

COOLCLIMATE ART CONTEST FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10/7/2010

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CLIMATE ART CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Innovative online **CoolClimate Art Contest** engages thousands of artists with winners selected by celebrities, experts, and public voting

WASHINGTON, DC — The Gulf oil disaster is but one example of the ways in which our fossil fuel economy is impacting the planet we call home. But as bad as this catastrophe is, the specter of global climate change looms even larger as a threat to sustaining life on Earth. Despite overwhelming evidence — species extinction and dwindling water supplies to mass migrations and mega-storms — the public is still unclear what climate really means for them.

That is why the **CoolClimate Art Contest** called on artists worldwide to participate in the first online art contest to identify iconic images that address the impact of climate change and spur participation in the climate change debate.

The top 5 Climate Artists of 2010 are:

- 1st place: *No Pollution Please* by Christos Lamprianidis (Greece)
- 2nd place: *AIR* by David Criado (Bolivia)
- 3rd place: *Oil Spill Duck Sculpture* by Donald Gialanella (Wisconsin)
- 4th place: *Don't Trash It* by Starkman Design Group (California)
- 5th place: *Tick Tock* by Juliet Mclver (California)

Winners were announced by a panel at the Center for American Progress in Washington, DC. Winners will be featured on the Planet Green Planet100 show and on deviantArt, the largest social networking site for artists with 13.8 million members. *No Pollution Please* by Christos Lamprianidis will be showcased on the *Huffington Post*.

The announcement is strategically taking place in anticipation of 350.org's international day of climate action on 10/10/10. Environmental organizations and 350.org organizers worldwide are being provided with an image tool kit that supports their use of the art finalists in communicating a climate change message.

As Agnes Gund, art expert and one of the judges for the Contest said, *"There is probably no issue more important facing us today than how we are affecting our environment. The **CoolClimate Art Contest** is a smart and engaging way to compel artists to influence and communicate the critical issue of climate change. Art has the power to persuade on a deeply emotional level, sometimes more effectively than graphs or numbers or datasheets...."*

Through strategic outreach by dozens of environmental and artist partner organizations, artists worldwide were invited to submit their art to the website (www.coolclimate.deviantart.com). Over 44,000 people visited the site.

Submissions were reviewed by a team of volunteers from nonprofits and environmental organizations and culled down to a manageable list of 50 semi-finalists. From these, 20 images were selected by notable art experts and celebrities including:

Jackson Browne (musician)	Philippe Cousteau (ecologist)
Chevy Chase (Comedian) & Jayni Chase (philanthropist)	Agnes Gund (collector & philanthropist)
Mel Chin (artist)	Van Jones (environmental activist)
Dianna Cohen (artist)	Carrie Mae Weems (artist)
	David Ross (curator)

The 20 semi-finalists were posted on the *Huffington Post* where the public voted on the Top 5 winners.

David Ross, art expert and judge for the Contest said: *"The Contest really engaged the creative community, with over 1,000 artists submitting work. The finalists include a range of artistic styles including sculpture, graphic design, photography, and painting; and they were created by artists from all over the world — From France, Bolivia, Bucharest and Greece to Wisconsin, Nebraska, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. It is particularly gratifying that so many artists responded to the challenge of creating art work that can communicate serious concerns for the future of our planet."*

The winning images include reference to a range of issues related to climate change problems and solutions. Van Jones, environmental activist and judge for the Contest stated, *"These powerful images speak to the air, water, and earth that sustains us, and reveal the perils arising from our addiction to coal and oil. Human ingenuity created these problems; human creativity — on full display here — can get us out. I encourage all environmental activists to use these images in their ongoing climate change communications."*

All entries as well as winners and finalists can be viewed at the **CoolClimate** deviantArt website. The **CoolClimate** website will remain on deviantArt for the next year so that more artists can post their creations and connect with one another and the public. (www.coolclimate.deviantart.com).

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