



Concept Note

eARTH: Our planet, our art, our ideas

We are at a crossroads with climate change upon us. Yet, we have not responded with the urgency that is required for a crisis of this magnitude. Manifesting the boiling frog syndrome, we sweat and swelter in the heat, rather than take decisive actions that can put brakes on the impending disaster threatening our planet.

If climate change is a market failure, is climate inaction a communication failure, partially? If so, where scientific research and data alone have not been able to bridge the gap between information and climate action, what role can art and artists play? How can we inspire a meaningful change by delving into an artist's understanding of climate change? Research has shown that visual narratives help people process and respond to situations more effectively than dry facts alone.

Art can evoke emotions, trigger deep critical thinking, facilitate communication across fields of research and between diverse stakeholders, while, most importantly, enabling participation in solving the problem. Beyond communicating and documenting climate science, art can help overcome psychological barriers to climate action and act as 'an emotional motor for behaviour change.'

Evoking an emotional response to climate change is critical—research has shown how emotional distance is one of the most important barriers to climate action. CSTEP's event, eARTH, is an effort at inspiring climate action through art.

To quote leading environmentalist Bill McKibben: "One species, ours, has by itself in the course of a couple of generations managed to powerfully raise the temperature of an entire planet, to knock its most basic systems out of kilter. But oddly, though we know about it, we don't *know* about it. It hasn't registered in our gut; it isn't part of our culture. Where are the books? The poems? The plays? The goddamn operas? Compare it to, say, the horror of AIDS in the last two decades, which has produced a staggering outpouring of art that, in turn, has had a real political effect."

Art can disrupt the norm of a sender-receiver pattern of communication and instead engage individuals and communities in co-creation—making climate action a participatory process, which is the need of the hour. At CSTEP's event eARTH, we will bring together environmental artists practicing different mediums and styles to explore how art and science can meet to trigger a positive change—for the planet.

The event will also encourage the participants to partake in activities designed to support policy decision-making and enable climate-positive action.



Today's choices count:

*A half degree translates to
metres, over time.*

SYR SPM B.3, Figure 3.4

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Synthesis Report; Haiku by Andy Reisinger

Join us.

Date: 14 October

Venue: Bangalore International Centre, Karnataka

Objectives of the event:

1. Bring together environmental artists to explore the ways in which art can move people to act to protect the climate
2. Bridge the gap between impassioned scientific knowledge and the emotional outpouring of art
3. Build a community/collective of artists and communicators to highlight the climate crisis in an accessible manner to trigger climate action

What is in it for artists?

eArth provides a platform for artists to display their work, allowing for greater interaction with their art and contributing to climate action. A single piece of art may not change the course of history, but artists together with scientists can leverage art as a medium to help trigger better and more urgent climate action.

The event is an opportunity for young and experienced artists to showcase their art, explore ways that art can communicate more intimately to trigger action, share stories of how they are exploring climate action, and discuss what it is that we need to do now.

While this is the first event attempting to bring artists and climate communicators together, it will not be the last. Join us, be a part of this collective, and help us shape this movement.

About CSTEP

The Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) is one of India's leading think tanks. The organisation focusses on addressing the key challenges facing the country, such as a Sustainable and Secure Future, India's Green Energy Transition, and Clean Air for All.

CSTEP's research incorporates technology-driven solutions to address developmental issues, contributing to policy recommendations for both central and state governments. The organisation actively participates in government committees and collaborates with national and international research institutions to create a comprehensive understanding of policy challenges and solutions for India's sustainable development.

Established in 2005 by Dr V S Arunachalam, a Padma Vibhushan recipient, and former Scientific Advisor to the Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister), CSTEP is a not-for-profit research organisation.

