

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for the opportunity to inaugurate this exhibition *The Weather War* by Bigert & Bergström. It has been a pleasure to reflect on the artwork of these fine artists and given me lots of food for thought both in terms of what links between art and science are, can do, trigger and evoke, but also of how their specific work reflects developments in the science and politics of climate change.

I am no art critic, but to me in my capacity as a scientist and leader of the research and educational institution Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS) this exhibition shows to me that art can offer many things. To quote Einstein: [‘All religions, arts and sciences are branches of the same tree’](#). In other words both art and science are needed to uplift and advance freedoms in society. In relation to this exhibition three specific things come to mind and I will mention these briefly.

First, looking at B&B's art exhibitions over time – from 2012 to now – the *CO2-lock in*, *The Storm*, *The Drought*, and to *The Freeze* in 2016 – gives me a sense of the important interplay between the development of the science/global responses and these art works. We started with a call for the need for mitigation / reducing CO2 in the 1990s, which developed 10 years later into an understanding of the need to adapt – for no matter what we did we would still need to manage the risks of climate impacts. Ten years on again and we have started to discuss the limits to adaptation and what that means in terms of justice, inequality and law. The trajectory in my view is towards a new global reconciliation framework for the Anthropocene (negative impacts of human actions on the Planet). Here the art provides a way in which we/ science and regulators can communicate to the public by working in partnership, i.e. art or the artist acts like a conduit thus enhancing public understanding through images, metaphors, and translations by tapping into beliefs, value and emotions.

Second, I think art can play a role in provoking our own internal visions of what may come next – evoking an interplay between analytic thinking, facts about what we know and hints toward where we imagine things may head in relation to time and the future. In that sense art is a trigger for our own internal organisation, agency and ways to configure visions of the future.

Finally, B&B's art may also be able to create change in the ways we engage with climate change, as a disruptive mechanism, by perhaps providing time to stop, to relate, to reflect, to talk, and somehow to connect, at the individual level, but perhaps also to one another and to the world around including nature. Who knows, this may also lead to resistance, collective action, and participation. In the words of Goethe: [‘Science and art belong to the whole world, and before them vanish the barriers of nationality’](#). By lifting the debate through their art gives the opportunity to discuss how societies may want to think beyond barriers, control or single solutions to the climate problem.

Much like a sketch these thoughts are work in progress. There are further questions about art and science:

- Does art need to be responsible? And in relation to that who is the audience?
- Does art follow or drive? (does it tap into populism or material trends?)
- Does art or the artist need to be political/utilitarian – can art be agnostic?

Some of these questions will be discussed during some collaborative events between Skissernas Museum and LUCSUS in April.

I will stop there and thank you for listening to me. I hope that you enjoy the exhibition! Tack!

Emily Boyd 22 March 2018