

On a Day Like Today we just need to look forward...

art.earth Books

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CULTURE

Mae Aguinaldo — *Treading Hope*

Inspired by the Japanese tradition of *senninbari* (thousand-stitch protective amulets), this textile work responds to the devastating floods caused by Typhoons Ondoy and Sendong in the Philippines. Created for survivors of climate-related disasters, it explores care, recovery and hope in the face of environmental change.

Tags: Philippines, climate adaptation, textiles [replace with textile art], care, disaster recovery, hope, climate justice

Catherine Andrews, Jenny Ayrton & Naomi Wright — *Art and Energy*

Drawing on projects developed by the Art and Energy Collective, this contribution reflects on what happens when creativity, energy and ecology meet in practice. Through stories from *How to Bury the Giant*, interactive solar artworks, the development of the Art and Energy Compass, and explorations of energy landscapes, the authors share lessons learned about collaboration, experimentation, participation and keeping nature at the centre of creative climate work. Together, the pieces offer an invitation to think differently about energy - not only as infrastructure and technology, but as relationship, imagination and collective action.

Tags: Philippines, climate resilience, textile art, care, disaster recovery, hope, climate justice

Shelley Castle — *Flete Field Lab: Community, Creativity and Learning with Fungi*

Based on the Flete Estate in South Devon, Flete Field Lab brings together artists, scientists, engineers, farmers and local residents to explore how fungi and biochar can help restore damaged waterways and soils. Working within a sawmill and using waste wood products, the project combines ecological experimentation with community learning, asking what fungi can teach us about regeneration, adaptation and living well through times of change.

Tags: Devon, fungi, ecological restoration, biochar, community, waterways, regeneration, collaboration

Carina Keskitalo — *Climate Change is About Security*

Drawing on her experience as Vice Chair of Sweden's National Expert Council for Climate Adaptation, Carina Keskitalo argues that climate change can be understood not as a political issue of left versus right, but as a fundamental question of security. Using Sweden's landmark 2022 climate adaptation report as a case study, she explores how risks to food systems, water supplies and land use are already affecting communities through droughts, floods, heatwaves and rising costs. The essay asks why societies might often respond more readily to military threats than to the growing security challenges posed by a changing climate.

Tags: Sweden, climate change adaptation, food security, water security, policy, risk, governance, climate politics

Polly Meyrick – *We Are All People of Power*

A series of portraits and a companion documentary film by Polly Meyrick exploring the people behind Britain's energy transition. Bringing together engineers, community energy leaders, innovators, policymakers and campaigners, the project reveals the human stories often hidden behind infrastructure, technology and policy.

Through painting and film, *We Are All People of Power* invites us to see energy not simply as a technical challenge but as a shared social and cultural endeavour. This contribution features a selection of portraits, a summary of the project and a short interview with Polly reflecting on the role of art and storytelling in shaping our energy future.

Tags: Portraiture, Storytelling, Energy Transition, Community Energy, People and Power, Documentary Film, Participation, Just Transition, United Kingdom.

Alex Nathanson (Interview) - *Solar Power, Aesthetics and the Cultural Imagination*

Artist, designer and educator Alex Nathanson reflects on the cultural dimensions of the energy transition, arguing that renewable energy needs new aesthetics as much as new technologies. Drawing on solar art, sound, DIY culture and urban life, he explores how creativity can help people build confidence, agency and meaningful relationships with energy systems.

Tags: Solar Art, Aesthetics, Participation, Urban Culture, Sound Art, Creativity, Energy Transition.

Bukunmi Oyewole — *Sow. Hoe. Grow.*

In a family compound in Ibadan, Nigeria, a garden becomes a quiet act of resilience. Through the story of one household's efforts to grow food close to home, Bukunmi Oyewole explores the connections between food, energy, climate and community. As fuel costs rise, electricity remains unreliable and weather patterns shift, the garden offers more than vegetables and fruit; it becomes a way of reducing dependence on distant systems, sharing resources with neighbours and adapting to an uncertain future. The piece invites readers to consider how small-scale cultivation can help reconnect people with the land that sustains them.

Tags: Ibadan, Nigeria, climate resilience, food systems, community sharing, local production, adaptation, gardening, sustainability

Perdita Phillips & Annette Nykiel — *die back*

Set in the coal-mining region of Collie in Western Australia, *die back* explores what it means for landscapes, communities and ecologies to live through energy transition. Through an experimental film combining archival material, field recordings, geological data and imagery from mine sites and surrounding forests, the artists examine the intersecting impacts of coal extraction, climate change and ecological decline. The work asks how we might become more attentive to the complex more-than-human worlds that exist alongside—and beyond—our energy systems.

