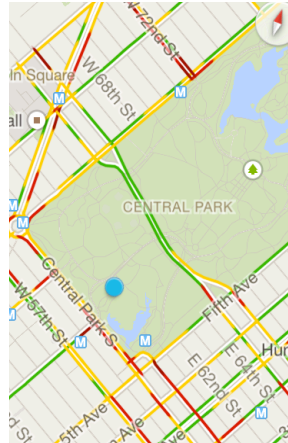


## > FIELD EXPEDITION: CENTRAL PARK MAKING CONTACT WITH CLIMATE CHANGE



**CENTRAL PARK at 6th Ave & 59th St.  
Q/N to 57<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Avenue**



### **THINK ABOUT CHANGE:**

*Imagine yourself in Central Park one million years ago. You would be standing on a vast ice sheet, a 4,000-mile glacial wall, as much as 2,000 feet thick. Alone on the glacier, you would not sense its slow crushing, scraping, ripping movement as it advanced south, leaving great masses of rock debris in its wake. Under the frozen depths, where the carousel now stands, you would not notice the effect on the bedrock as the glacier dragged itself along.” - artist Robert Smithson, 1972*

**HYPOTHESIS TO TEST:** We are living in within an age of climate change

**DATA GATHERING:** Make aesthetic and scientific observations + data collection:

**LOOK AT AND CONSIDER WHAT IS HERE:** the steps carved as a poetic human affordance in the Manhattan schist (450 million years old), the glacial scraping still visible on the rock (several thousand years old), to the materials that compose the surrounding buildings (150 years-present).

**PAUSE** to consider the massive planetary changes, both human and geologic, that have occurred to melt the ice (that would have towered nearly a mile above you) and have afforded the urban park and cityscape surrounding you today.

**OBSERVE AND MAKE CONTACT** with the layers of history materially present today. Look closely at the Manhattan schist steps (450 million years old). Touch the glacial scrapes still visible on the rock (several thousand years old) and study the surrounding buildings and park design (150 years-present). Listen. Smell. Observe what is human made here and what is “natural”? **What sights, sounds, smells, structures and materials around you provide “evidence” of the Anthropocene?** What species of species of plants and animals do you see? How many people? What kind of designs and infrastructure? What kind of “garbage”?

**Answer the following (post later to your LP):**

- 1) What does it feel like knowing that so much ice used to be here, but is now gone? Is it hard or easy to imagine this site being so different?
- 2) What sights, sounds, smells, structures and materials around you provide evidence of the Anthropocene?
- 3) Do you feel like you have contributed to material realities that indicate the arrival of the Anthropocene? How/why/when?
- 4) Do you think the public should be aware of the Anthropocene?
- 5) What kind of climates do you think are possible in New York City's future?

**PROJECT:**

**PART 1:** Create a poetic work using the observations you gather in Central Park (words, original photography, drawings, sound recordings, and/or found objects) **to aesthetically express the transition in climate that has unfolded in this spot over the past 10,000 years.** A glacier, the urban city we see today — and an uncertain climate future. This can be a poem, a text/image piece, a drawing or an audio/video piece. Please post this on your LP with a paragraph describing what you made and why.

