

MEDIA BRIEFING

For immediate release (date TBC)

‘Under Her Eye: Women and Climate Change’

**Acclaimed female artists explore climate change through the themes of air, land and sea:
Kasia Molga, Gayle Chong Kwan and Margaret Salmon curated by Invisible Dust**

2 June 2018

- **3 major London art commissions on climate change curated by Invisible Dust:**
 - **Air: Kasia Molga - London premiere of ‘Human Sensor LDN’ - 21:15 to 22:00, along the Euston Green Link walking route between Euston Station and Regent’s Park**
 - **Land: Gayle Chong Kwan - ‘At the Crossroads: Microclimate Sensory Banquet’ - 19:00 to 21:00, British Library**
 - **Sea: Margaret Salmon - Director’s Lab Presentation of ‘Shore’ - 18:00 to 19:00, British Library**
- **Press launch and preview of ‘Human Sensor LDN’ on Tuesday 29 May at 7.30PM at the Wellcome Trust**
- **Videos of artists’ commissions available here: <https://vimeo.com/album/5180927>**
- **Live streaming of Under Her Eye: Summit headlined by Margaret Atwood and Christiana Figueres on 1st June, here: <https://www.facebook.com/invisibledust/>**

‘Under Her Eye’ is a two-day event that will explore and champion the role of women taking action on climate change in an international arts-science summit and festival curated by Invisible Dust. The event will be headlined by Booker-prize winning author and leading climate change advocate Margaret Atwood and head of the significant COP 21 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Christiana Figueres.

Starting off the activities on Friday 1 June is a global summit at the British Library, London that takes a fresh look at the environmental challenges of our age from a female perspective, through the subjects of arts, science, health, technology, finance, activism, leadership and policy. The second day of ‘Under Her Eye’ – on Saturday 2 June - features an arts festival with installations and activities across London’s King’s Cross, inviting the public to consider and experience climate change through the themes of air, land and sea. Invisible Dust has commissioned work from three celebrated female artists - Kasia Molga (Air), Gayle Chong Kwan (Land), and Margaret Salmon (Sea) – each responding to their experience of climate change, through a high-tech performance with dancers, a sensory culinary installation and a Director’s Lab presentation of a new film.

Alice Sharp, Director and Curator at Invisible Dust says: “Invisible Dust has been collaborating with artists and scientists on environmental themes for almost a decade and it is our interdisciplinary approach that has inspired the formation of Under Her Eye. We are thrilled to be working with eminent women scientists, artists, financiers and policy makers from around the world. These include author Margaret Atwood and UN diplomat Christiana Figueres, speaking at our international climate change summit which will be steamed live. For the Arts Festival the public will be able to engage with artists Kasia Molga, Gayle Chong Kwan and Margaret Salmon and their work, exploring how climate change affects the air, land and sea around us.”

Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Greater London Authority adds: “‘Human Sensor LDN’ taking place at ‘Under Her Eye’ is a wonderful, innovative way of presenting a fresh take on climate change and air quality. These are some of the biggest challenges of our time, and through art and performance Londoners can experience and consider these issues in a different light. These talented women are using their art to raise awareness, challenge our perceptions and encourage new ways of tackling problems – I encourage all Londoners to get involved.”

Highlights from the Arts Festival include:

Air: Kasia Molga - London premiere of [‘Human Sensor LDN’](#) - 21:15 to 22:00, Saturday 2nd June, the Euston Green Link - a walking route between Euston Station and Regent’s Park, FREE

by a spectacular live public performance in partnership with Euston Town BID in which specially-designed high-tech costumes created by artist Kasia Molga make London’s polluted air visible as dancers move through the city. Creative technologist Molga has developed the technology for new wearables – and for the first time they will change colour live with the quality of the surrounding air. Molga developed ‘Human Sensor’ in collaboration with scientist Professor Frank Kelly and his team at Environmental Health, King’s College London. The costumes also light up in response to each breath of the performers, through sensors in their masks emphasising their breathing and movement.

Molga says: “Through my experience of having an asthma attack as a reaction to air pollution, I realised that my own body is the best sensor for the environmental changes around me. The act of breathing is a very intimate action – an interface which connects our inner bodies to the outside.

