

# Earth's History, Time and the Environment: Thinking and Working around Art & The Deep Past

*1-day workshop at King's College London (Strand campus)*

*Saturday 12 August, 11:00-17:00*

How can thinking about past environments and deep time help us engage with current issues around climate, nature and biodiversity, and how can art interact with science to do so? Attempts to understand and conceptualize current environmental issues and human relations with the natural world require artistic engagement, as well as thinking on large and deep scales. This can include: thinking about the current climate crisis and biodiversity loss in the context of “deep time” and the larger history of the earth; debating the concept of the “Anthropocene,” and other ways of conceptualizing the relations between humans and large geological processes; trying to visualize and understand long-term and extensive changes in the environment; and reconstructing and imagining pre- and non-human pasts (and possibly futures), and the organisms living within them. In all these areas, the relations between art, science and imagination are crucial, and have the capacity to fundamentally change our understandings and attitudes, and enthuse and engage new audiences.

We are planning a funding application to the Arts & Humanities Research council on these themes, with the aim of bringing together a range of artists with interests in these areas to work with one another, and with academic researchers and wider communities. If successful, the project will be able to fund commissions for participating artists – we will be able to provide more information on this at the event. We will be holding a one-day brainstorming session and networking event for potential participants in London in summer 2023 to build connections and share ideas, help shape the project, and potentially develop other activities and collaborations on these lines.

In particular, we are looking to involve and connect two groups of artists:

- **Environmentally-engaged artists** from conceptual or fine-arts backgrounds working in any media, especially if they are interested in issues around the climate crisis, the ‘Anthropocene,’ biodiversity, nature, animals, plants, geology, and/or time, who would like to reach new communities and audiences with their work, and would like to collaborate with scientists and humanities scholars with interests in these areas.
- **Palaeoartists**, or artists engaged in reconstructing extinct animals and prehistoric environments (also working in any media), especially those with interests in how palaeoart connects art and science, in promoting diversity within palaeoart (both in terms of media and within the palaeoart community), and how palaeontologically-inspired artwork can help us engage with issues around climate change, biodiversity loss, and human relations with the natural world.

The event will be on **Saturday 12 August** in the [REACH space at King's College London \(Strand campus\)](#), a dedicated creative space in central London with a large amount of arts material and equipment.

In a morning session, we will introduce the plans for the project, and then give you an opportunity to share your interests and practice with other participating artists, including potentially through working with material and equipment in the space.

The afternoon session will involve small group discussions and workshopping with a larger group of participants, to develop ideas and agendas for the project.

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If you would like to take part in this event, then please enter your details on the following form by **Friday 14 July**: <https://forms.office.com/e/C862sB6bnT>

Places are limited to 8 artists in total, so we may need to make a selection depending on the level of interest. We will be in touch with all respondees in the week after the deadline to confirm attendance.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided. We are unable to offer a fee for participation at this stage, but we are able to contribute to travel expenses for those coming from outside London. If you might need this, please indicate on the form.