

ART OF CHANGE 21 ACTIONS AT COP28

Dubai, 30 Nov - 12 Dec 2023



ART OF CHANGE 21 BRINGS ARTISTS TO COP CLIMATE SINCE 2015

Created in 2014, ahead of COP21, Art of Change 21 connects contemporary art to major environmental issues, highlighting and supporting the important role of art in raising awareness and offering alternatives.

Under the patronage of renowned artist Olafur Eliasson, Art of Change 21's modes of action include: exhibitions, debates, awards, workshops, artist-led campaigns and events during the COP...in collaboration with leading environmentally-engaged artists, including John Gerrard, Tomás Saraceno, Mark Dion, Hassan Hajjaj, Lucy + Jorge Orta, Julian Charrière, and Minerva Cuevas.

At every annual COP conference since COP21 in Paris, Art of Change 21 has brought art into the climate debate by organising large-scale art projects and discussions in each host city, in collaboration with local organisations.

[More info](#)



John Gerrard, Flare (Oceania), 2021 for COP26, Glasgow. Courtesy the artist



Panel discussion at COP25, Madrid

COP28 - DUBAI



Expo City Dubai. Image courtesy Dubai Media Office

Eight years after the landmark Paris Accord at COP21, the COP28 Climate Conference was held at the World Expo site in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from **30 November to 12 December 2023**.

Following a year marked by record temperatures, this year's COP aimed to avoid a temperature rise of +2 degrees before 2100.

Art of Change 21 played a key role at COP28, with an ambitious programme defending the importance of art and artists in the transition to net-zero and action against global warming.

ART AT COP28 PROGRAMME BY ART OF CHANGE 21

For its “Art at COP28” program, Art of Change 21 initiated a tripartite collaboration with internationally-renowned artist Julian Charrière and Alserkal Initiatives, a socially-responsible arts organisation based in Dubai, and partnered with France Muséums to organise an arts-led event at the official COP28 French Pavilion and at the Louvre Abu Dhabi.



“MELTING POINT” EXHIBITION

With Julian Charrière
at Alserkal Avenue



ROUND-TABLE AT COP28 FRENCH PAVILION

With France Muséums



SUSTAINABILITY EVENT AT LOUVRE ABU DHABI

Participation by Art of
Change 21 Founder Alice
Audouin



GLOBAL CALL FOR CULTURE-BASED CLIMATE ACTION



“MELTING POINT” EXHIBITION

Towards No Earthly Pole, 2019, Julian Charrière © Alserkal Avenue. Courtesy the artist

“MELTING POINT” EXHIBITION

COLLABORATION WITH JULIAN CHARRIÈRE

For COP28, Art of Change 21 invited one of its most influent ambassadors: leading French-Swiss environmentally-engaged artist, Julian Charrière.

Born in 1987, Charrière lives and works in Berlin. He explores ideas of nature and its transformation over deep geological as well as human historical time.

Addressing pressing matters of ecological concern, his work frequently stems from fieldwork in remote locations with acute geophysical identities, such as volcanoes, ice fields, oil palm plantations, and undersea and radioactive sites.

Charrière frequently collaborates with composers, scientists, engineers, art historians, and philosophers. His work is often provoking, inviting critical reflection upon cultural traditions of perceiving, representing, and engaging with the natural world.

<https://julian-charriere.net/>
[@julian.charriere](#)



Julian Charrière

“MELTING POINT” EXHIBITION

ARTIST FOREWORD

*“For the upcoming COP28, I would be **thrilled to bring art into the broader socio-political discussion around climate change.** Especially since I have long believed that **creative expression plays an integral role in raising awareness and fostering collective action in the face of environmental degradation.** The power it holds crosses national borders and generational divides. Whether nurturing empathy and engagement, or communicating otherwise abstract experiences, I believe **it will play a critical role in overcoming the challenges we face.** As such, I am grateful and delighted by the potential of contributing to this great cause, and for the possibility of working together with the UAE as part of the conference.*

*The relationship between humankind and the planet we inhabit has been at the heart of my practice since the very beginning. But I especially began focusing on the question of anthropogenically caused climate change with the performance and photographic series *The Blue Fossil Entropic Stories* in 2013. Over the years, I have continued through film and photography, sculpture and performance, to explore both the emotional and material entanglements that have formed between our species and what we anthropocentrically dub resources. It has brought me **from polar regions and palm oil plantations to nuclear test sites and urban oil fields. Bringing the physical (and at times mystical experience) of these places to the public is at the forefront of my practice,** inviting them to encounter materials, processes and infrastructures that energise our world. **By doing so, we are opening up for new narratives to emerge and for futures previously unimaginable to manifest.”***

Julian Charrière

“MELTING POINT” EXHIBITION

PARTNERSHIP WITH ALSERKAL INITIATIVES

Following its philosophy of collaborating with leading local arts and environmental organisations at each COP Climate, for COP28, Art of Change 21 partnered with Alserkal Initiatives.