Tags: Western Australia, coal mining, energy transition, ecology, experimental film, forests, extractivism, climate change, more-than-human

Laura Quigley - Looking Forward to a Culture of Care

Drawing on her experience as an unpaid carer supporting family members across multiple generations and circumstances, Laura Quigley explores care as a form of energy: the often invisible work of transforming motivation into action. Through personal reflection, community organising and case studies from Southway Conservation Community, she examines how access to green spaces can support wellbeing, connection and resilience for people living with autism, ADHD, dementia and mental health challenges. Part memoir, part community case study, the piece considers how a culture of care might help counter hopelessness, nurture participation and create the conditions for people and communities to look forward together.

Tags: Care, Community, Wellbeing, Green Spaces, Autism, Dementia, Mental Health, Motivation, Volunteering, Social Change, Accessibility, Nature Connection, Community Resilience, Hope, Storytelling

Jill Sampson - The extra-ordinary of the every day (working title)

Artist Jill Sampson lives and works on her family farm situated on Buyibara land, Wakka Wakka country, a tiny part of the vast island continent currently called Australia. Sampson manages small

herds of beef cattle in an environment that is biodiverse, challenging and marked by changes wrought through invasion, settler agriculture and an increasingly unstable climate. This essay explores moments of Jill's every day by interweaving reflections of interconnection, impact, colonisation, energy systems, land, biodiverse life, wonder and grief, in this complex environment. Attempts to balance small-scale farming within the wholly present natural eco-systems invites hope through the vital return of Indigenous Cultural Burning and her own forays into cool fire burning. Recalled moments of interactions and events form an ongoing conversation that threads sensations into reflections and story. This is about living in and being of a landscape that is far older than any human construct of time; a life of care that encompasses wonder and joy; and those oft-times unspoken subterranean rivers of grief.

Tags: small-scale farming, climate, ecology, indigenous culture, ecological grief

IMAGINING

Clare Bryden — *Looping Around the Chaos: Five Poems on Cars, Climate and Questions*

A collection of five poems exploring climate change through the lenses of transport, chaos theory, politics and everyday life. Moving between satire, science and speculation, Clare Bryden reflects on the unpredictable nature of both weather systems and human systems, asking whether small actions can help shape larger futures.

Tags: climate poetry, chaos theory, cars, behaviour change, science, politics, imagination, humour

Tesni Kita Clare — *To Be Decided*

What happens when you can no longer take energy for granted? Drawing on time spent living and researching on Lasqueti Island in the Salish Sea, where residents generate and manage their own power, Tesni Kita Clare explores the emotional and practical realities of life beyond the grid. Through conversations with homesteaders, artists and innovators, she reflects on how inconvenience, self-reliance and attention to energy use can foster a richer relationship with place, community and the living world.

Tags: Lasqueti Island, off-grid communities, energy awareness, self-sufficiency, place-based living, Canada, relationality, energy culture

Nicky Coutts — *Stripping Out*

Set in a near-future world shaped by ecological collapse and energy descent, *Stripping Out* follows a solitary woman as she methodically removes the plumbing, wiring and utilities from an abandoned house. As the building is freed from the infrastructures of modern energy dependence, it begins to be reclaimed by plants, bats, water and other forms of life. Blending climate fiction, ecological myth and surreal transformation, the story imagines what it might mean to dismantle carbon-intensive ways of living and make space for alternative forms of relationship and renewal.

Tags: climate fiction, ecological transformation, energy descent, speculative futures, domestic infrastructure, rewilding, surrealism, more-than-human

Julian Dobson and Ella Hubbard — The Energy of Water: 12 Labours of the River Don

Following the River Don from its source in the Pennines to its meeting with the River Ouse, Julian Dobson and Ella Hubbard explore the many ways a river works, cares and shapes the communities around it. Drawing on walks, conversations and research undertaken through the *Watershed Moments* project, they present twelve "labours" of the Don—from powering medieval industry and cooling steelworks, to supporting salmon, connecting communities and inspiring environmental action. Through a collage of interviews, field notes, observations and reflections, the piece reveals the river and its many energies not simply as a natural resource, but as a living participant in Yorkshire's past, present and future.

