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NEWS RELEASE

ART-CLIMATE-COP 26

Leading international artists add their voices
to the urgent need for action on climate change



Images: Flare (Oceania) by John Gerrard, Lucy Orta *Nexus Architecture*, Maskbook, Paleo-Energetic

ART-CLIMATE-COP 26

- Art of Change 21 artistic programme at COP26, with the support of the Schneider Electric Foundation
- Two artistic actions by environmentally-focused international artists, John Gerrard and Lucy Orta
- Two Panel discussions at French Pavilion (Blue Zone, COP26) and University of Glasgow
- A Paleo-Energetic Fresco Exhibition

The only organisation that brings together art and the environment at each COP Climate since COP21, Art of Change 21, will highlight the major role of artists in the ecological transition, mobilize youth, and create a dialogue between art, technology, innovation and climate during the UN Climate Change Conference COP26.

From the 1 to 12 November, Art of Change 21 and its main partner, Schneider Electric Foundation (under the aegis of Fondation de France) will present the programme: ART-CLIMATE-COP 26, in collaboration with acclaimed artists, John Gerrard and Lucy Orta, and two of Glasgow's leading higher education institutions: University of Glasgow and The Glasgow school of Art.

The non-profit organisation Art of Change 21 specializes in the link between art and the environment, and has been present at each COP since 2015. It has also led interventions at major international events, such as the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2021, the celebration of the 5-year anniversary of the Paris Agreement in 2020, and World Environment Day 2019...

"ART-CLIMATE-COP 26 is an urgent call to action, in the context of the climate crisis, underlining the need to include creative and imaginative stakeholders and allowing an emotional response to the issues," says Alice Audouin, President and Founder of Art for Change.

The ART x CLIMATE x COP 26 programme

Maskbook workshop

Launched by Art of Change 21 for COP21 and present at every COP since then Maskbook mobilizes citizens around a strong symbol - the mask. Both an international collective work of art and a citizen action addressing environmental issues, Maskbook project has brought together nearly 10,000 participants from over 40 countries.

Last December of 2020, Maskbook partnered with the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Paris Agreement ([link](#)). Maskbook takes up residence at COP26 in partnership with Strathclyde University and The Glasgow School of Art for a special workshop at Barony Hall, on November 1st. Art students and citizens of Glasgow will create masks from waste materials and bring their voices to this participatory work.

Two strong artistic actions by iconic artists, John Gerrard and Lucy Orta

Two internationally renowned and ecologically-focused contemporary artists, John Gerrard and Lucy Orta, are at the heart of this programme.

World Premiere, *Flare (Oceania) 2021* by John Gerrard

On November 5 and 6, Irish artist **John Gerrard** will exhibit the work *Flare(Oceania), 2021* by the South facade of the University of Glasgow, in partnership with Art of Change 21. This new monumental work, a digital simulation, has been specially designed for COP26. *Flare(Oceania)* is a sequel to *Western Flag*, which has received 14M views on Twitter. The artwork shows the link between climate change and the ocean, and addresses the key role of humans in global warming. The showing of *Flare (Oceania) 2021* is complemented by a Round Table Discussion November 6th at Kelvinhall.

Activation: *Nexus Architecture COP26*

On November 5, French-British artist **Lucy Orta**, of the internationally recognized duo Lucy + Jorge Orta and Chair of Art and the Environment at University of the Arts London (UAL), will stage ***Nexus Architecture COP26***, an activation with students from The Glasgow School of Arts (GSA). Fifty students will customise the Nexus overalls created by the artist into an artwork on the theme of climate and will perform within the Glasgow School of Art. This "social sculpture" has already been activated worldwide from Shanghai, to New York, Berlin, Johannesburg... and is one of the most emblematic pieces by Studio Orta.

This activation in Glasgow with Art of Change 21 has been made possible thanks to the Reid Gallery at Glasgow School of Art and the UAL Climate Emergency Network.

Paleo-Energetic fresco exhibition

The Paleo-Energetic fresco illustrates important innovations and technologies that have been forgotten by history, but are still relevant today. By searching into our past, Paleo-Energetic explores inventions that offer ecological alternative modes for energy production and conservation for our future. This fresco highlights 100 inventions dating from 1000 BC to now. Paleo-Energetic is a project led by Atelier 21, a Swiss association gathering arts, design, low tech and research, which has previously led the project Solar Sound System on music and solar energy. The fresco will be exhibited at SaltSpace Cooperative gallery from the 1st to the 12th of November.

Panel discussions

Two panel discussions, creating a dialogue between artists, environmentally-committed young people, climate scientists and innovators/entrepreneurs.

