

**PRESS RELEASE: 12.04.18**

**Young women from across the UK take part in art and science climate fellowship inspired by Margaret Atwood**



*"Women are disproportionately affected by climate change; they are also central to tackling it. If we empower women, our chances of saving the planet are very much higher."*

**- Kate Lock, Priestley International Centre for Climate**

Fifteen young women multidisciplinary PhD researchers from universities throughout Britain have been selected to take part in a new 'Under Her Eye' Fellowship produced by acclaimed arts and science organisation Invisible Dust. This initiative has been inspired by its Ambassador, Margaret Atwood.

The Fellows will work specifically within the research context of women's contribution to the climate change challenge. They will utilise skills gained on the fellowship to produce activities for '[Under Her Eye](#)', Invisible Dust's major summit and arts festival taking place on 1st and 2nd June 2018 at the British Library in London.

The Fellowship will provide the students with tools to collaborate across disciplines, leading to artworks and engagement programmes that spark conversations on environmental issues. The

bespoke training weekend will include presentations from leading scientists and artists; along with training and practical workshops on project management, communication skills, fundraising, public speaking and social media.

Participants include students from the Universities of: Edinburgh, Hull, Imperial College London, Leeds, Leicester, Sheffield and York, along with The Cabot Institute at the University of Bristol, the Priestley International Centre for Climate at the University of Leeds, and the White Rose College of Arts and Humanities.

A team of leaders in their fields will run the workshops over the intensive weekend, including:

### **Media and Comms**

- Sholeh Johnston, Director of The Field, consultant, trainer and coach.
- Julie Doyle, Professor of Media and Communication at the University of Brighton, Director, Centre for Spatial, Environmental and Cultural Politics.

### **Science**

- Dr Sarah Mander, Research Fellow at Tyndall Manchester, University of Manchester.

### **Arts**

- Alice Sharp, Curator and Director, Invisible Dust.
- Gayle Chong Kwan, award-winning artist.

### **Leadership and Finance**

- Sarah Cartwright, leading image consultant teaching image, leadership, confidence and voice work.
- Nikki Braithwaite, Independent Arts Consultant, Braithwaite and Johnson.

### **Caryn Douglas, Manager, The White Rose College of Arts and Humanities comments:**

*"The White Rose College of the Arts & Humanities is delighted that six outstanding doctoral researchers from the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York have been awarded 'Under Her Eye' Fellowships. With research interests as diverse as representations of bee extinction to the sustainability of coastal historic landscapes and environmental change in women's fiction, all six researchers are excited about taking part in this groundbreaking project."*

### **One of the WRCoAH Fellowship holders, Fiona Clapperton based at the University of Sheffield, says:**

*"The 'Under Her Eye' Fellowship is a wonderful way to raise the profile of female academics and professionals, especially as we celebrate the centenary of women first getting the vote."*

### **Alice Sharp, Director and Curator at Invisible Dust said:**

*"We aim for the interdisciplinary young women researchers on our 'Under Her Eye' Fellowship programme to become arts and science leaders in their own right. They will hear from specialists about the role of women taking action but also being at the brunt of climate change worldwide. Invisible Dust has always found extraordinary things happen when people work*

*across disciplines. I'm looking forwards to their ideas contributing to our Summit at the British Library on 1st - 2nd June with Margaret Atwood."*

'Under Her Eye' is curated and produced by award-winning arts science organisation **Invisible Dust** and supported by the **Wellcome Trust, Euston Town BID, Creative Scotland, Mooncup** and **Arts Council England**.

**For more details, please contact Emma Hallam on 07813558183 or [emma@invisibledust.com](mailto:emma@invisibledust.com) or Olivia Gray on 0207 254 0134 or [olivia@invisibleddust.com](mailto:olivia@invisibleddust.com). Images available from Friday 20th April.**

**ENDS**

[www.invisibledust.com](http://www.invisibledust.com) Search: #UnderHerEye @invisible\_dust

