



Media Release

Embassy of Australia
Office of Public Affairs
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Impact by Degrees – Australian Perspectives on Art and Climate Change

Impact by Degrees is an exciting new exhibition at the Embassy of Australia which explores the threat of climate change through art. The exhibition includes work by eight Australian and Australian-American media artists who each examine various aspects of climate change.

“*Impact by Degrees* brings a range of different perspectives to one of the biggest global challenges of our time,” said Mr Brendan Wall, Director of Cultural Relations at the Australian Embassy.

“Importantly, the bulk of the art in this exhibition has been made by artists in dialogue with scientists. These two sets of thinkers are both responding to climate change by applying creativity and ingenuity,” Mr Wall said.

Reflecting on the exhibition, curator Antoanetta Ivanova says: “Many artists are deeply engaged with what climate change means for our shared future.

“The works featured are broad, poetic and imaginative. They explore debates on some of the environmental and social sustainability challenges created by climate change, they engage issues such as growing security, and they highlight the importance of innovation and action at the local level.”

Highlights of the exhibition include:

- Leon Cmielewski and Josephine Starrs large scale satellite image with the inscription ‘and the river was dust’ which charts the damage that drought and climate change have already inflicted on Australia’s largest river system.
- Tasmanian artist Martin Walch’s installation examining the impact of industry and changing weather patterns on Tasmania’s wilderness.
- Justine Cooper’s photographic series *Saved by Science*, shot at The American Museum of Natural History in New York.
- Mari Velonaki’s evocative video work which combines an imaginary frosty Australian landscape with a life-like Japanese robot.
- Natalie Jeremijenko's *Environmental Health Clinic* which offers individuals and communities low-cost, immediate and practical eco-solutions that combine art, design, science and engineering.
- Filmmaker Pip Starr looks into the issue of climate change refugees through the people of the Carteret Islands in the South Pacific who are being displaced by rising sea levels.

- Computer science artist Jon McCormack's installation titled *Colourfield::warming* is an abstract digital work that brings to life an imaginary universe based on James Lovelock's and Andrew Watson's 'Daisyworld' model.

Impact by Degrees

Venue: Embassy of Australia Gallery

Dates: 3 September—20 November 2009

Hours: 11.00 am – 2.00pm week days or by appointment: tel:202 797 3025

Website: www.usa.embassy.gov.au ► events

Information on Australia's response to climate change can be found at www.climatechange.gov.au