

## Art of Change 21 at COP28 with Julian Charrière, Alserkal Initiatives and France Muséums

One of the leading non-profit organisations uniting art and environmental action, Art of Change 21 will play a central role at this year's COP28 climate conference with its programme *ART AT COP28*, which will bring attention to urgent environmental issues, as well as advocating for the importance of art and artists in the fight against climate change. Highlights include a climate-oriented exhibition with internationally-renowned artist Julian Charrière and a panel discussion at the official COP28 French Pavilion. The programme is organised in partnership with Alserkal Initiatives and France Muséums and is supported by R3, Maison Ruinart, L'Accolade and Epson.



Julian Charrière, *Towards No Earthly Pole*, 2019 © Artiste, VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, Germany

Following a year of unprecedented record-breaking temperatures, COP28 - the 28th UN Climate Change Conference, the most important annual intergovernmental meeting on climate change - taking place in Dubai, UAE, from November 30<sup>th</sup> to December 12<sup>th</sup> 2023, is a pivotal milestone for global climate action. For its *ART AT COP28* Programme, Art of Change 21 brings artists to the centre of COP and its surrounding local and international ecosystem with two major actions:

A climate-oriented exhibition “**Melting Point**” by contemporary artist Julian Charrière, held in Dubai's contemporary arts hub Alserkal Avenue, which sheds light on the dire state of our Polar regions, especially impacted by the repercussions of climate change.

A roundtable discussion at the COP28's official French Pavilion, “**The Power of Art to Respond to the Climate Crisis**”, organised with France Muséums, featuring voices from the art and culture community.

### Additional actions include

Art of Change 21 Chair and Founder Alice Audouin speaker at “**Sustainability in Museums**” event during COP28 co organized by Louvre Abu Dhabi and France Muséums.

Participation in the “**Global Call to Action to Put Cultural Heritage, Arts and Creative Sectors at the Heart of Climate Action**” (<https://www.climateheritage.org/jwd>).

*ART AT COP28* is supported by the French company R3, at the forefront of CSR, Decarbonisation, and Energy Performance solutions, assisting companies in accelerating their transition. “Melting Point” is also supported by Maison Ruinart, the first established champagne house, deeply committed to sustainability and art, Fondation L'Accolade, an international program of artistic residencies and exhibitions at the intersection of art, environment, fragility of the living, and Epson, a market leader for projectors for the last 20 years, whose support with visual technology brings the installation to life.

## **Program details**

### **“Melting Point”**

**November 30, 2023 to January 6, 2024**

**An exhibition by Julian Charrière, in partnership with Alserkal Initiatives**

Art of Change 21 pioneered a tripartite collaboration with the internationally renowned artist Julian Charrière and Alserkal Initiatives, a socially responsible arts and culture enterprise. The collaboration gave way to a climate-oriented exhibition located in Alserkal Avenue's unique Project Space. The show brings to light rarely seen perspectives of our planet's Polar regions, especially impacted by the repercussions of climate change.

Showing two important pieces of his body of work, *Towards No Earthly Pole* (2019) and *Pure Waste* (2021), Julian Charrière will transform Alserkal Avenue's Project Space into an immersive experience depicting a glacial realm to provide a first-hand account of the consequences of climate change on these distant but significant landscapes. Polar regions are key in stabilising climate and sea level on Earth but are the first to feel the negative impact. The accelerated melting of the ice sheets is approaching its tipping point, reaching an alarming lowest annual level on record in September 2023 in the Antarctic.

The show will provide an educational service with a docent and a QR code to access information on the poles and the climate, as well as climate actions for visitors. In order to be aligned with the message being conveyed by the exhibition and its production process, all three partners are working together to reduce its environmental impact and will conduct a carbon assessment.

The exhibition opens on the first day of COP, November 30<sup>th</sup> 2023, and will be on view until January 6<sup>th</sup> 2024. The opening event will take place on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November.

### **“The Power of Art to Respond to the Climate Crisis”**

**Wednesday, December 6**

**Panel discussion at the French Pavilion, in collaboration with France Muséums**

Organised by Art of Change 21 in collaboration with France Muséums, “The Power of Art to Respond to the Climate Crisis” roundtable discussion at COP28 invites leading voices in the art and culture fields to discuss the importance of art as a driving force in the response to the climate crisis.

As part of the official French Pavilion of the COP28 Blue Zone event programme, the panel discussion includes Alice Audouin (Art of Change 21 Founder-President), Etienne Bonnet-Candé (Deputy Director - Abu Dhabi, France Muséums), Talin Hazbar (Contemporary artist based in the UAE), Vilma Jurkute (Executive Director, Alserkal

Initiatives) and Alison Tickell (Julie's Bicycle Founder-CEO and member of the Steering Committee of Climate Heritage Network).

