

Thought Starters for Exploring Climate Change in your Artwork

These are all offered as prompts, not as limitations. Climate Change touches everything. Please explore the topic in whatever way resonates for you!

1. Questions to get you started (additional ideas can be found in the list of places to visit):

Climate change is not necessarily a visible thing, use your art to share an aspect of it visually or emotionally.

How does climate change make you feel?

What do you see as one of the problems?

Communicate a solution you believe could help.

How does this issue impact you personally?

Create an object/image/written piece that you hope might inspire more people to take action.

Depict a challenge that our Island community will face.

Pick a scientific detail of climate change and share it artistically.

Use your art to share something that gives you hope for climate solutions.

Is there a place in nature that you love that you are concerned will be impacted by climate change?

Climate change shows up in our lives as erosion, flooding, sea level rise, erratic weather, pollution, food & housing insecurity, migration – of plants, animals and people, prediction, extinction, adaptation, innovation, fear, technological solution, science. Any of these areas offer ideas to explore.

2. Examples of artists who are using their work to speak about our changing world and help people envision how earth will be affected by climate change in the coming years.

Olafur Eliasson

[Ice Watch • Artwork • Studio Olafur Eliasson](#)

Mel Chin

<https://melchin.org/oeuvre/unmoored/>

Josh Keyes

<https://www.thisiscolossal.com/2017/08/new-eco-surrealist-paintings-by-josh-keyes/>

<https://www.nrdc.org/onearth/these-paintings-earth-gets-tagged-out>

Jenny Kendler

<https://jennykendler.com/section/466865-Birds-Watching.html>

Zaria Forman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gE2ADDuwkc>

Mary Mattingly

<https://marymattingly.com/> Lots of informative videos regarding her work

https://vimeo.com/562479622?embedded=true&source=vimeo_logo&owner=50357317

Xavier Cortada

<https://cortada.com/>

3. Poets reflecting on climate change

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/collections/146462/poetry-and-the-environment>

<https://poets.org/poems-about-climate-change>

<https://chireviewofbooks.com/2019/12/18/10-poems-about-climate-change-to-read-right-now/>

<https://www.thersa.org/globalassets/pdfs/events/climate-change-poetry-anthology.pdf>

<https://theconversation.com/how-poetry-can-help-us-understand-the-urgency-of-the-climate-crisis-170971>

Spoken Word:

<https://www.nrdc.org/onearth/watch-these-young-spoken-word-poets-take-climate-change>

4. Examples of student art and writing focused on Climate Change (from another contest you could submit your work to!)

<https://bowseat.org/resources/inspiration/>

5. Local places you might explore that connect with climate issues:

Five Corners

– flooding, critical crossroads for accessing hospital and Steamship Authority

Lucy Vincent

– erosion

Menemsha or Edgartown Harbors at high tide.

– fishing, sea level rise

The Museum lawn

– look out and witness the fragility and critical infrastructure on Beach Rd.

Bruno's or one of the town transfer stations

– how is our consumerism and waste part of this problem?

Local Farms

– how does our food security and production, especially on our island get impacted?

Norton Point

– erosion

Aquinnah Lighthouse

– examples of erosion and the incredible community effort that went into moving that structure.

Steamship Authority

– how is it vulnerable? How is it our lifeline? How could it adapt?

Armoring (rock walls) on West Chop beaches (or elsewhere)

-how do we hold back the sea? How far do we have to go to adapt the natural world to protect our built environment? What does it look like to be an island community in a future of rising seas and more extreme weather?

Roadway on East Chop

– powerful example of erosion

Any conservation property...Cedar Tree Neck, Felix Neck, The State Forest, Long Point, Waskosim's Rock

– open space is an important part of our climate resilience. Intact habitats allow species to survive. Ecosystems provide services to the community in terms of shade, absorbing flood water, food forests, etc.

State Beach

– erosion, and example of a place where valuable community infrastructure – bike path, road, beach are all maintained on a narrow strip of very dynamic seashore.

Your backyard!

– what can we do in our own yards? Can we create spaces for native species? Butterflies? Birds? Can we use less fertilizers and water on our lawns and use less fuel mowing?

Any forest

– How are trees impacted by climate change? They cannot pick up their roots and walk away. How can they adapt to a changing climate? What sorts of benefits do forests give that help protect us? – oxygen, shade, erosion protection, habitat for wildlife.

Any parking lot

– how does our driving culture drive this problem? What are different choices we could make?

The airport

– What are the lengths that each of us should consider to minimize our carbon footprint?