Founded in 2007, Alserkal Initiatives is a socially responsible and forward-thinking arts and culture enterprise based in Dubai dedicated to developing homegrown initiatives. It runs [Alserkal Avenue](#), in the centre of Dubai, one of the longest-standing and important contemporary arts hubs in Dubai, with twenty-five galleries and art spaces.

The exhibition benefited from support from Alskeral Initiatives, R3 Group, Maison Ruinart, Fondation L'Accolade and EPSON.



“MELTING POINT” EXHIBITION

DURING COP28: NOV 30 - JAN 6

The climate-oriented “**Melting Point**” exhibition by Julian Charrière, held in the Project Space of Alserkal Avenue, presented an unprecedented perspective on the beauty and disappearance of the Arctic’s glacial landscapes, which are shrinking every year as a result of global warming.

Two large-scale video works were on display here: **Towards No Earthly Pole** (2019) revealing a view of our planet’s cryospheres never before seen, whilst **Pure Waste** (2021) addressing anthropogenic involvement in the atmospheric carbon cycle from a socio-technological perspective.

In contrast, the monumental video work **And Beneath It All Flows Liquid Fire** (2019), depicting a burning fountain, set Alserkal Avenue’s outdoor ‘Yard’ ablaze, as a fascinating metaphor for our Promethean drift.

Further educational content was provided for visitors via an on-site mediator and the exhibition QR code, enabling access to information on the Polar regions and climate change, including suggested actions.

Various efforts were made to reduce the environmental impact of the exhibition and a carbon assessment will be produced following its closure.



“Melting Point” Installation view © Alserkal Avenue. Courtesy Julian Charrière



Towards No Earthly Pole, 2019, Julian Charrière © Alserkal Avenue. Courtesy the artist



Opening event © Alserkal Avenue



And Beneath It All Flows Liquid Fire, 2019. Julian Charrière
Installation view © Alserkal Avenue. Courtesy the artist



ROUND-TABLE AT COP28 PAVILION FRANCE

ROUND-TABLE AT COP28 PAVILION FRANCE

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 invited 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 on **December 6th** included:

- Alice Audouin, President-founder Art of Change 21
- Etienne Bonnet-Candé, Deputy-Director Abu Dhabi, France Muséums
- Vilma Jurkute, Executive Director, Alserkal Initiatives
- Alison Tickell, Founder & CEO, Julie’s Bicycle
- Talin Hazbar, Dubai-based contemporary artist

Watch a replay of the discussion [here](#)



Alice Audouin, Talin Hazbar, Vilma Jurkute, Alison Tickell, Etienne Bonnet-Candé © France Muséums



SUSTAINABILITY EVENT AT LOUVRE ABU DHABI & THE GLOBAL CALL FOR CULTURE-BASED ACTION

SUSTAINABILITY EVENT AT LOUVRE ABU DHABI

Art of Change 21 Chair and Founder Alice Audouin spoke at the *Sustainability in Museums* event during COP28, co-organised by the Louvre Abu Dhabi and France Muséums.

Held in the Auditorium of the Louvre Abu Dhabi on **December 7th**, the panel discussion, entitled ***How to Rewire the Arts and Culture Fields to Address Climate Change***, also included **Maya Allison** (Executive Director, NYUAD Art Gallery) and **Bruno Girveau** (Director of the Palace of Fine Arts of Lille).

It showcased 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.

Watch a replay of the discussion [here](#)



GLOBAL CALL FOR CULTURE-BASED CLIMATE ACTION

Art of Change 21 also contributed to the wider agenda on art, culture, climate and sustainability taking place at COP28, as an active member of the Climate Heritage Network.

Following its involvement in *Art Culture Heritage Day* during the COP27 in 2022 in Sharm el-Sheikh (Egypt), Art of Change 21 was also a founding member of the **“Global Call to Action to Put Cultural Heritage, Arts and Creative Sectors at the Heart of Climate Action”** led by Climate Heritage Network.

The call now counts over 1500 signatories and gave way to the **‘High-Level Ministerial Dialogue’** on culture-based climate action during COP. The event was co-chaired by the Ministers of Culture of Brazil and the UAE on **December 8th**. Over 25 nations joined the new **‘Group of Friends of Culture-Based Climate Action’**, the goal being to establish the first-ever official UN Climate Change policy concerning the role of culture, at COP30 in Belém, Brazil, in 2025.

[More info](#)



High-Level Ministerial Dialogue on culture-based climate action, 8 December 2023 © Culture Heritage Network

COMMUNICATION & PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Supported by the PR agency Dezarts

Climat
L'art face à l'urgence

À Dubai, l'exposition *Melting Point* a confronté les visiteurs au phénomène de la fonte des glaciers. En pleine COP28, l'œuvre pose la question de la portée politique de l'art comme outil de lutte contre le dérèglement climatique. Entretien avec Alice Audoin, présidente de l'association Art of Change 21, à l'origine du projet.

Parler de la fonte des glaces dans le désert paraît presque oxymorique. Pourquoi avoir choisi d'être présents à Dubai lors de la COP28 ?

L'exposition était composée de deux œuvres de l'artiste franco-suisse Julian Charrière. Dans un grand espace immersif, le visiteur plongeait dans les profondeurs de la cryosphère (l'ensemble des masses de glace, de neige et de sols gelés sur Terre). Mais dans la cour principale, le visiteur se trouvait face à deux fontaines en feu sur écran géant (voir photo). Une œuvre appelée *And Beneath it All Flows Liquid Fire* (2015). Pendant un mois et une semaine, il y a eu cet équilibre entre d'un côté le feu et de l'autre, la glace. Le feu parlait frontalement du contexte très pétrolier de la COP28.

Julian Charrière est vraiment lié à ces sujets : il a 36 ans et il incarne une nouvelle génération, qui grandit et vit avec la crise écologique comme donnée constitutive de son époque. Cette exposition s'inscrit dans un agenda bien plus large que la COP28. Art of Change 21 agit à chaque COP depuis la COP21 : nous

d'établir la toute première politique officielle des Nations unies sur le changement climatique concernant le rôle de la culture, lors de la COP30 qui se tiendra à Belém, au Brésil, en 2025.

En quoi l'art peut-il être un levier d'action politique ?

L'art agit à l'échelle de l'imaginaire, des représentations. Il permet d'appréhender les enjeux sous un prisme différent. L'effet pur l'émotion n'est pas quantifiable, il agit de manière moins directe que d'autres types d'actions, mais il n'en est pas moins puissant. C'est justement un complément à l'action politique. À côté des mots, des chiffres, il

Alice Audoin
présidente et fondatrice d'Art of Change 21, engagée depuis dix-huit ans pour le lien entre art, environnement et développement durable.

Marcello
Le média de solutions

L'art rend visible l'invisible, notamment le dérèglement climatique

The Philippe Longtin, le 14 novembre 2023

Une œuvre de Julian Charrière présentée à Dubai 2023

À chaque COP depuis celle de Paris en 2015, l'association Art of Change organise des événements pour montrer le rôle des artistes dans les transitions à mener. Nous avons échangé avec Stéfann Vendramin, le directeur des programmes de l'association, sur la tenue de nos



6th December - France pavilion livestream from COP28

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Louise Abu Dhabi
@LouiseAbuDhabi

قمت بمحاضرة (أو ما يسمى "الاستاداعا في المناظرة") نظراً لشغفي ومحبتي بعلوم الأرض والبيئة، وأتمنى أن أكون قد ساهمت في إثراء الحوار بين مختلف الأطراف حول القضايا المتعلقة بتغير المناخ. بداية من الخدمات اللوجستية للشهود إلى الترتيبات التي أجعلها جزءاً من ثقافة مناظرة في استاد كان فوقه وميلاداً بالآلاف حول أحداث صومالية مبدئية، لقد كان هذا هو اليوم الذي أتمنى أن يكون الأخير.

#COP28

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All The Exciting Events You Can Visit At Alserkal Avenue This Cop28

Alserkal Avenue has transformed into a conscious space for COP28, addressing the vital role of culture in shaping the future of humanity and the planet.

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الجمعية الوطنية لـ LOUVER ABU DHABI

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Sustainability in Museums

In alignment with COP28, Louvre Abu Dhabi brings to you "Sustainability in Museums" on December 7. Join us for three magnificent talks and guided tours, all dedicated to exploring sustainability in collaboration with France Museums.

University Take Over the Museum: The Sustainability Challenge: Make the Intangible Tangible or the Tangible Intangible? Talk

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