

Barbican Immersive presents:

Our Time on Earth

An exhibition reimagining
the relationship
with our shared planet

[Click to watch the Our Time on Earth exhibition trailer](#)



Exhibition overview

Our Time on Earth is a major exhibition celebrating the power of global creativity to transform the conversation around the climate emergency. Through art, design, science, activism, music and philosophy, the exhibition presents a range of radical visions for the future of all species.

With **18 immersive, interactive installations and digital works**, this exhibition invites visitors on a journey of discovery, introducing a multitude of perspectives on our shared planet and encouraging visitors to leave feeling empowered to make positive change.

The exhibition was produced and curated by the Barbican with Guest Curators FranklinTill and co-produced by Musée de la civilisation, Québec City, Canada.

Key messages

This magnificent planet we belong to

A humble sense of awe and wonder of our place in the earth system

Climate Emergency

We are in a crisis, but we don't need to create limitations we need to embrace a mindset shift

Making the invisible visible

The power of technology to uncover our connection with the natural world

Multidisciplinary exhibition

Exhibits that showcase collaboration and creativity to create new ways of being

A story told in 3 sections prefaced by an antechamber



BELONG

Connecting to other species
understanding our place
in the biosphere



IMAGINE

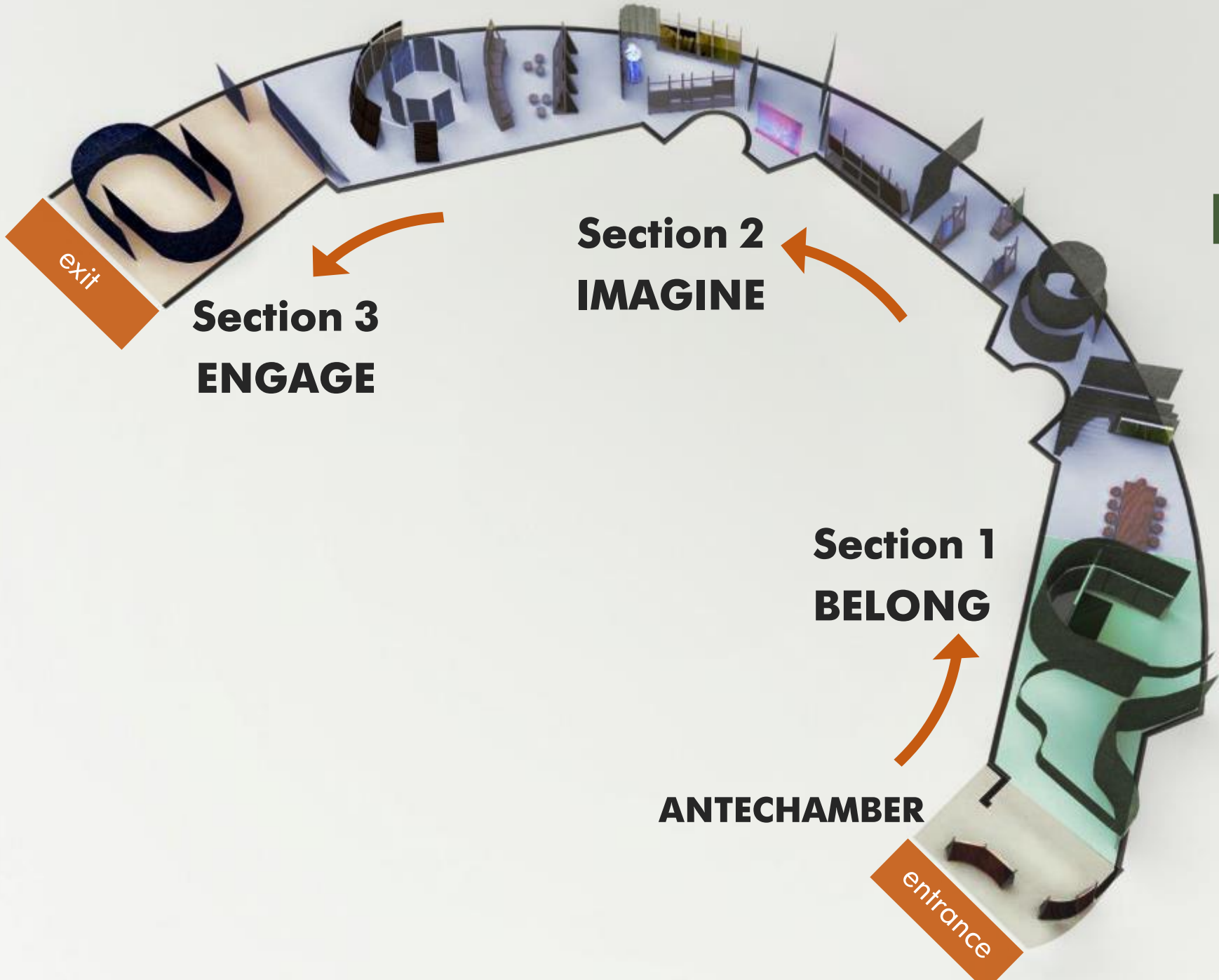
Positive possibilities
in a future world
based on a new value system