5 November

**“Artists committed to climate and the environment: the new actors of environmental mobilisation”,
French Pavilion, Blue Zone, COP26**

Organized and moderated by Art of Change 21 at French Pavilion (Blue Zone, UN Climate Change Conference) this round table discussion will explore the role of artists and art in the face of the climate crisis. It will provide an opportunity to meet major artists involved in COP26 with Art of Change 21 and to better understand their growing role in the ecological transition. The Schneider Electric Foundation will also share its vision as a main partner of Art of Change 21 and its program at COP26.

Speakers:

Cédric Carles (Co-founder of Atelier 21, Paleo-Energetic and Solar Sound System), John Gerrard (artist), Lucy Orta (artist, Chair of 'Art and the Environment', University of the Arts London), Gilles Vermot Desroches (Senior Vice President, Corporate Citizenship, Schneider Electric)

Moderated by Alice Audouin, Founder and Chair of Art of Change 21

6 November

“What’s To Be Done? Art, Ecology and Innovation in an Age of Climate Crisis”

Hunterian Art Gallery Lecture Hall

Co-organized and co-moderated by Art of Change 21 and Hunterian Gallery, this round table discussion will explore the link between ocean and climate issues as represented by *Flare (Oceania) 2021*, the role of art and youth to accelerate the ecological transition as well as the power of imagination to design a more sustainable future.

Speakers

John Gerrard (artist), **Uili Lousi** (artist), **Valérie Masson Delmotte** (paleoclimatologist, Co-chair of IPCC WG 1), **Nathan Méténier** (Young member of the UN Secretary General Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change)

Gilles Vermot Desroches (Senior Vice President, Corporate Citizenship, Schneider Electric).

Co-moderated by Alice Audouin (Founder and Chair of Art of Change 21) & **Dominic Paterson** (Senior Lecturer in History of Art / Curator of Contemporary Art, the Hunterian)

Notes for Editors

John Gerrard

John Gerrard (b.1974, Dublin, Ireland) lives and works in Vienna. Gerrard is best known for his sculptures and installations, which typically take the form of digital simulations, displayed using real-time computer graphics. His work addresses environmental issues such as climate change with *Western Flag* (Spindletop, Texas) 2017, agriculture and landscape with *Mirror Pavilion*, commissioned by Galway International Arts Festival for Galway's European Capital of Culture 2020, but also solar energy, ocean... Recent significant exhibitions include: the 13th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju, South Korea (2021); Okayama Art Summit, Japan (2019); Manifesta 12, Palermo, Italy (2018); Shanghai Biennial (2016). Gerrard works with Pace Gallery in New York.

www.johngerrard.net

IG [@johngerrard](https://www.instagram.com/johngerrard)

Lucy Orta

Lucy Orta (b. 1966, UK) lives and works between Paris and London. She is one half of Lucy + Jorge Orta, an internationally renowned artist duo, founded in 1992. Collaboratively the artists explore major social and ecological challenges through a wide range of media including, sculpture, couture, painting, video, performance. They have had prestigious international exhibitions from the Palazzo Vecchio, Florence to the Venice and Shanghai Biennales. Their long-term projects address major themes such as water scarcity (OrtaWater); climate change (Antarctica); biodiversity and ecosystems (Amazonia). In 2007, the artists received the Green Leaf Award from the UN Environment Programme. Lucy Orta is also the Chair of Art and the Environment at the University of the Arts London (UAL) and founder of its Art for the Environment Residency Programme.

www.studio-orta.com

IG [@lucyjorgeorta](https://www.instagram.com/lucyjorgeorta)

ART OF CHANGE 21

The Art of Change 21 association links contemporary art and major environmental issues and highlights the role of artists and creativity in the ecological transition.

Since its creation in 2014 just ahead of the COP21 in Paris, Art of Change 21 has played a key role during COP Climate. Art of Change 21 is founded and chaired by Alice Audouin, who is leading authority since 2004 in the link between art and the environment. Based in Paris, its main partner is the Schneider Electric Foundation, its institutional partners are the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs and the French Office for Biodiversity, and its sponsor is Maison Ruinart.

www.artofchange21.com

IG, Twitter, Facebook [@artofchange21](https://www.instagram.com/artofchange21)

The Schneider Electric Foundation

In a world where social and environmental challenges are more widespread and more urgent than ever, the Schneider Electric Foundation supports innovative and forward-looking initiatives to give as many people as possible the energy they need to succeed. It is this pioneering spirit that the Schneider Electric Foundation is seeking to advance. We see our role as a catalyst for technological, social and entrepreneurial innovation helping to close the energy gap and striving for a more equitable energy transition around the world. Ever optimistic, the Schneider Electric Foundation's aim is to help build a fairer, lower-carbon society to give future generations the keys to transform our world. Link [here](#)

Twitter: @SE_Foundation