

# GRAND THEFT ECO

EPISODE 1: "THE IBEAR IN THE RIVER"  
SOFT LAUNCH SCREENING

*Grand Theft Eco* is a machinima series and pedagogical engine that repurposes the video game *GTA V* to explore possible eco-futures of LA in the year 2050. Each episode offers an alternative to dominant dystopian narratives about climate change futures by developing nuanced storyworlds in which crucial environmental problems have been addressed, but issues of social inequality continue to trouble how the solutions are experienced. In this screening, we share the first episode of *Grand Theft Eco*, "The iBear in the River," which focuses on a vibrant and revitalized LA River landscape that brings together two teenagers, Kerstin Connor and Yolanda Arellanos, in an adventurous chase to retrieve a lost electronic toy. As the girls explore the landscapes and neighborhoods along the river, they forge a temporary friendship that persistent inequalities ultimately drive apart.



MAY 6TH @ 4PM  
UCLA KAPLAN HALL, 193