ENGAGE

Collective action for
widespread systemic change

**Barbican
Curve Gallery
Floorplan**





Superflux - *Refuge for Resurgence*
Installation at Arsenale Corderi, Venice Biennale in 2021
©Giorgio Lazzaro

Artists and collaborators

Section 1: BELONG

Marshmallow Laser Feast with Andres Roberts

Section 2: IMAGINE

Superflux / Selvagem & Choose Earth / Liam Young /
Julia Watson & Smith Mordak / BIOFABRICATE & Parley /
Institute of Digital Fashion & Brigitte Baptiste /
Institute for Global Prosperity & DVTK /
Holition & George Monbiot / Build X / Territorial Agency

Section 3: ENGAGE

Wallmakers & The Earth Issue
Damon Albarn & Silent Studios

SATELLITE COMMISSIONS

Tin & Ed / Riita Ikonen & Karoline Hjorth / Thijs Biersteker /
SPACE 10 & Modem / Victoria Vesna

A large tree with extensive roots in a forest, with silhouettes of two people in the foreground. The scene is dimly lit, with a greenish tint. The tree's roots are prominent, spreading out across the ground. The silhouettes of two people are visible in the foreground, one on the left and one on the right, looking towards the tree. The background is a dense forest with various plants and trees.

Section 1

BELONG

**Connecting to other species and
understanding our place in the biosphere**

Section 1

BELONG

Connecting to other species and understanding our place in the biosphere

The glass of water you drank was once a cloud. The breath you've just taken owes its life-giving oxygen to millions of tiny plankton in the ocean or to a majestic rainforest tree. The world's ecosystems are a beautifully complex network that we all belong to. We need to connect with other species to understand our place in the world.

Encounter *Sanctuary of the Unseen Forest* created by digital art collective Marshmallow Laser Feast with inspiration from Bio-Leadership Project co-founder Andres Roberts, a unique immersive video installation that offers a window into 'tree time'. This 3m x 5.5m projection and audio piece allows visitors to look beneath the layers of a Ceiba Pentandra tree to feel a sense of belonging and contemplate our place within the wider systems of nature.



Left: Marshmallow Laser Feast - *Sanctuary of the Unseen Forest*, 2022


Courtesy of MLF and Sandra Ciampone

Right: Still of *Sanctuary of the Unseen Forest*, 2022

Selection of Installation photos



barbican

A person's silhouette is shown in profile, looking towards a dense forest. The forest is illuminated with vibrant, ethereal light effects in shades of blue and green, creating a magical atmosphere. The person's hair is long and dark. The background is a lush, green forest with sunlight filtering through the trees.

“Our collective future depends on us understanding our interconnectedness to the natural world, and for that we need to explore the world beyond our human senses.”

- Marshmallow Laser Feast



Section 2

IMAGINE

Positive possibilities in a future world
based on new value systems

Section 2

IMAGINE

Positive possibilities in a future world based on new value systems

Imagine that we have collectively shifted our mindsets to embrace a non-human-centred community. Imagine that we celebrate the soil beneath our feet and the knowledge of those who are deeply connected to the natural world. Imagine that we change the definition of economic growth and are inspired by nature to embrace fluid identities.

