

Climate Action Plan

a space arts





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Daniel Crow*
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Foreword

We are in the midst of an existential crisis, unparalleled to anything the world has ever faced, and it is disproportionately affecting the worst off in our world: we all need to respond.

The deterioration of our climate and planet is distressing but recognising where we are is the first step in making a positive contribution towards tackling the crises. All journeys start with a single step and summoning the courage to climb the mountain in front of us and we all need to take steps in this journey.

Our organisation is no different. We feel the responsibility to use our cultural privilege to raise awareness of the climate emergency and the positive actions that can make a difference. We began climbing our mountain by looking at ourselves, our programme, our suppliers, our ethos, and have plotted a series of steps to play our role and now present them in this inaugural Climate Action Plan (CAP).

Adapting everyday elements from our daily lives does make a difference and contributes to the solution. You might feel taking bigger steps to support global causes is required (and if you do all power to you), or you could just make sure you are doing your recycling correctly; either way your personal contributions are crucial and count. Our CAP is informed by collective research and team work that delved into the resources of the galleryclimatecoalition.org.

By challenging and questioning our behaviours we've devised a series of climate commitments that we feel are required and achievable. Some represent small steps, some larger but we are committed to taking them, being part of the solution and not further telling the problem.

We recognise the platform our galleries, studios and digital spaces create and the powerful messages artists and their work can convey.

Therefore as part of this CAP we have launched our Art for Climate Action (AfCA) programme. AfCA supports artists to talk about the climate issues they feel passionate about and the actions we the public can take. To date artists have presented concerns and actions about rising sea levels and climate refugees, re-wilding to make our city greener, reproductive choice and climate activism. As the programme develops we will continue to support artists to make work they feel is important, pressing, and requires public attention.

We hope our work leads to an increased public awareness of the steps you can take in climbing your own mountain.

Daniel Crow
Director 'a space' arts



Holding Space by Anna Bunting-Branch

Image: @lukeshears

‘Art for Climate Action explores the role art can play in encouraging people to connect with environmental issues and bring about meaningful change in their perceptions and behaviours.

We believe that art has the power to make change and encourage radical thinking, enabling us to imagine and build a better future.’

Mia Delve

Curator & Programme Manager

‘a space’ arts

*“make change
and encourage
radical thinking”*



Art for Climate Action: Community Projects - Sharing Event

Image: @lukeshears

01

Make our commitment to climate action public and ensure our Climate Action Plan is available online

Make our commitment to climate action public and ensure our Climate Action Plan is available online.

We will commit to sharing our Climate Action Plan with the public via our website and social media channels to show our intent in actioning these commitments.

We will hold ourselves accountable for making progress towards achieving our commitments and reporting publicly on progress made year on year.



02

Practice and promote an environmentally conscious culture, using our platform to advocate for change and ensuring that this action plan is understood and upheld by our whole team

Practice and promote an environmentally conscious culture, using our platform to advocate for change and ensuring that this action plan is understood and upheld by our whole team.

We commit to sharing our learning and progress to support other organisations and individuals to take positive action.

We will commit to facilitating parity and understanding across the organisation, from volunteer to trustee, through regular workshops and discussion to ensure that all of our team are aware of our shared commitments and can apply them to their own roles.



03

Commit to changing our actions and behaviours to find new ways of delivering our activity and operations which are less impactful on the environment

Commit to changing our actions and behaviours to find new ways of delivering our activity and operations which are less impactful.

Within two years this will include:

- Switching to 100% renewable energy suppliers across all of our venues
- Switching to sustainable banking which supports climate action
- Using ethical supply chains and buying locally wherever possible

- Reducing our paper consumption and unnecessary printing
- Finding opportunities within our programme and other activity to support green initiatives in the city.



04

Commit to programming exhibitions and events which raise awareness of global climate issues, particularly those which explore under-represented voices or perspectives in climate discussions

Commit to programming exhibitions and events which raise awareness of global climate issues, particularly those which explore under-represented voices or perspectives in climate discussions.

We will continue to work with artists to harness the power that art has to make change and encourage radical thinking.

We will continue to commission work which encourages people to connect with environmental issues to bring about meaningful change in both perceptions and behaviours, leading to climate action.



05

Reduce, reuse and recycle our exhibition materials, reducing waste and measuring the impact of our exhibitions by using environmental impact assessment forms with artist commissions

Reduce, reuse and recycle our exhibition materials, reducing waste and measuring the impact of our exhibitions by using environmental impact assessment forms with artist commissions.