The roundtable discussion will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup> December at the official French Pavilion (COP28 Blue Zone) at 1:30PM GST (10:30AM CET).

### **“Sustainability in Museums”**

**Thursday, December 7**

**Panel discussion co organized by Louvre Abu Dhabi and France Muséums**

Alice Audouin, Art of Change 21 Founder-President and art curator specialised in the environment will also be a panellist speaker at Louvre Abu Dhabi's Sustainability in Museums event co organized by Louvre Abu Dhabi and France Muséums on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The panel discussion titled “How to Rewire the Arts and Culture Fields to Address Climate Change” will showcase specific case studies on exhibitions to address some central reflections such as: balancing environmental sustainability and public appeal in museums, nurturing artists' social awareness without limiting creativity, assessing the response to climate change-themed exhibitions in the UAE and exploring the role of sustainability in cultural education and capacity-building. Her panel discussion also includes Maya Allison ( Executive Director of NYUAD Art Gallery) and Bruno Girveau (Director of Palais des Beaux-Arts of Lille).

### **High-Level Ministerial Dialogue Culture**

**Friday, December 8**

**Presidency Roundtable**

Art of Change 21 also contributes to the wider agenda on art, culture, climate and sustainability taking place in the UAE on the occasion of COP28. After playing a part in the Art Culture Heritage Day during the COP27 in 2022 in Sharm el-Sheikh (Egypt), Art of Change 21 is committed to keeping the momentum high for this year's COP becoming a founding member of the “Global Call to Action to Put Cultural Heritage, Arts and Creative Sectors at the Heart of Climate Action”. This global call for Culture-Based Climate Action to the UNFCCC is led by Climate Heritage Network. A “High-Level Ministerial Dialogue Culture - Based Climate Action”, led by the UAE Government will take place during the Presidency Roundtable on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

# **THE POWER OF ART TO RESPOND TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS**

*La force de l'art face à la crise climatique*

COP 28 | BLUE ZONE | FRENCH PAVILION  
DECEMBER 6 | 1:30 PM - 2:15 PM (GST)



**Alice Audouin**  
PRESIDENT-FOUNDER  
ART OF CHANGE 21



**Etienne Bonnet-Candé**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR – ABU DHABI  
FRANCE MUSÉUMS



**Vilma Jurkute**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
ALSERKAL INITIATIVES



**Talin Hazbar**  
ARTIST-DESIGNER



**Alison Tickell**  
CEO-FOUNDER  
JULIE'S BICYCLE

## **About Art of Change 21, a key actor around art and environment at the COP climate since 2015**

Art of Change 21, an international actor engaged in the intersection between art, climate and environment, has been a leading voice in the advocacy for the recognition of the crucial role artists play in addressing the climate crisis. The non-profit organisation engages in different modes of actions, including exhibitions, art prizes, workshops, and its online media “Impact Art News”. Art of Change 21 has played a key role collaborating with leading contemporary artists at each annual COP climate conference since COP21. “Eco-conscious” artists such as John Gerrard, Hassan Hajjaj, Wen Fang, Lucy Orta and Jérémy Gobé are among the many artists who have contributed to the organisation’s actions at COP. At COP26 in Glasgow, UK (2021), Art of Change 21 inaugurated John Gerrard’s monumental artwork “Flare (Oceania)”, in front of the University of Glasgow. At COP27 (Egypt), its flagship participatory creative project “Maskbook” was the main focus with an exhibition at the heart of the COP27.

Founded in 2015 by Alice Audouin and headed with Stefano Vendramin, a leading voice in the French art and climate sphere, at the occasion of the historic COP21 in Paris, the organisation is supported by the French Ministry of Culture, ADEME (French Environmental Agency), Maison Ruinart, Maison Guerlain, Schneider Electric Foundation, Fondation Norsys.

### Partners - “Melting Point” Exhibition

#### **About Julian Charrière**

Julian Charrière (1987) is an environmentally engaged French-Swiss artist based in Berlin. With performance, sculpture, film and photography, Charrière explores alternative histories and our changing ideas of “nature”. The core of his practice concerns itself with how the human being inhabits the world, and how it in turn inhabits us. His work has been the subject of monographic exhibitions worldwide, most recently SFMOMA, San Francisco (2022), Langen Foundation, Neuss, Germany (2022), Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas (2021), among others. He is represented by the galleries Dittrich & Schlechtriem, Galerie Tschudi, Sies + Höke, Sean Kelly Gallery and Perrotin.