Embrace the power of imagination through ten projects and creative commissions that look to shape a world in which all species thrive together.



Selection of Installation photos

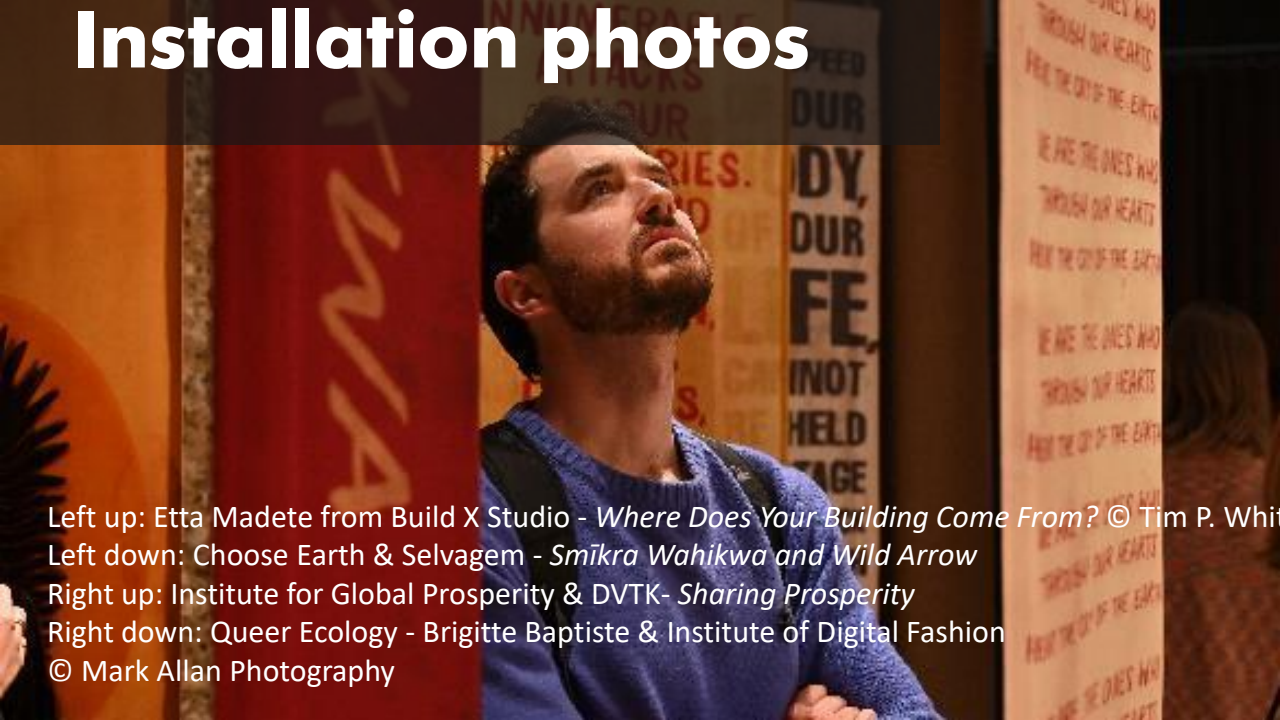


Left up: Territorial Agency - 2040—Sensible Zone ©Fran Taylor
Left down: Superflux - Refuge for Resurgence ©Tim P. Whitby
Right up: BIOFABRICATE - A Biological Future for Fashion ©Fran Taylor
Right down: George Monbiot - The World Beneath Our Feet ©Tim P. Whitby



Selection of

Installation photos



Left up: Etta Madete from Build X Studio - *Where Does Your Building Come From?* © Tim P. Whitby
Left down: Choose Earth & Selvagem - *Smikra Wahikwa and Wild Arrow*
Right up: Institute for Global Prosperity & DVTK- *Sharing Prosperity*
Right down: Queer Ecology - Brigitte Baptiste & Institute of Digital Fashion
© Mark Allan Photography



“There are many ways in nature to co-operate rather than compete.”

