



Nobel Peace Center
Nobels Fredssenter



MELTING ICE – HOT TOPIC

World Environment Day 2007

Envisioning Change - Visjoner om Endring - Envisage le

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Worlds of Art, Peace, Politics and the Environment Unite to Present a Global Exhibition on Climate Change

Exhibition to Open on 5 June – United Nations (UN) World Environment Day
In Oslo, Norway Featuring 40 Artists from Around the World

OSLO/BRUSSELS/NAIROBI/SAN FRANCISCO, 28 February 2007 – We are at the forefront of a new era of cultural transformation, one in which we have to take bold and unequivocal actions to create and implement cross-cultural and interdisciplinary solutions to diminish the threats posed by our Earth's changing climate.

In honor of the annual UN World Environment Day celebrations in June 2007, the Natural World Museum is presenting the exhibit, *Envisioning Change*, in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Norwegian Ministry of Environment, and the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo. This international contemporary art exhibition is designed to generate awareness of global warming and climate change while inspiring positive change in people's attitudes and actions toward the environment.

In support of the internationally coordinated campaign of research marking a new era in polar science, the International Polar Year has been established for 2007-2008. Coinciding, the theme of World Environment Day 2007 is *Melting Ice – Hot Topic*, while the aim of the exhibit is to focus attention on the effects of climate change, and in particular, the state of our polar ecosystems and communities.

A range of events will be staged for World Environment Day in the northern Norwegian city of Tromsø, known as the Gateway to the Arctic, on 3 - 4 June and culminate in Oslo on 5 June with the opening of the *Envisioning Change* exhibition at the Nobel Peace Center. It was in Oslo in 2004 that Wangari Maathai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace through her grassroots environmental work with the Green Belt Movement.

UNEP's agenda for World Environment Day is to give a human face to environmental issues; empower people to become active agents of sustainable development; promote an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues; and advocate partnership, which will ensure all nations and peoples enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

This innovative exhibition brings together 40 artists from around the world to address issues confronting our changing environment as reflected in the melting and thawing of ice, snow, and permafrost from the Himalayas to Kilimanjaro, from the Andes to the Arctic.

The exhibition explores such questions as "What is climate change?" "What are the political implications?" "How does sustainable development create a pathway to peace?" and "Why should we care?" The artists and artworks provide insight and answers to these questions.



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The complete list of participating artists includes: Fred Ivar Utsi Klemetsen, Jonas Liverod, Laura Horelli, Lucy Orta, Mona Hatoum, Subhankar Banerjee, David Nash, Dalibor Martinis, David Buckland, Yoshiaki Kaihatsu, David Trubridge, Helen Mayer Harrison and Newton Harrison, Gary Hume, David and Hi-Jin Hodge, Anne Senstad, Xavier Cortada, Angela Lergo, Shana and Robert ParkeHarrison, Siobhan Davies, Cecilia Paredes, Chris Jordan, Jacob McKean, Era and Don Farnsworth, Gilles Mingasson, Kahn Selesnick, Icelandic Love Corporation, Ichi Ikeda, Andrea Polli, Robert Bateman, Theo Wujcik, Strijdom van der Merwe, Susan Plum, Ana Prvacki, Justin Young, Sven Pahlsson, Svein Johansen, Sebastian Copeland, Alfio Bonanno, and Sant Khalsa. The exhibition is curated by Randy Jayne Rosenberg.

The goal of this exhibition is to present a unique opportunity that utilizes the universal language of art as a catalyst to peacefully unite people in action and thought and to empower individuals, communities, and leaders to focus on environmental values across social, economic, and political realms.

The exhibition will open at the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo on 5 June and be on display until 20 August 2007, then travel to the Bozar Museum in Brussels from September through December 2007, and on to Chicago in the United States in 2008.

QUOTES FROM PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Achim Steiner, UN Under-Secretary General and UNEP Executive Director, said: “The findings in the 2 February 2007 report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change confirm the science of human-induced climate change. These findings should strengthen the resolve of people to act now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and put in place the medium to longer term strategies necessary to avert dangerous climate change.”

Norwegian Ministry of Environment

Minister Helen Bjørnøy expressed that “Art has the power to express the close ties between human nature and our natural surroundings, making it a powerful agent of increased environmental awareness”.

Nobel Peace Center

“This is an important exhibition for the Nobel Peace Center. It clearly shows how the climate changes we are all surrounded by have direct impact on world security, and therefore on peace. The wide variety of artistic expressions on display effectively states that the earth’s climate affects all of us” said Bente Erichsen, Director, Nobel Peace Center.

“Mankind’s universal values of love, compassion, solidarity, caring and tolerance should form the basis for this global ethic which should permeate culture, politics, trade, religion and philosophy. It should also permeate the extended family of the United Nations” said Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Wangari Maathai.

Natural World Museum

“We are taking action to encourage positive trends in society by utilizing art as a catalyst to generate new perspectives that inspire social and environmental solutions” states Mia Hanak, the Founding Executive Director of the Natural World Museum.

“The intent of the show is to both engage and educate,” said Randy Jayne Rosenberg, the exhibition’s curator. “The traveling art exhibition seeks to reach millions of people in an effort to make a lasting contribution to the global dialogue around our environment in peril and inspire individuals to reflect on their attitudes and actions.”



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