We will develop and implement systems to track the carbon emissions of our commissions and create environmental action reports to measure our progress against our commitment to reduce waste.

We will embrace 'slow curating' by programming longer exhibitions and shifting the traditional aesthetic standards of exhibition making.

This will allow us to make more ethical and climate-conscious decisions about materials, seeking 'waste' materials, recycled materials and locally sourced materials and finding ways to make any left over materials available to other creative projects and people in the city.



06

Be an active voice in local, regional and national campaigns which seek to change attitudes and behaviours and advocate for more sustainable economies

Be an active voice in local, regional and national campaigns which seek to change attitudes and behaviours and advocate for more sustainable economies.

We acknowledge the need for collective and collaborative approaches to climate action, so we will be an active member of local initiatives such as SoCAN, supporting the development of their sustainable directory and attending regional events on behalf of the local culture sector.

Nationally we will be an active member of the Gallery Climate Coalition to learn from examples of best practise from across the sector and apply these to our future activity.



07

Regularly check the progress we are making against the commitments in our Climate Action Plan and annually update the plan through feedback and focus groups

Regularly check the progress we are making against the commitments in our Climate Action Plan and annually update the plan through feedback and focus groups.

We will find opportunities for the public to engage with our commitments and share their feedback and appoint 'Climate Champions' across the organisation.

This will include a champion from our board of trustees and an artist champion from our network of artists.

These roles will help us review and evaluate our work and will offer different perspectives as well as a critical friend, ensuring that we are upholding these commitments and making progress.



08

Continue to listen, learn and research
about local and global climate issues

Continue to listen, learn and research about local and global climate issues.

We will commit to finding opportunities to develop our understanding of global climate issues by continuing our open call process for commissioning, allowing artists to explore the many perspectives of the climate crisis and bring these to public attention.

We will invest in regular training for our team and ensure that we are active in attending events and talks which explore contemporary climate issues.



“We recognise the platform our galleries, studios and digital spaces create...”

...and the powerful
messages artists and
their works can convey”

Daniel Crow
Director ‘a space’ arts

Our Projects

The following projects are examples of our ongoing work as a visual arts organisation to honour our Climate Action commitments.



**Art for Climate Action:
Community Projects
2023**

Art for Climate Action: Community Projects by Harry Meadows and Lizzie Jones was the first in a series of exhibitions exploring the role of climate activism in art.



**GHT.2058: جنت-آسیلو
by Bijan Moosavi
2023**

Part of our Art for Climate Action exhibition programme, this immersive installation will explore the effects of climate change and imagine a speculative future of our planet and God's House Tower in the year 2058.



**Art for Climate Action:
Community Projects, Part Two
2024**

Art for Climate Action: Community Projects, Part Two by artists Harry Meadows and Lizzie Jones was the continuation of work from Art for Climate Action: Community Projects exhibited at God's House Tower in Summer 2023.

Our Projects

The following projects are examples of our ongoing work as a visual arts organisation to honour our Climate Action commitments.



Holding Space by Anna Bunting-Branch 2024

Holding Space by Anna Bunting-Branch explores the role of reproductive refusal in climate activism and considers how environmental factors affect decisions about bringing children into the world.



Artist Voices 2023, 2024

Artist Voices is a series of panel discussions and conversations that aim to support artist development by unpacking and demystifying key topics and issues of the visual arts ecology through discussion with artists and cultural workers.



Associated Events

Alongside the artistic commissions we have supported and enriched our engagement programme with associated events.



Art for Climate Action: Community Projects - Sharing Event

Image: @lukeshears

Art for Climate Action: Community Projects was an introduction to two commissioned projects led by artists Lizzie Jones and Harry Meadows. Acknowledging the need for collective and collaborative approaches to climate action, the artists were invited to connect with communities in Southampton and co-produce a body of work which was exhibited at God’s House Tower.