- Professor Henrietta Moore
from Institute for Global Prosperity



Section 3

ENGAGE

Collective action for widespread systemic change

Section 3

ENGAGE

Collective action for widespread systemic change through two new commissions

Our collective action can transform this imagined future into reality. Together, we have more perspectives, more skills, and more influence on decision makers who need to be held accountable.

A movement is already underway: from grassroots initiatives to climate justice groups holding governments and corporations to account for their unethical decisions. Through sharing knowledge, stories, actions, and experiences we can reset the agenda. By coming together we can prepare for the journey ahead.

Stories of Change by The Earth Issue relays 10 key voices for climate action across 10 screens on structures designed by architecture studio Wallmakers. The finale presents a Sonic Waterfall of soothing sounds by Silent Studios with Damon Albarn.

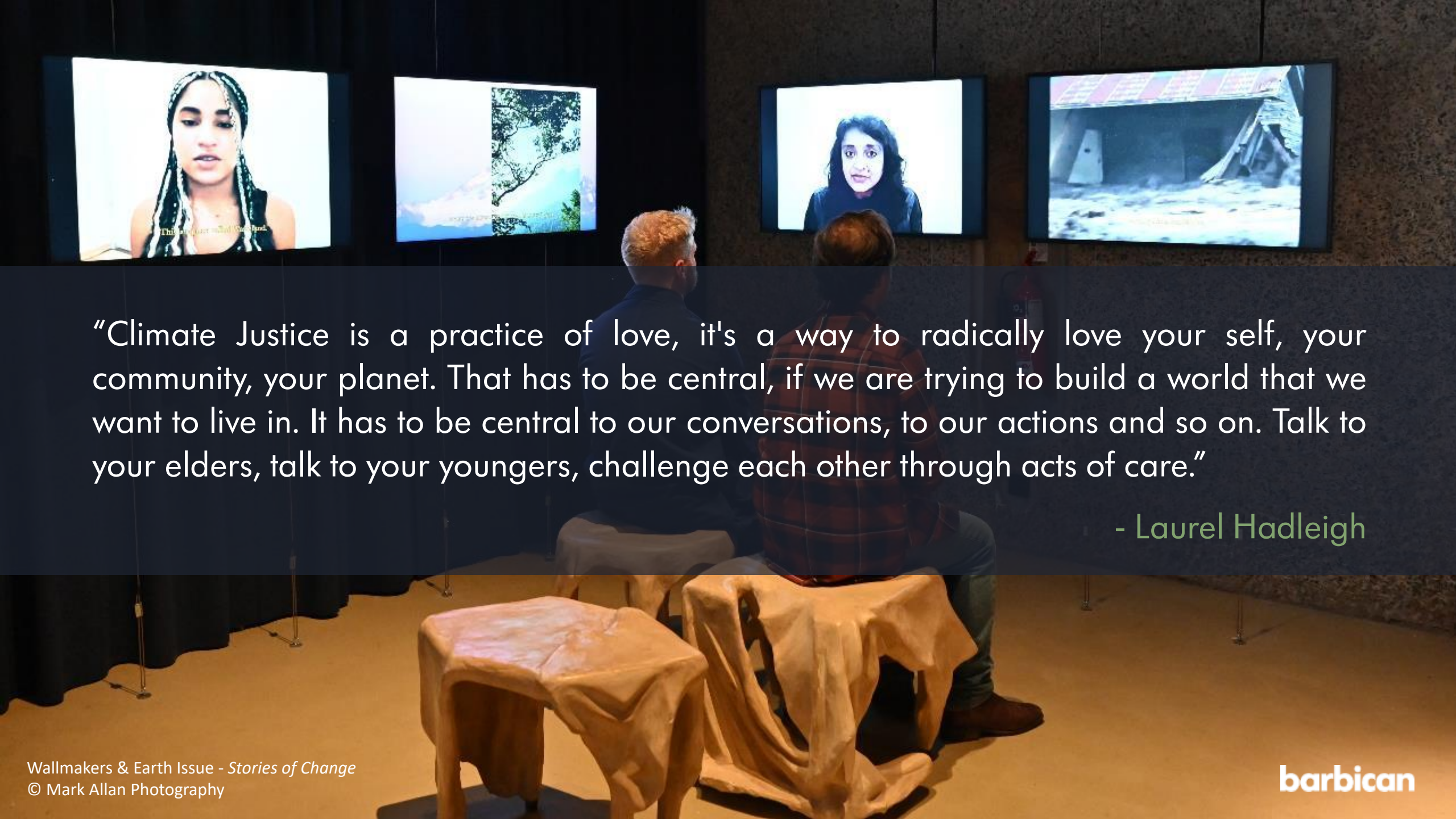


Selection of
Installation photos



Left up: The Earth Issue - still of *Stories of Change*
Left down: Wallmakers & Earth Issue - *Stories of Change* © Tim P. Whitby
Right: Silent Studios - *Sonic Waterfall* © James Wicks





“Climate Justice is a practice of love, it's a way to radically love your self, your community, your planet. That has to be central, if we are trying to build a world that we want to live in. It has to be central to our conversations, to our actions and so on. Talk to your elders, talk to your youngers, challenge each other through acts of care.”

- Laurel Hadleigh

A man and a woman are seen from behind, looking at a large digital display. The display shows a satellite map of the Earth with a grid overlay. The man is on the left, wearing a dark sweater, and the woman is on the right, wearing a dark top. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wall or a large screen.

SATELLITE COMMISSIONS

**Unique commissions and installations that
raise awareness and make the invisible visible**



Selection of
Installation photos



Up: Tin & Ed - *Life Forces*
Down: Victoria Vesna - *Noise Aquarium*



Selection of

Installation photos



Left up: SPACE 10 - *The Ideal City 2040* © Mark Allan Photography
Left down: Karoline Hjorth & Riitta Ikonen - *Eyes as Big as Plates # Sinikka (Norway)*, 2019
Right: Thijs Biersteker - *Wither*, installation photo at the Barbican Centre © Tim P. Whitby





Graphic identity
Key Visual

BELONG

The glass of water you drank was once a cloud. The breath you've just taken owes its life-giving oxygen to millions of tiny plants in the ocean or to a microscopic rotifer. The world's ecosystems are a beautifully complex network that we all belong to. We need to connect with other species to understand our place in the world.

IMAGINE

