious, to imagine, to test, and to play. Combining plant life with electronic waste and scientific experimentation with artistic exploration, Stern's exhibition and broader project is simultaneously a seriously playful and playfully serious intervention into the emotional relationships that we have with our digital devices and their afterlives.

Taking cues from Alan Weisman's provocative book *The World Without Us* (2007), Stern's project considers a range of possibilities and potentials for e-waste, providing for us a series of aesthetic and ethical provocations around the ideas of where and how we might still be able to change our ecological trajectories. It utilizes our detritus to catalyze a rethinking of our conversations, thoughts, and actions around our technological dependencies, in our everyday lives and on a global scale. *The World Without Us* is not post-apocalyptic; rather it imagines potential futures while asking viewers to be mindful of their media & technology in the present.

Generous support for this exhibition provided by the IBM Corporation located in Endicott, NY.

Throughout the exhibition, look for these codes to hear Stern talk more about *The World After Us*:

