

7 CREATIVE CLIMATE TRENDS | N°1. ARTWORK

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Arts and culture are not only responding to environmental challenges but are trailblazing the way forward: creating new narratives, testing ideas, developing interdisciplinary collaborations and reimagining what's possible. Environmental sustainability and climate action is being ingrained within the whole cultural economy - from investment, strategy and operations, to creative programming, partnerships and public engagement.

For over 11 years, Julie's Bicycle has been tracking the creative climate movement of change within arts and culture. Drawing from this experience, we have identified [Seven Creative Climate Trends](#) - key communities of environmentally centered practice that are leveraging significant cultural value. They are: Artwork, Activism, Organisational Leadership, Design and Innovation, Collaboration, Path-finding, and Policy Changing. This configuration of trends aims to demonstrate the full breadth and diversity of creative responses to the environment, especially the paramount issue of climate change, contextualizing them as a whole movement, networked and moving in concert. Julie's Bicycle is inviting all artists and cultural practitioners inspired by - and working in alignment with - our natural environment to situate themselves within these seven trends and tell their stories of leadership on our new interactive [map](#). This map is open to all and has been designed to make visible this growing movement of change. Each month we will be putting into spotlight a different trend starting with the first trend - artwork where some truly inspiring and thought-provoking work is being created.

A spotlight on: Artwork

From Paleolithic [cave paintings](#) to Agnes Denes' land art - from Keats' poetry to Xiuhtezcatl Martinez's indigenous hip hop - our natural world has been reflected by generations of creatives from a multitude of artforms. Be it music, poetry, film, literature, fashion, craft, or dance, creative work is exploring the environment from all angles, from celebration and commemoration to questioning and critiquing humanity's relationship to it. These sensory engagements plunge us into emotional and



intellectual experiences beyond the surface of everyday life, leading us to viscerally engage with climate and environmental change. The examples are countless; work like Olafur Eliasson's famous Ice Watch; Margaret Atwood's MaddAddam Trilogy; documentaries like Chasing Ice and An Inconvenient Truth, the architectural works of Ackroyd&Harvey.

The play 'Myth' by Kirsty Housley and Matt Hartley (first featured in Royal Shakespeare Company's Mischief Festival, 2017) is a comment on the cultural amnesia embodied by so many of us regarding humanity's influence on the planet - we chose to look away, to ignore the warning signs. But as faced by the play's protagonists, the events of the world can't be kept outside any longer and this brings everything into question - how we live our lives, what we value, how our societies are structured, how we work together. It is easy to see something of yourself within the emotional responses of these everyday characters and their navigation of this demanding, complicated and ultimately existential threat. But it is the honest chronicling of this challenge that so brilliantly demonstrates the power of art: to build bridges and foster empathy, to connect us to our humanity, to create spaces for shared grief and fear, as well as hope, determination and courage.