We're heading towards climate collapse, led by systems and values that reward consumption and expansion, and reward inequality. But an alternative path is possible.

There isn't just one solution to the climate emergency, but multiple possible visions of a radically different world. A world that prioritises connecting to other species and where damaging systems have been dismantled.

Imagine that we've all shifted to embrace a non-human-centred community. Imagine that we celebrate the soil beneath our feet and the knowledge of people deeply connected to the natural world. Imagine that we've changed our definition of economic growth and are inspired by nature to work on food systems.

Embrace the power of imagination and creativity to shape a world in which all species thrive.

ENGAGE

Our collective action can make this imagined future reality. Together, we have more participation, more skills and more influence on those who need to be held accountable.

A movement is already underway. Grassroots initiatives are exploring new ways of doing things. And campaign groups are holding governments and corporations to account for unethical decisions. By sharing knowledge, stories, actions and experiences, we can reach our goals. By coming together we can prepare for the journey ahead.

Our shared Earth needs us all to engage with each other, with our communities and with people most affected by the climate emergency. Find your place and use your agency. It's time to be courageous. It's time to act.

Exhibition Design Graphic

Imagine a world in which...

HUMAN RETREAT

"What if we created high-tech sanctuaries to retreat from our most harmful cities and encouraged rural citizens to use their skills and talents to bring the world back to life?"

Centres of human expertise and innovation, education, and globalisation led by nature regeneration have shaped and inspired every part of our planet. It is time to bring our strengths and capacity to create a future that is sustainable.

Imagine a future in which human life is not the planet's burden. It is the process by which species retreat to create a more resilient city, moving 10 billion people. The entire population of the earth needs to be given skills to flourish in a changing environment of the earth's surface, ensuring urban life is not leaving the rest of the planet for recovery and regeneration.

Scan the QR code to access the Audio Statement

PLANET CITY

LIAM YOUNG

Imagine a world in which...
The planet is a complex system of interconnected systems. It is time to bring our strengths and capacity to create a future that is sustainable. The entire population of the earth needs to be given skills to flourish in a changing environment of the earth's surface, ensuring urban life is not leaving the rest of the planet for recovery and regeneration.

Imagine a world in which...

TECHNOLOGY HELPS US UNDERSTAND HOW LIFE REGULATES THE EARTH

"The Sensible Zone is where we obtain new agency of the planet."

The Sensible Zone describes the areas 300 metres below and 200 metres above sea level. This is the space where the processes regulate oceans, atmosphere and land to maintain Earth's habitability. These technologies also have to meet changing impacts.

The rapid growth of technology has caused huge disruption to the planet. Urbanisation, infrastructure, farming, fishing, and extraction of fossil fuels have created a new future for the planet with Earth's self-regulating system.

Our technology, including remote sensing and artificial intelligence, can monitor the changes and help diagnose systems in the Sensible Zone. By understanding and becoming sensitive to these flows, we can focus our efforts to enhance carbon flow ability.

Scan the QR code to access the Audio Statement

2040— SENSIBLE ZONE

TERRITORIAL AGENCY

EDUCATION
ARTS
SCIENCE
TECHNOLOGY
POLITICS
ECONOMY
CULTURE
ENVIRONMENT
SOCIAL JUSTICE
HEALTH
ENERGY
TRANSPORT
INFRASTRUCTURE
URBAN PLANNING
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
WATER MANAGEMENT
WASTE MANAGEMENT
CLIMATE RESILIENCE
DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE
BIODIVERSITY
INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE
CIVIL SOCIETY
GOVERNANCE
LEGAL SYSTEM
MILITARY
RELIGION
SPORTS
TOURISM
MEDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
INFRASTRUCTURE
ENERGY
TRANSPORT
INFRASTRUCTURE
URBAN PLANNING
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
WATER MANAGEMENT
WASTE MANAGEMENT
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INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE
CIVIL SOCIETY
GOVERNANCE
LEGAL SYSTEM
MILITARY
RELIGION
SPORTS
TOURISM
MEDIA
COMMUNICATIONS



Main materials



Hemp
Wool
Plywood
Honext
PineSkins
Cork Insulation
Corrugated Hemp

Design of the frames



Exhibition Design Structure and Materials



Exhibition Design
Design partners

Designers:

Universal

H A T O

**SPEIRS
MAJOR**

**THE
SOUND
AGENCY**

Fabricator:



Presented by

Barbican Immersive

Barbican Immersive is a creator of experiences that push the possibilities of exhibition making. Our unique approach explores inspirational and challenging topics that enable audiences to process our changing world. We welcome visitors into these holistic environments where technology, art, design, music, science come together to form unmissable, must-see encounters.

Our past projects include *Our Time on Earth* (2022), *Virtual Realms* (2021), *AI: More than Human* (2019), *Mangasia: Wonderlands of Asian Comics* (2017) and *Digital Revolution* (2014).

Barbican Immersive has been to **54** venues across **27** countries
Over 6.5 million visitors have visited our exhibitions worldwide



Barbican Immersive touring exhibition locations



**AI: More
than Human**



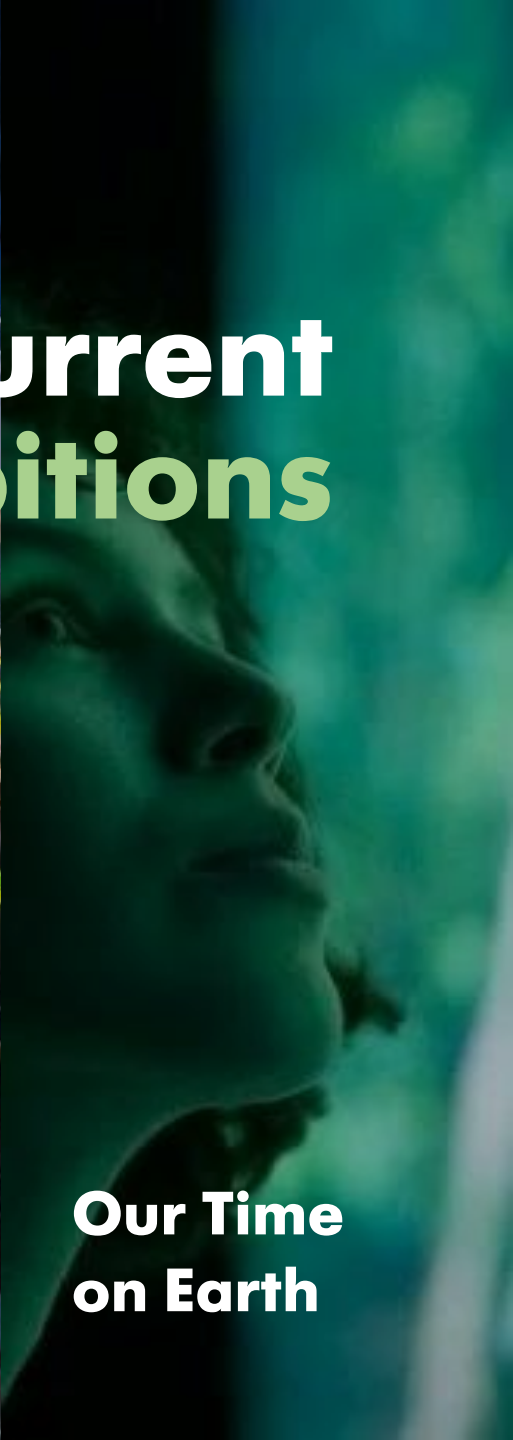
Mangasia:
Wonderlands of
Asian Comics



Virtual Realms:
Videogames
Transformed



Game On



**Our Time
on Earth**

**Current
Exhibitions**

A selection of previous artists and collaborators

- Tetsuya Mizuguchi
- Chris Milk
- Es Devlin
- teamLab
- Marshmallow Laser Feast
- Rhizomatiks
- Will.i.am
- Conrad Shawcross
- Hideo Kojima
- Larissa Sansour
- Trevor Paglen
- Isaac Julien
- Massive Attack
- Neri Oxman
- Joy Buolamwini
- Takeshi Murakami
- Jenova Chen
- Superflux



A selection of previous
artists and collaborators

1 teamLab

What a Loving, and Beautiful World

AI: More than Human, Barbican Centre
16 May - 26 August 2019



2 Takashi Murakami

Big Box Pko2

Mangasia, Palazzo delle Esposizioni
7 Oct 2017 - 20 Jan 2018



3 Chris Milk

Treachery of Sanctuary

Digital Revolution, WF Central
16 Jan - 20 May 2019



4 Enhance and Rhizomatiks

Rezonance

Virtual Realms, ArtScience Museum
12 Jun 2021 - 9 Jan 2022





A selection of previous
**Venue
Partners**

- Miraikan, Japan
- Kunsthal Rotterdam, Netherlands
- BRANDTS, Denmark
- Guangdong Science Center, China
- Forum Groningen, Netherlands
- Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Brazil
- Melbourne Museums, Australia
- Detroit Institute of Arts, USA
- La Vilette, France
- Multimedia Art Museum, Russia
- Fundacion Canal, Spain

A selection of previous
Venue Partners



Forum Groningen
Netherlands



Western Australia Museum
Australia



Miraikan
Japan

A selection of previous sponsors and media partners



The Barbican

The Barbican is a world-class arts and learning organisation that pushes the boundaries of all major art forms including dance, film, music, theatre and visual arts. Its creative learning programme further underpins everything it does.

We are:

- One of the largest arts and learning organisations in Europe;
- Registered Charity in the UK.

We have:

- 3 Theatres, 2 Concert halls, 2 Galleries, 3 Cinemas

- 10 million+ tickets sold last year
- 3,835+ events across all art forms every year
- 4,310 + artists from 58 nations
- 20 million+ estimated visitors
- 4.1 million unique website visitors
- 2 million+ social media followers
- 40,000 people reached through creative learning programmes



barbican

An aerial view of a modern urban plaza at dusk. A canal runs along the left side, with several circular fountains of varying heights. People are sitting on wide, tiered concrete steps that lead down to the water. The background features a multi-story modern building with large windows and balconies. The overall atmosphere is relaxed and social.

Thank you

Contact

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