“We live in times when concepts such as climate change, data, Internet of Things, wearables, Artificial Intelligence (and many others), although present in public domain, to many of city dwellers and commuters sound abstract, impersonal, inaccessible and beyond their control. Through Human Sensor LDN I hope that I made those things a little more intimate - how do you tell a story about the invisible particles which we are all breathing in, but which we are also producing?”

Land: Gayle Chong Kwan, with the Skip Garden - [‘At the Crossroads: Microclimate Sensory Banquet’](#) - 19:00 to 21:00, Saturday 2nd June, British Library

Inspired by Gayle Chong Kwan’s research into the politics of food at the British Library and the historic role played by the site of King’s Cross in UK consumption habits, this special multi-course banquet, held in a beautifully decorated marquee on the British Library Piazza, invites guests to taste, touch and feel their environment like never before, and explore how collective decisions around food are impacting on climate change and the health of future generations. Rituals and performances will be combined with exquisite food served up the skilled chef team from the King’s Cross Skip Garden and Kitchen, and bespoke cocktails from Seedlip – the world’s first distilled non-alcoholic spirits.

Kwan explains: “It has been a multi-faceted creative process working with scientists, chefs and producers to develop my experiential art work, researching the British Library collections on the politics of food production, transportation, and consumption. I became fascinated by historical recipe books that utilised ice transported from Norway, table plans from Royal Banquets, 19th Century reports on food poverty amongst children, and recipe books related to the colonial experience in India.

“I focused on three different types of ‘at the crossroads’: Kings Cross as a place where food from the UK and further afield were transported; Britain’s relationship with food from other countries and cultures, in particular

its ex-colonies; and the ‘at the crossroads’ we all face in relation to contemporary choices we make around how we engage with food on different levels.”

Tickets for the evening banquet have sold out, but free tickets are still available for the daytime workshops – see below.

Sea: Margaret Salmon - [Director’s Lab Presentation of ‘Shore’](#) - 18:00 to 19:00, Saturday 2nd June, British Library, tickets £5 from the British Library [Box Office](#)

Award-winning artist filmmaker Margaret Salmon will lead the audience on a journey through the research and production behind ‘Shore’ - a short film shot across the Scotland coast exploring our relationship with the seas and oceans, due to premiere in Scotland in July 2018. The artist will discuss the role of the Scottish Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in preserving, or ‘shoring up’ our endangered aquatic worlds, and will talk through her approaches to community storytelling, analogue underwater cinematography, sound and music in natural history documentaries, and observational techniques in 35mm film production.

Salmon says: “Animal life, our shared environment and fundamental human relationships with wild spaces all feature within my core interests and film practice. I’m driven to explore using cinematic language as a means of documenting and celebrating the vast, extraordinary world beyond our human enclaves and day-to-day concerns. It is clearly essential, urgent, to discuss the impact upon global communities, of all organisms, we humans have exerted, both knowingly and innocently. Film can be a language of inclusion; it can cross cultures, inspire emotional and intellectual discourse, share concern and fascination. I look to use film as a purveyor for this kind of discourse, and in particular to highlight environmental, social and political issues which affect all living beings.”

FREE DROP-IN WORKSHOPS:

‘Microclimate Sensory Family Workshops’: Take part in a series of plant-based workshops, performances and immersive rituals exploring our relationship with food and our environment. Hosted by Gayle Chong Kwan and King’s Cross Skip Garden and Kitchen. Date: Saturday 2 June 2018, British Library Piazza Time: 12 – 2pm FREE drop-in

‘Human Sensor LDN - Ink-blot lung drawing’: explore breathing and the effects of pollution in a creative workshop with Claire Barnett and scientist Andrew Grieve Supported by Euston Town BID. Date: Saturday 2 June 2018, British Library Piazza Time: 12 – 2pm FREE drop-in

‘What is life in the lab really like?’: Two scientists from the Francis Crick Institute, Christelle Souday and Deniz Ercan, will share insights into how their work is helping to fight cancer, describe life in the lab and demonstrate historical and modern day scientific equipment. Bring your curiosity, have a chat and get up-close with the handling collection. Date: Saturday 2 June 2018 Time: 1 – 3pm Venue: Francis Crick Institute, King’s Cross FREE drop-in

For the full programme and tickets visit: British Library [Box Office](#) .