Tags: River Don, Yorkshire, rivers, ecological citizenship, industrial heritage, water, community action, environmental justice, plac

Charlotte Fuller — The Energy of Becoming: Where We Direct Our Energy

Drawing on more than two decades working across renewable energy, art and cultural change, Charlotte Fuller explores energy as both a physical resource and a human force. From early solar advocacy in the UK and off-grid energy projects in East Africa to creative work with Olafur Eliasson's *Little Sun* and her own artistic practice, she reflects on how attention, creativity and shared purpose shape the futures we create. Blending personal experience with wider reflections on energy transition, the essay asks not only how we power the future, but where we choose to direct our energy.

Tags: solar energy, cultural change, East Africa, Little Sun, Olafur Eliasson, creativity, leadership, transformation, shared purpose

David Haley — Planktic Futures: Going with the Flow Together

Drawing inspiration from plankton—the immensely diverse organisms that drift through oceans, rivers, lakes and clouds—David Haley proposes a radically different way of thinking about culture, metabolic energy, creativity and collective futures. Combining ecology, philosophy and ecopoetics, the piece explores how plankton survive and flourish through relational adaptability and continual movement rather than control and certainty. By inviting readers to consider "planktic" ways of being, Haley challenges deterministic thinking and asks what human societies might learn from organisms that have sustained and evolved life on Earth for billions of years.

Tags: plankton, ecology, systems thinking, emergence, adaptation, ecopoetics, futures, drifting, complexity

Bridget McKenzie — *Power, Potential and Impediments: What the Arts Need to Respond to the Earth Crisis*

Drawing on her work with Culture Declares Emergency, Climate Museum UK and two decades of cultural leadership, Bridget McKenzie examines the role the arts can play in responding to the interconnected climate, ecological and social challenges she describes as the "Earth Crisis". The essay explores how creative practice can help reshape public narratives, strengthen communities and support systemic change, while also confronting the barriers that limit this potential—from funding pressures and institutional constraints to climate disinformation and social division. Ultimately, it argues for stronger support for creative practices that are interdisciplinary, community-rooted and capable of helping people imagine and build more just futures.

Tags: cultural change, climate action, community resilience, Culture Declares Emergency, Climate Museum UK, systems change, participation, arts leadership, Earth Crisis

Antonio Moll — *Carbonned Out? Towards a Tectonic Ecology*

Can the future of architecture be found beneath our feet? Drawing on projects using rammed earth, timber and other natural materials, Antonio Moll challenges the construction industry's dependence on carbon-intensive materials and asks how buildings might once again emerge from the landscapes that support them. The essay explores how modern construction techniques could unlock ancient materials to create a more responsive and ecologically grounded architecture.

Tags: architecture, materials, climate, construction, regenerative futures, embodied carbon, landscape

Sue Riddleston and colleagues (provisional) - *BedZED: Living in the Future*

Twenty-five years after its construction, BedZED remains one of the world's most influential sustainable communities. Combining low-energy buildings, innovative resource management and a strong culture of participation, the development offered a tangible vision of a different future, one that people could visit, inhabit and learn from. This reflection explores BedZED not simply as a pioneering environmental project, but as a cultural catalyst that helped make sustainable living imaginable. Through its distinctive architecture, community life and the evolution of Bioregional's One Planet Living framework, the piece considers how places can inspire change, shape narratives and provide living demonstrations of alternative ways of living within planetary limits.

Tags: One Planet Living, BedZED, Sustainable Communities, Housing, Urban Design, Community, Behaviour Change, Architecture, Demonstration Projects, Bioregional, Regenerative Futures, Climate Action, Resource Use, Culture Change, Living Labs

Daan Roosegaarde – *Imagining New Energy Futures Through Art*

A visual portfolio of landmark works by Daan Roosegaarde, exploring how art, technology and imagination can reshape our relationship with energy, light and the environment. Through a series of striking images and short reflections, projects such as SPARK, Smog Free Project, Waterlicht and

other large-scale interventions reveal how creativity can transform infrastructure, environmental challenges and public space into experiences of wonder, participation and possibility. The contribution offers a journey through nearly two decades of pioneering work at the intersection of innovation, sustainability and culture, inviting readers to imagine more hopeful and beautiful futures.

Tags: Art & Technology, Public Art, Innovation, Energy Futures, Light, Imagination, Sustainability, Design, Participation, Environmental Art, SPARK, Netherlands.

Sarah Royston and James Norton — *Walking with Pylons*

Set against debates about new electricity infrastructure in rural England, this creative-critical story follows a researcher investigating local opposition to pylons. Through walks, conversations and encounters with people who hold differing views about energy development, the piece explores how landscapes, memories and energy systems become entangled, revealing the emotional and cultural dimensions of the transition to renewable power.