*Instagram: @julian.charriere / Website: <https://julian-charriere.net/>*

#### **About Alserkal Initiatives**

Alserkal Initiatives is a socially responsible and forward-thinking arts and culture enterprise based in Dubai dedicated to developing homegrown initiatives, cultural production and events, while supporting creative minds and contemporary non-profit research. Founded in 2007 by Emirati businessman and patron Abdelmonem Bin Eisa Alserkal, Alserkal Initiatives is renowned for its ground-breaking artistic productions, experimental approach, and for the creation of culturally meaningful spaces that inspire and shape communities.

*Instagram: @alserkalavenue / Website: [www.alserkal.online](http://www.alserkal.online)*

### Partner - Roundtable at French Pavilion

#### **About France Muséums**

As an international museum consultancy, France Muséums supports museum and heritage projects of all sizes, from conception to completion. Whether creating new cultural venues or transforming existing museums, we bring to those in charge of museums and heritage sites worldwide a know-how and a network of experts and museums unique in the world. We see the museum as a fundamental player in the construction of an open, enlightened, and tolerant citizenry. By showcasing works of the mind, museums raise awareness of cultural, environmental, and social issues. France Muséums supports museums in their sustainable transformation by helping them minimize their environmental impact and maximize their social impact.

*LinkedIn: [francemuseums](https://francemuseums.com/) / Website: <https://francemuseums.com/>*

## Sponsors

### **R3, main sponsor of ART AT COP28 program**

R3 is at the forefront of CSR, Decarbonisation, and Energy Performance solutions, assisting companies in accelerating their transition. Founded in 2021 by Frédéric Rodriguez, R3 is made up of a team of experts, consultants and experienced engineers, all of whom are committed to the environmental, societal, and energy transition and propose concrete solutions to move from strategy to action. R3 firmly believes that transformative change requires a cultural shift and that art can inspire new ways of thinking. Back in 2013, Frédéric Rodriguez initiated an art collection on sustainability showcasing pieces from eco-conscious artists. The “Klimatik” collection now serves as a wellspring of inspiration for the entire R3 ecosystem.

*Instagram: @r3group\_fr / Website: <https://www.r3.fr/>*

### **Maison Ruinart, sponsor of “Melting Point”**

Maison Ruinart, founded in 1729 in Reims, France, is the first established champagne house, distinguished by a unique savoir-faire that is the result of a longstanding family tradition and innovative spirit. The Maison is deeply committed to art and sustainability and is a pioneer in sustainable viticulture, whose commitment to the practice began in the early 2000s.

*Instagram: @ruinart / Website: <https://www.ruinart.com>*

### **Fondation LAccolade - Institut de France, sponsor of “Melting Point”**

Fondation LAccolade - Institut de France was created in autumn 2020. Its mission is to support, promote and encourage artistic creation. It pays particular attention to creations, approaches, projects and actions carried out by artists in connection with the themes of water, environment, fragility of living beings and the feminine. It develops a program of research and creative residencies in the heart of Paris and in Palm Springs, California. The first three Seasons of residencies, from 2021 to 2023, have been placed under the sign of the living.

*Instagram: @fondationlaccolade / Facebook: @fondationlaccolade*

*Website: <https://www.fondationlaccolade.com/>*

## Key dates

### **1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 - 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Exhibition “Melting Point” at Project Space, Warehouse 50, Alserkal Avenue, Dubai

Open daily, 10am to 6pm GST

30<sup>th</sup> November, 2PM GST: Press opening

6PM GST: Opening (on invitation)

### **6<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

“The Power of Art to Respond to the Climate Crisis” roundtable discussion at the official French Pavilion (COP28 Blue Zone) at 1:30PM GST (10:30AM CET)

Live stream/replay will be available on the French Ministry for Ecological Transition’s YouTube channel:

*<https://www.youtube.com/@developpementdurable>*

### **7<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

“How to Rewire the Arts and Culture Fields to Address Climate Change” roundtable discussion at Louvre Abu Dhabi at 2:15PM GST (11:00AM CET)

### **8<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

Climate Heritage Network Dialogue during the “High-Level Ministerial Dialogue Culture - Based Climate Action” Presidency Roundtable from 12:30PM to 2:00PM GST (9:30AM to 11:00AM CET)

## **Practical Information**

Art of Change 21  
info@artofchange21.com  
Instagram & Facebook: @artofchange21  
<https://artofchange21.com/en/home>

ART AT COP28 Program:  
<https://artofchange21.com/en/portfolio-items/actions-during-the-cop/>

## **Press contact**

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