PRESS PREVIEW

Journalists are invited to attend a press preview to launch ‘Under Her Eye’, including a special performance of ‘Human Sensor LDN’ on Tuesday 29 May at 7.00PM at the Wellcome Trust. For more details, please register your interest with Firebird PR, contacts below.

SOCIAL MEDIA

#UnderHerEye
#HumanSensorLDN
@Invisible_Dust

MEDIA CONTACTS

For more details, or to request images or interviews, please contact Firebird PR on 0125 835 297 or email Jane Bevan (jb@firebirdpr.co.uk), Susannah Penn (sp@firebirdpr.co.uk) or Kerry Marshall (km@firebirdpr.co.uk)

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 artists include Turner Prize winners Elizabeth Price and Jeremy Deller. In 2017 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. We have attracted over 1 million people to our projects and 3.2 million online through regular coverage in national press.

Invisible Dust believes young women are vital to the future of taking action on climate change. Launching in April the new 'Under Her Eye Fellowship' is enabling a group of women from different disciplines from universities across the UK to be hot housed together to develop their own art and science projects. The Fellows will contribute throughout 'Under Her Eye' and form an exciting new cohort collaborating on Invisible Dust's future programme.

For more information visit www.invisibledust.com or search #UnderHerEye @invisible_dust

Margaret Atwood is the author of more than fifty books of fiction, poetry and critical essays. Atwood's highly acclaimed works of 'speculative fiction', including the *MaddAdam* Trilogy and *The Handmaid's Tale*, grapple with issues of climate change, science, gender, capitalism and politics and offer compelling visions of the future that are both all too familiar and beyond our imagining.

Her recent novels are *The Heart Goes Last* and the *MaddAddam* trilogy – the Giller and Booker Prize-shortlisted *Oryx and Crake*, *The Year of the Flood* and *MaddAddam*. Other novels include *The Blind Assassin*, winner of the Booker Prize; and *Alias Grace*, *The Robber Bride*, *Cat's Eye*, *The Penelopiad* --a retelling of the *Odyssey* -- and the modern classic *The Handmaid's Tale* – now a critically acclaimed award-winning television series. *Hag-Seed*, a novel revisitation of Shakespeare's play *The Tempest*, was published in 2016. Her most recent graphic series is *Angel Catbird*. In 2017, she was awarded the German Peace Prize, the Franz Kafka International Literary Prize, and the PEN Center USA Lifetime Achievement Award.

'Under Her Eye' Project 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

Euston Town BID is a partnership working to protect the interests of the business and wider community as the area faces a long period of uncertainty. Our projects range from uncovering and promoting the unique local identity, to lobbying central and local government, to paving the way for real change in pollution levels. We're working to build a bright, economically sustainable future. www.eustontown.com

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. 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

Global Generation's Skip Garden and Kitchen is in the middle of the King's Cross development area. Among the cranes and the cement mixers, it is an urban oasis with a twist - a portable garden that moves to different locations as and when land is sold and built on. It is built by young people and local business volunteers, together creating a new and sustainable community.

www.globalgeneration.org.uk/skip-garden-and-kitchen-1/

Mooncup is the original, soft, medical-grade silicone menstrual cup designed by women as the convenient, safe and eco-friendly alternative to tampons and pads. Tried and trusted since 2002 by users around the world, the Mooncup menstrual cup offers an end to the waste, discomfort and expense of disposable sanitary protection. <https://www.mooncup.co.uk/>

The Francis Crick Institute is a biomedical discovery institute dedicated to understanding the fundamental biology underlying health and disease. An independent organisation, its founding partners are the Medical Research Council (MRC), Cancer Research UK, Wellcome, UCL (University College London), Imperial College London and King's College London. <https://www.crick.ac.uk/>

King's College London is one of the world's leading research and teaching universities based in the heart of London. The Environmental Research Group (ERG), part of the School of Population Health & Environmental Sciences at King's College London, is a leading provider of air quality information and research in the UK. www.kcl.ac.uk/lsm/research/divisions/aes/research/ERG/index.aspx