*“active moments
as ways to explore,
participate and
raise questions”*

Lizzie Jones

Art for Climate Action: Community Projects, Part Two



Art for Climate Action: Community Projects - Sharing Event

Image: 'a space' arts



Art for Climate Action: Community Projects - Sharing Event

Image: @lukeshears



Art for Climate Action: Community Projects - Sharing Event

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*“make sense of
our environment
by extending our
human senses”*

Harry Meadows

Art for Climate Action: Community Projects, Part Two



Art for Climate Action: Community Projects - Sharing Event

Image: @lukeshears



Art for Climate Action: Community Projects - Sharing Event

Image: Mia Delve



GHT.2058: **Asylo-جنت** by Bijan Moosavi

Image: @lukeshears

Part of our Art for Climate Action Programme, this immersive exhibition submerged the viewer in a fictional near-future climate dystopia created by neoliberal negligence and greed.

Comprised of various materials and media hinting at climate catastrophes, science fiction dystopias, marketing over-hype and Islamic Kitsch, the exhibition was a portal into a deeply neoliberal refugee centre from the year 2058, which houses Middle Eastern asylum seekers displaced due to a global failure in dealing with the climate crisis.

*“their art is
court evidence”*

Bijan Moosavi

Artist Voices: In Conversation, 2023



GHT.2058: Asylo-جنت^س by Bijan Moosavi

Image: @lukeshears



GHT.2058: Asylo-جنت by Bijan Moosavi

Image: @lukeshears



Art for Climate Action: Community Projects, Part Two

Image: @lukeshears

Lizzie Jones is part of a group called Puppet Back Up. Through 2023, Puppet Back Up have connected with youthful people over specific issues.

Together, they have been actively, playfully and artfully involved with these issues, grappling with challenging topics about climate breakdown and climate action.

For this exhibition, Puppet Back Up present two new films and documentary photography by young collaborators, alongside new puppets and prints, from and for action.

*“actively, playfully
and artfully”*

Lizzie Jones

Art for Climate Action: Community Projects, Part Two



Art for Climate Action: Community Projects, Part Two

Image: @lukeshears



Art for Climate Action: Community Projects, Part Two

Image: @lukeshears



Art for Climate Action: Community Projects, Part Two

Image: @lukeshears

For the exhibition Art for Climate Action: Community Projects, Part Two Harry Meadows spent 12 months working with community gardeners in green spaces across Southampton. The outcome, Personal Ecologies: The Community Gardener, explores the imagination of an ecosystem.

The video game and sculpture in this exhibition respond to this call through partnership between art and the ecological practice of a community gardener.

Through an interactive game environment, you are invited to explore entanglements of people, plants, animals and machines.

“imagination of an ecosystem”

Harry Meadows

Art for Climate Action: Community Projects, Part Two



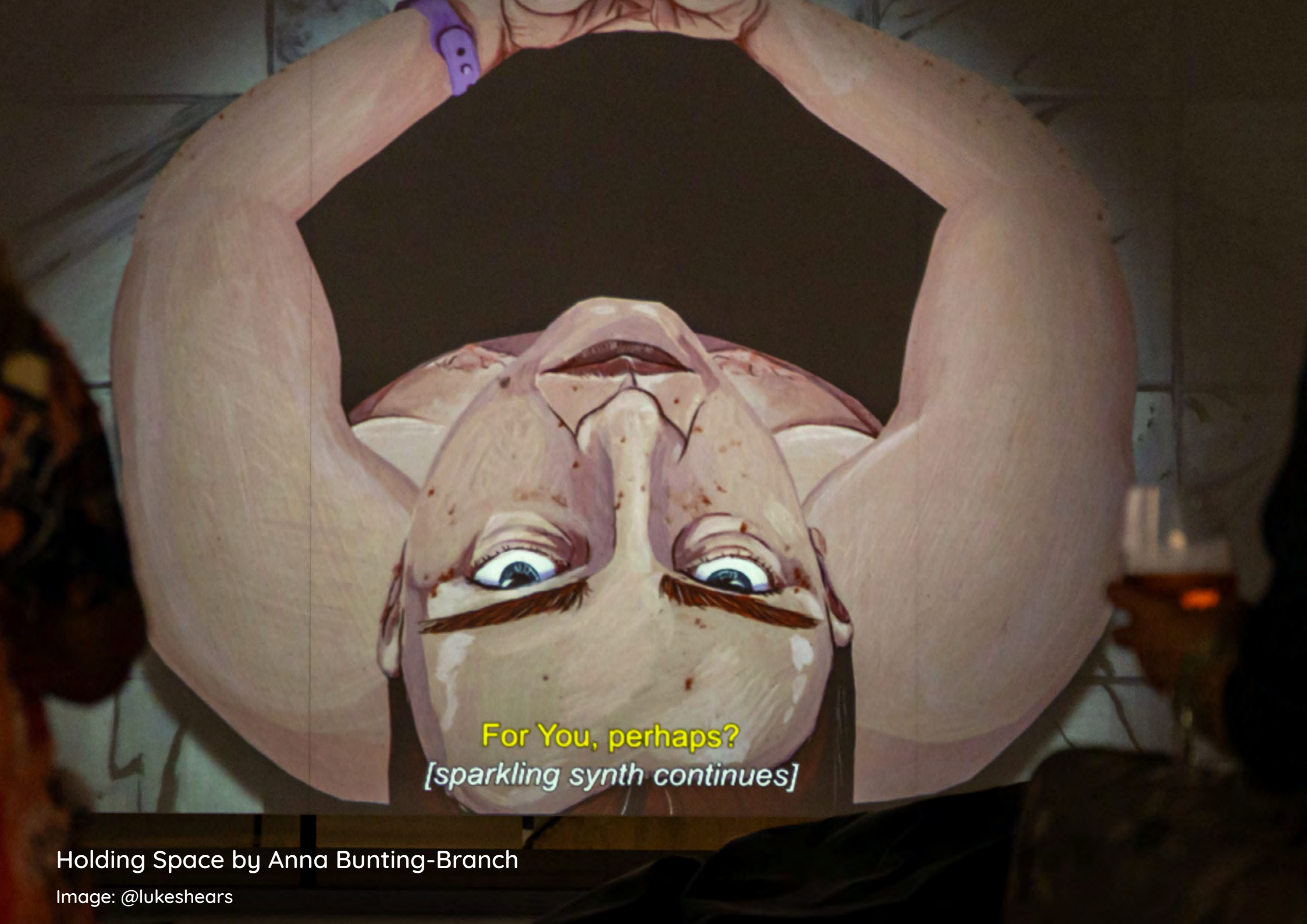
Art for Climate Action: Community Projects, Part Two

