

GREENHOUSE GALLERY

INUNDATION



OPEN FOR ARTIST SUBMISSIONS

As part of the Climate Change Challenge, the Greenhouse Gallery invites artists, scientists, activists, designers and writers to submit images, words and ideas that respond to the theme of inundation.

Work will be exhibited to coincide with the Norfolk & Norwich Festival (13th - 29th May) and Open Studios (28th May - 12th June) 2016.

CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE
42-46 Bethel Street Norwich

www.Greenhousetrust.co.uk

THE CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE

A project set up by the Greenhouse Trust to support, commission and co-ordinate creative responses to climate change locally.

INUNDATION - BRIEFING

In 2015, global temperatures will be more than one degree warmer than pre-industrial levels for the first time. The past decade has been the hottest since temperature records began. Increasingly extreme temperature and weather incidents will change the way we live. We know that collectively we must make dramatic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Yet the challenges before us are both unprecedented and incomprehensible to many. On one hand the impacts are discussed as being in the future and not for us, while on the other hand it is clear what we do right now will determine to what extent future generations are condemned to a world of global warming.

How we communicate and engage with the challenge is at the heart of this invitation to get creative.

***“Creativity is the power to reject the past, to change the status quo
and to see new potential.”***

Ai Wei Wei – Artist, Chinese human rights activist.

LOSS OF LAND

The coastal areas of Europe and the UK, particularly East Anglia and the South East, have been identified as areas at increasing risk of sea level rise. The Broads Authority has documented some of the issues around inundation by the sea, but the narrative is framed in terms of adaptation. Insurers working out their liability when a disaster has occurred use a process called loss adjustment. Perhaps those words give greater emotional weight to the process and should be used to describe what anyone concerned about global warming is feeling?

What might the abandonment of Norfolk’s arable land involve, or even cost? Can regions be depopulated in an orderly fashion? Who is going to take that decision publicly and who will enforce such a command? When and where will coastal defences be abandoned and the sea allowed in?

When inundation of the Broads occurs, will the inhabitants of Norfolk all move to higher ground? How will Norwich cope with refugees from Yarmouth and Lowestoft as well as other parts of the world? Can you visualise what inundation means in terms of these environmental and social issues?

TAMING THE FLOOD

As sea levels rise and climate change leads to more storm events, we will see more and more inland flooding of the sort seen in 2013-14, with higher peak levels and

greater frequency.

Floodplains and wetlands, such as East Anglia's fens, can provide natural sinks for flood waters, taking the force out of the water, settling sediment and protecting towns and agricultural land. However, 42% of floodplains in the UK are separated from their rivers and most of our wetlands are drained; instead of looking to nature's defences, we dig deeper channels and build walls. If we were to focus on restoring our wetlands, we would not only reduce the risk of flooding but also trap the carbon that is stored in peat soils, instead of releasing it to further increase climate change. Looking after our soils means that they retain water rather than letting it run off.

WARMING OCEANS

Oceans cover more than 70% of the planet's surface. The greatest focus has been on the temperature of the thin layer of air that we live in, but this is only one of the indicators of warming; the oceans are another. 94% Of the heat energy gained by the planet since 1991 has ended up in the oceans, with another 4% absorbed by the land and ice.

The Pacific's depths have warmed 15 times as fast during the last 60 years than at any time in the previous 10,000 years. During a phenomenon called El Niño, when easterly winds spread hot water across the top of much of the tropical Pacific, so much heat flows into the air that the entire surface of the planet warms. There was an especially strong El Niño in 1998, which is why it was such a warm year. During the opposite event, called La Niña, when westerly winds spread up-welling cold water across the sea surface, the tropical Pacific soaks up so much heat that it cools the planet's surface. And lately there have been lots of La Niñas. There has not been a major El Niño for the past 15 years, which helps explain why the atmosphere wasn't warming as fast. However, El Niño has returned and the oceans are responding.

CLIMATE REFUGEES

The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is resolutely clear that hundreds of millions of people will be displaced by the end of this century. Global warming will place humanity under unprecedented strain, generating mass migration, violent conflict and misery the world over. As the temperature rises and the weather becomes ever more extreme, the wars being fought over finite resources such as oil, gas, coal, water, precious minerals and food will intensify. By the end of the century, "hundreds of millions of people will be affected by coastal flooding and be displaced due to land loss". The majority of those affected will be in East Asia, South-East Asia and South Asia. Rising sea levels mean coastal systems and low-lying areas will increasingly experience submergence, coastal flooding and coastal erosion.

Climate change will lead to increased ill-health in many regions, examples include: a greater likelihood of injury, disease and death due to more intense heat-waves and fires; an increased likelihood of under-nutrition; and increased risks from food- and water-borne diseases. The UK's existing air pollution is likely to worsen as burning fossil fuels increase ozone levels and warmer weather increases the incidence of asthma and hay-fever.

Much is being made of our capacity to 'adapt' to climate change. But Government has little in the way of plans to avert the coming tragedies. Instead, economic 'austerity' has become the justification for reducing wealth re-distribution and environmental security. Even before war began, Syria was suffering from serious agricultural/water stress. Climate change will reduce renewable surface water and groundwater resources significantly in most dry subtropical regions, exacerbating the competition for food and water. Terrestrial and freshwater species will also face extinction.

Perhaps the word 'adapt' has been chosen because it sounds measured and responsible, generating a picture of a steady transformation in our lives. We all know that this won't be the case: extreme weather generates sudden changes, floods and storms that overwhelm the local environment, or long periods of drought that erode our ability to provide food or freshwater.

ENTRY IS FREE

- Images and words can be emailed to: gallery@Greenhousetrust.co.uk
Files should be no larger than 3MB.

ENTRY DETAILS

Along with the attachment, your email should include your name and details of the work including: title, size (inclusive of frame where appropriate), method and materials used and price.

VISUAL WORK

- Height and width of work no more than 1m (including frame).
- Work should relate to the brief and be available for display and sale during the exhibition.
- 30% Commission is subtracted from the sale price to offset the costs of promotion and administration.
- Conceptual artwork entries can be sent as a written proposal with illustrations and/or supporting imagery. The work, or a component part of the work, should be saleable

WRITTEN WORK

- 5,000 Word maximum length for stories, articles etc.
- Each poem or text should be a separate/formatted jpeg.

Closing date for submissions: Saturday February 27th 2016