Tags: energy infrastructure, pylons, rural England, landscape, electricity networks, energy transition, storytelling, place attachment, community perspectives

ENERGY

Scarlett Di — *Inside the Battery: Storing Time, Carrying Change Through Balance*

What can a battery teach us about living through transition? Drawing on her work delivering large-scale energy storage systems in the UK, and her experience of navigating life between China and Britain, Scarlett Di reflects on the role of balance in both energy systems and human systems. Through the metaphor of storage - holding, waiting, releasing and responding - she explores how we live with uncertainty, negotiate different perspectives and move together through periods of profound change.

Tags: battery storage, energy systems, migration, identity, uncertainty, transition, coexistence, connection

Paul Dolan & Stephanie O'Rourke — *Mineral Pasts and Futures*

What happens when the landscapes that once fuelled the fossil-fuel age become the foundations of a low-carbon future? Revisiting former coal-mining sites in South Tyneside, Paul Dolan and Stephanie O'Rourke explore innovative heating projects that draw warmth from flooded mine workings and the River Tyne. Combining infrared photography with reflections on industrial history, extraction and repair, the piece reveals how old energy infrastructures can become unlikely blueprints for a new energy era. The resulting images and text invite readers to see these places as sites of both memory and transformation.

Tags: North East England, coal mining, industrial transition, thermal landscapes, photography, mine-water energy, regeneration, memory, energy futures

Nick Jubber - *Guardian of Floods*

Blending travel writing, mythology, energy history and cultural reflection, Nick Jubber explores the relationship between Scotland's ancient stories and modern renewable energy infrastructure through the landscape of Ben Cruachan. Moving between the legend of the Cailleach, guardian of the mountain's waters, and the construction of the world's first large-scale reversible pumped-storage hydroelectric power station, the essay examines how myths persist within contemporary energy landscapes. Through encounters with waterfalls, reservoirs, engineering feats and public art, Jubber reveals how stories continue to shape our understanding of power, place and the forces that sustain society.

Tags: Mythology, Hydropower, Scotland, Landscape, Storytelling, Cultural Heritage, Renewable Energy, Pumped Storage, Public Art, Place, Infrastructure, Water, Energy History, Travel Writing, Cailleach

Fin Irwin — *A Town's Energy*

What powers a town when the electricity is only part of the story? Moving between community centres, walking groups, volunteer shifts, local buses and vacant shopfronts, Fin Irwin traces the overlooked currents that flow through everyday places. Kettles become generators of connection, volunteers become renewable resources, and empty buildings become dormant batteries waiting to be reactivated. Through these small, familiar scenes, the essay reveals a hidden energy system made not of wires and substations, but of relationships, trust and care.

Tags: social energy, community resilience, volunteering, town centres, civic infrastructure, belonging, participation, everyday life

Taryn Lane — *On the Ground at Hepburn Energy: Art, Infrastructure and Community in Practice*

What happens when a wind farm becomes a cultural space as well as an energy asset? Through the story of Hepburn Energy in Central Victoria, Australia, Taryn Lane charts the evolution of a community-owned renewable energy project that has invited artists, schoolchildren and local residents into direct relationship with its turbines, battery systems and energy landscape. From giant murals painted onto turbine towers to artworks exploring the hidden frequencies of wind energy, the essay offers a rare account of how creativity can transform energy infrastructure from something people simply live beside into something they actively connect with, shape and celebrate.

Tags: community-owned energy, wind farm, arts and energy, public engagement, Australia, creative placemaking, infrastructure, participation

Gabriel Rizzo - *The Island That Runs on Attention*

What if rising energy demand is not simply a consequence of technology, but of design? Drawing on experiences within Malta's remote gaming industry and research in cyberpsychology, Gabriel explores the hidden relationship between attention, digital platforms and energy consumption.

Infinite scroll, autoplay, live betting markets and algorithmic notifications are revealed not as neutral features but as systems designed to extend engagement, with consequences for both human behaviour and energy demand.

Set against the backdrop of Malta, a small Mediterranean island balancing a digital economy with the realities of an import-dependent energy system, the essay invites readers to see attention itself as an energy issue. Moving between digital culture, infrastructure and human psychology, Gabriel explores how the systems competing for our time shape both our inner lives and our collective energy future, asking what might become possible if technologies were designed not to maximise engagement, but to support flourishing, reflection and enoughness.