Image: @lukeshears



Art for Climate Action: Community Projects, Part Two

Image: @lukeshears



For You, perhaps?
[sparkling synth continues]

Holding Space by Anna Bunting-Branch

Image: @lukeshears

Holding Space explores the role of reproductive refusal in climate activism and how environmental factors affect decisions about bringing children into the world. The exhibition is informed by the artist's ongoing research into childlessness and different ways of conceiving the future in the face of climate emergency.

An animation is exhibited in the Barker-Mill Project Space. Taking breath as a metaphor for the intimate relationship between body and environment, this work touches on the personal and political stakes of reproductive refusal. In response to what the animation's protagonist calls the "violent comforts" of late capitalism, refusal is here reclaimed as a generative and loving act. Digital effects bring hand-painted imagery to life along with new music by Rosie Carr.

*“an exhibition
shaped by self-
reflection”*

*Anna Bunting-Branch
Holding Space, 2024*



Holding Space by Anna Bunting-Branch

Image: @lukeshears



Holding Space by Anna Bunting-Branch

Image: @lukeshears

Environmental Impact Report



Holding Space explores the role of reproductive refusal in climate activism and considers how environmental factors affect decisions about bringing children into the world. The exhibition is informed by the artist's ongoing research into childlessness and different ways of conceiving the future in the face of climate emergency.

During the two years of production for this exhibition, how much carbon did we emit?

784.47kg

Alongside the production period of this exhibition, we have been closely analysing our Environmental Impact.

This Environmental Impact Report calculates the carbon footprint of the production period for Holding Space by Anna Bunting-Branch.

Where did this come from?

-  533 Emails - 3.5kg
-  18h 37m on Zoom - 3.5kg
-  1,225 miles Travel/Transport - 31.47kg
-  338 miles Shipping - 90.34kg
-  1,908kWh Energy Demands - 395.64kg
-  Mixed Materials/Equipment - 71.64kg

Environmental Impact Report



The amount of carbon produced during the production period of the exhibition *Holding Space* is equivalent to:



Driving 3388.5 miles (Southampton, UK to Khar Nuur, Mongolia).

Or flying 1731.9 miles on a plane (Southampton, UK to Dumlupinar, Turkey).

Or boiling 72.199 kettles.

Or Eating 353.910kg of vegetarian mince of 56.48kg of beef mince.



a space
arts

www.aspacearts.org.uk

[@aspacearts](https://www.instagram.com/aspacearts)