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

**Invisible Dust** is a commissioning organisation that works with leading artists and scientists to produce new and exciting works of contemporary art exploring our environment. Founded in 2009 by Director and Curator Alice Sharp, our mission is to create powerful artworks and engagement programmes that spark meaningful national conversations on pressing environmental issues. The **Under Her Eye** programme will enable participants, delegates and the public alike to benefit from our nine years of interdisciplinary working between art and science, working with scientists from Oxford University and King's College London amongst many others. Past Invisible Dust artists include Turner Prize winners Elizabeth Price and Jeremy Deller and our exhibition '*Offshore: Artists Explore the Sea*' included artists Tacita Dean, John Akomfrah, Martin Parr and Mariele Neudecker at Ferens Art Gallery and Hull Maritime Museum drawing a live audience of 400,000 as part of the Hull UK City of Culture 2017. We have attracted over 2 million people to our projects and 3.2 million online through regular coverage in national and international press. [www.invisibledust.com](http://www.invisibledust.com)

### **Partners:**

**The Wellcome Trust** exists to improve health for everyone by helping great ideas to thrive. We're a global charitable foundation, both politically and financially independent. We support scientists and researchers, take on big problems, fuel imaginations, and spark debate.

[www.wellcome.ac.uk](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk)

**Arts Council England** champion, develop and invest in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives, we support activities across the arts, museums and libraries, from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Between 2015 and 2018, we will invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million from the National Lottery to help create art and culture experiences for everyone, everywhere.

[www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

**The British Library** is the national library of the United Kingdom and the second largest library in the world by number of items catalogued. It holds well over 150 million items from many countries. [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk)

### **The Cabot Institute, The University of Bristol**

The Cabot Institute, the University of Bristol's first flagship cross-disciplinary research institute, conducts world-leading research on the challenges arising from how we live with, depend on and affect our planet. It is rooted in a recognition of social and environmental challenges but

inspired by the spirit of exploration personified by [John Cabot](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/cabot/) (Zuan Caboto) and the City of Bristol. <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/cabot/>

### **The Priestley International Centre for Climate, The University of Leeds**

The [Priestley International Centre for Climate](http://www.priestleycentre.org/) at the University of Leeds brings together world leading expertise in all of the key strands of climate change research. As well as forging new international partnerships, the Priestley Centre's focus is on interdisciplinary research that better links our physical, technological, economic and social understanding of climate change with strategies for mitigation and adaptation. The Priestley International Centre for Climate is the University's flagship strategic investments in response to the global challenge of climate change, with £7m invested over five years. The director is [Piers Forster](http://www.priestleycentre.org/), Professor of Physical Climate Change in the School of Earth and Environment. [www.climate.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.climate.leeds.ac.uk)

@priestleycentre #climateleeds

**The White Rose College of the Arts & Humanities (WROCAH)** is a doctoral training partnership between the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York. Since 2014, the College has trained a new generation of over 250 doctoral researchers who face an increasingly competitive post-doctoral environment. Being prepared to face the challenges of the 21st century requires a different kind of training and researchers are continually challenged as they develop their employability skills with a cohort, learning and networking with each other in a unique and tailored training programme. The strength of Arts and Humanities research across the White Rose Consortium gives doctoral researchers access to expertise and experience to help them realise their most ambitious career aspirations within and outside academia. <http://wrocah.ac.uk/>

### **Further quotes:**

#### **Hayley Shaw, Cabot Institute Manager said:**

*"The University of Bristol Cabot Institute for the Environment is committed to promoting diversity of thought around environmental challenges. We support people across disciplines but are particularly excited in this instance to be supporting a young female scholar to work with Invisible Dust to produce unique and exciting work of contemporary art and new scientific ideas exploring our environment and climate change".*

#### **Kate Lock, Communications Officer, Priestley International Centre for Climate:**

*"Climate change cannot be tackled without acknowledging the crucial role of women and girls as part of the suite of solutions. Women are disproportionately affected by climate change; they are also central to tackling it. If we empower women, our chances of saving the planet are very much higher, and the Priestley International Centre for Climate welcomes the many creative ways this summit on women and climate change is emphasising that connection.*

*We are very pleased to have one of our first PhD students, Claire Cooper, as part of the Fellowship programme; the Priestley Centre's research rationale uses interdisciplinary collaboration to discover novel approaches to climate solutions, so 'Under Her Eye' is a great fit with what we do."*

**Another of the WRCoAH Fellowship holders, Martha Cattell, PhD student studying History of Art specialising in the visual and material culture of the 19th century Whaling Industry, at York University says:** *"I'm really looking forward to being part of the Fellowship, meeting the other students involved and learning more from the specialists. I'm particularly interested in how I can incorporate issues of climate change into my research."*

