

CLIMATE CHANGE & ART

Observing art invites us to explore ourselves and the world around us. It prompts learning and a desire to discover something yet undiscovered in our view. Art starts a conversation in the heart and mind, and soon the hands and eyes are in motion. The flow of creative mindfulness happens the moment we see visual imagery or when we reflect on it. Observational drawing and writing give form to imagination and ideas. It gives voice to the inner music of free-flowing creativity and invites the elusive muse to show up and sing along. Listen, what do you hear? Is there a call and response? In this conversation, what do you need to express? How do you feel? Now, what is moving in your soul? Say it, do it, be it. Keep the conversation fluid and unconditional.

Laura Jaquays, 2023

Context

The following lists of authors, poets, film makers, are provided as an opportunity to explore the various ways in which art provides insight into the conversation about climate change.

Poetry

- Rita Wong *undercurrent*, 2015, also: <https://www.wlupress.wlu.ca/Books/C/Current-Climate> --> *Current, Climate: The Poetry of Rita Wong* - this is a collected works
- Stephen Collis, *A History of the Theories of Rain*, 2021. He's based at SFU, and also wrote *Once in Blockadia* (2016) which includes an opening sequence that cleverly includes transcripts from his trial when TMX sued him for advocating civil disobedience against the building of the pipeline!
- Kim Trainor collection coming out in 2024, *A blueprint for survival | poems* (Guernica) also addresses climate and 6th mass extinction (but isn't out yet)
 - it includes this poem: "Seed 18: Lentil." *The Journal of Wild Culture*. June 2021: <https://www.wildculture.com/article/earth-bardo/1926>
 - and its accompanying film (both poem and film include refs. to Keeling curve): <https://vimeo.com/792000822/9525c31ebd>
- Kathryn Mockler, *Watch Your Head: Writers & Artists Respond to the Climate Crisis*
specific poems: <https://chireviewofbooks.com/2019/12/18/10-poems-about-climate-change-to-read-right-now/> includes "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Glacier (after Wallace Stevens)" by Craig Santos Perez
- Gabriel Ojeda-Sagué, *Losing Miami*, (2019)
- C.D. Wright, *Casting Deep Shade* (2019)
- *NO OTHER PLACE TO STAND: AN ANTHOLOGY OF CLIMATE CHANGE POETRY FROM AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND* <https://aucklanduniversitypress.co.nz/no-other-place-to-stand-an-anthology-of-climate-change-poetry-from-aotearoa-new-zealand/>

Film

- *A life on our planet, Our Planet* – David Attenborough: Available on Netflix <https://www.netflix.com/title/80216393>
- *Don't Look Up*: <https://www.netflix.com/search?q=don%27t%20look%20up&ibv=81252357>

- David Suzuki: On why climate change is a bigger threat than Covid: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=XAAi8fLeL1I> and On Being Part of Nature: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=YxLBDNEeMSw>

Authors

Books from New Society Publishers: <https://newsociety.com>

Andrew Boyd: [I Want a Better Catastrophe: Navigating the Climate Crisis with Grief, Hope and Gallows Humour](#)

Steven Earle: [A Brief History of the Earth's Climate](#)

Harriet Shugarman: [How to talk to your kids about Climate Change](#)

Fay Weller and Mary Wilson: [Changemakers: Embracing Hope, Taking Action, and Transforming the World](#)

Peter Kalmus: [Being the Change: Live Well and Spark and Climate Revolution](#)

Visual Artists

Visual Artists: <https://www.climarealityproject.org/blog/11-visual-artists-taking-climate-crisis>

Mixed media: <https://fineartamerica.com/art/mixed+media/climate+change>

BC artist alliance for climate change: <https://fineartamerica.com/art/mixed+media/climate+change>

Art and Climate Change around the world

Uganda: A group of young artists, Jabulani Africa (jabulani is a zulu word meaning rejoice), have partnered with Kabarole Research and Resource Centre to organise street art exhibitions on climate change. The artists bring to the exhibition paintings depicting climate change effects and how it is caused. In other cases, the paintings show visitors to the exhibition how to protect the environment. <https://www.iied.org/uganda-art-answer-communicating-about-climate-change>

Australia: Art + Climate = Change festival <https://theconversation.com/climate-science-is-looking-to-art-to-create-change-41185>

France: This climate change art installation reminds people of rising sea levels: <https://www.trendhunter.com/trends/climate-change-art>

Children around the world: Stripping polar bears, crying penguins, pollution and people - Paint for the Planet, a competition run by the United Nations Environment Programme, offers children around the world the chance to showcase their fears and hopes for the planet through art: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2008/oct/21/climatechange>



Gloria Ip Tung, 14, China



Charlotte Sullivan, 13, England