Tags: AI, Digital Infrastructure, Attention Economy, Energy Demand, Behaviour Change, Gambling, Cyberpsychology, Malta, Design Ethics, Demand Reduction, Technology.

Joan Sullivan — *How King Henry VIII's Sexual Infidelities Triggered the First Global Energy Transition*

What do Tudor romance, royal succession and the fossil-fuel economy have in common? More than you might think. Joan Sullivan follows the unlikely trail from Henry VIII's marital ambitions to the English Reformation and the privatisation of coal-rich lands, arguing that a king's personal desires helped set in motion the conditions for the world's first global energy transition from renewables (wood) to fossil fuels (coal).

Part historical detective story, part reflection on the unforeseen consequences of human decisions, the essay offers a fresh perspective on how energy history is shaped by culture, power and chance.

Tags: Tudor history, coal, energy history, unintended consequences, power, politics, culture, Britain

Ali Williams — *The Insatiable Hum: A Keen for the Grid*

What does the energy grid sound like when we stop treating it as infrastructure and begin listening to it as a living presence? Drawing on philosophy, sound practice, ceramics and personal experience, Ali Williams navigates the hidden energies that connect bodies, machines and landscapes. Moving between the domestic hum of data processing, the firing of California clay in a kiln and the sensory realities of motherhood, illness and neurodivergence, the essay becomes a contemporary keen: a ritual of listening and grief that seeks the voice of the land beneath the noise of the network.

Tags: grief, listening, AI, data centres, energy demand, more-than-human, sound art, embodiment, technology, California

CREATIVITY

Shelley Castle — *Walking Forest*

Since 2018, Walking Forest has connected art, activism and climate action through seed-gifting ceremonies, participatory performances and international engagement at UN climate talks. Rooted

in the story of a surviving Suffragette tree and culminating in the creation of a living woodland honouring women activists, the project explores how culture can help shape climate policy, build solidarity across borders and create spaces for courage, grief, hope and regeneration. This contribution follows the project's journey from local seed collections to global conversations about the role of culture in responding to the climate crisis.

Tags: climate activism, COP, culture and climate, seed-gifting, woodland, Suffragettes, international collaboration, regeneration, participation

Kerstin Möller — *Ambient Landscapes and Monsters of the Anthropocene*

Set in northern Sweden, this artistic research project explores the hidden costs and transformations associated with the green energy transition. Through movement, listening and embodied encounters with landscapes altered by mining and resource extraction, Kerstin Möller reflects on the relationships between energy, materials, ecology and Sámi lands, developing alternative ways of sensing and understanding environmental change.

Tags: green transition, extraction, Sápmi, northern Sweden, minerals, ecology, sound, choreography, more-than-human, environmental justice

Elnara Nasirli — *Breathing Systems: Toward a Phytoacoustic Imagination of Energy*

Using custom-built systems that translate plant bioelectrical signals into sound, Elnara Nasirli creates installations where trees, air, technologies and human bodies become part of a shared energetic conversation. Her work reimagines energy as something relational and embodied, inviting visitors to experience it through vibration, listening and proximity rather than through extraction or consumption.

Tags: phytoacoustics, bioelectricity, sound, plants, ecological art, coexistence, sensory ecology, installation, energy cultures

Gemma Smith — *Ocean City Influencers: Using Digital Creativity to Advocate for Youth Voice*

Working with 10–17-year-olds in Plymouth's East End, Ocean City Influencers uses filmmaking, animation, photography and digital storytelling to explore ocean activism, climate justice and environmental change. Supported by Take A Part and a network of local, national and international partners, the programme enables young people to move beyond learning about environmental issues to shaping the conversation themselves. Through exhibitions, films, interviews and creative campaigns, participants develop the confidence, skills and platforms needed to become visible advocates and leaders for change.

Tags: Plymouth, youth voice, digital creativity, climate justice, ocean activism, filmmaking, participation, leadership, community engagement

Peter Ward — *A Sentiment of Rock (Whose Energy is it Anyway?)*

Through reflections inspired by working with rocks, clays and earth pigments, Peter Ward explores alternative ways of thinking about energy, extraction and human responsibility. Challenging purely technological responses to the climate crisis, he makes the case for deeper relationships with the materials and landscapes that sustain us, drawing on ecology, Indigenous perspectives and artistic practice.

Tags: energy, extraction, earth pigments, geology, regeneration, more-than-human, art and ecology, southwest England, environmental philosophy