

# COAL PRIZE 2019

CLIMATE, DISASTERS AND  
DISPLACEMENT

PRESS RELEASE, PARIS, 20 October 2019

## Announcement of COAL Prize 2019 shortlist

**COAL reveals the ten projects by international artists shortlisted for the 2019 COAL Prize. Organized in collaboration with the Platform on Disaster Displacement and DISPLACEMENT: Uncertain Journeys, this year's prize invited artists to tackle the critical issue of displacement related to disasters and climate change.**

**The 2019 COAL Prize award ceremony will take place in the heart of the Climate Change Conference (COP25), to be held in Chile this December.**

In its tenth edition, the international open call received 264 project proposals from artists representing 51 different countries. This success reflects artists' strong engagement on environmental issues and attests to the international reach of the COAL Prize.

## THE 2019 COAL PRIZE SHORTLIST

**Firoz Mahmud** - Bangladesh

*Soaked Dream Project*

**PLATFORM** (Roberto Taroni and Annamaria Martena) - Italy

*That which is to come is just a promise*

**honey & bunny** (Dr. Sonja Stummerer and Martin Hablesreiter) - Austria

*eat | disaster | art*

**Jad El Khoury** - Lebanon

*Curtains of Hope*

**Justin Brice Guariglia** - United States

*REDUCE SPEED NOW! x Climate Refugee Crisis*

**Lena Dobrowolska et Teo Ormond-Skeaping** - Poland, United Kingdom

*You never know, one day you too may become a refugee*

**Lucy Hayto** - United Kingdom

*All Things Will Change*

**Maria Lucia Cruz Correia** - Portugal/Belgium

*Voice of Nature Kinstitute*

**Mélanie Pavy** - France

*CITIZEN OMEGA*

**Mélanie Trugeon et Claire Malary** - France

*Le désert d'Ata*

COAL



DIS  
PLACE  
MENT  
*Uncertain Journeys*



## THE NOMINATED PROJECTS

Since 2009, an estimated one person per second is displaced following sudden-onset disasters. More than a hundred million people around the world could be displaced as a result of these impacts if nothing is done to address the impacts of natural hazards and climate change, including droughts, flooding, earthquakes, tsunamis but also slower changes such as desertification and sea level rise.

Many of these environmental causes that lead to displacement are inherently linked to political, economic and social factors. The COAL Prize will be at the negotiating table at COP25 this December in Chile to help ensure that political decisions translate into concrete changes for a shared and livable Earth. COAL's presence will amplify the voices of artists from all over the world to share their testimonies and visions for a world more respectful of ecological balance and climatic justice. Through their creations, artists can encourage policymakers to understand and act on the reality of displacement linked to climate change.

Witnesses of our times, artists have the capacity to raise awareness and incite action by making the increasingly palpable yet diffuse effects of climate change on people visible. **PLATFORM**, an Italian artistic duo composed of Roberto Taroni and Annamaria Martena, presents the highly symbolic case of the Tuvalu islands in ***That which is to come is just a promise***, in an immersive video installation whose format adapts to the sea level. American artist **Justin Brice Guariglia** repurposes luminous highway panels to flash texts that engage displacement associated with disasters and climate change in his project ***REDUCE SPEED NOW! x Climate Refugee Crisis***.

The global climate imbalance provokes environmental destruction around the world. English photographer **Lucy Hayto** captures the devastation of coastal erosion in small seaside towns on the British coast in ***All Things Will Change***. Far from photographic realism, French duo, **Mélanie Trugeon and Claire Malary's** dreamy drawings in the graphic novel ***Le désert d'Ata***, address the idea of survival in a hostile environment through the tale of an ornithologist in a desert.

Through actions rather than representation, artists also build local initiatives that pave the way for international mobilization.

Through her ***Voice of Nature Kinstitute***, **Maria Lucia Cruz Correia** develops an unprecedented legal and artistic institute as an alternative to the current system of environmental justice.

To question and challenge norms, **honey & bunny**, a collective composed of Dr. Sonja Stummerer and Martin Hablesreiter, plan to invite politicians, scientists, activists, citizens and displaced people to a disastrous dinner at an international summit, for ***eat | disaster | art*** to initiate a conversation by overturning daily customs and decorum.

Artists **Lena Dobrowolska and Teo Ormond-Skeaping** upend the stereotypical vision of displacement through the fictional documentary ***You never know, one day you too may become a refugee***, in which a white middle-class family from the Global North displaced by climate change impacts is generously welcomed by a country of the Global South.

Through the power of narrative and imagining alternative futures, artists' work can change mindsets and behavior.

Bangladeshi artist **Firoz Mahmud** collaborates with displaced families to create green glasses from fragments of the families' possessions. He then photographs them wearing the glasses, inviting them to imagine their dreams for the future in ***Soaked Dream Project***.

In ***Curtains of Hope***, **Jad El Khoury** seeks to revive homes and towns abandoned by displaced people after disasters by decorating buildings with colorful curtains that give them a new lease on life.

In her film ***CITIZEN OMEGA***, **Mélanie Pavy** attests to other futures that are almost here. She reconstructs the story of a Japanese family living in a new Japanese city, constructed in South India to prepare for an anticipated mass displacement following disaster.

## THE AWARD CEREMONY

The 2019 COAL Prize will be awarded at the heart of COP25, in Santiago de Chile this December, in association with the Platform on Disaster Displacement and the cultural program DISPLACEMENT: Uncertain Journeys.

The COAL Prize is supported by the French Ministry of Ecology. It is sponsored by the European Union and the ACT network, the French Ministry of Culture, the Museum of Hunting and Nature, the François Sommer Foundation, the Platform on Disaster Displacement and DISPLACEMENT: Uncertain Journeys.

## THE JURY

### **Claire Hoffman**

*Artistic Director, Swiss Cultural Center in Paris*

### **Claude d'Anthenaise**

*Heritage Conservator and Curator and Director of the Museum of Hunting and Nature*

### **Elodie Royer**

*Curator, KADIST Art Foundation*

### **François Rivasseau**

*Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations in Geneva and international organizations in Switzerland*

### **Hannah Entwisle Chapuisat**

*Curator, DISPLACEMENT: Uncertain Journeys and Director, La Fruitière*

### **Lucy Orta**

*Artist*

### **Monique Barbaroux**

*Environment and Sustainable Development Commissioner, French Ministry of Culture*

### **Paul Ardenne**

*Historian and art critic*

### **Richard Le Quellec**

*Artist and Project Coordinator, Embassy of Foreign Artists, Switzerland*

### **Walter Kaelin**

*Envoy of the Chair of the Platform on Disaster Displacement*

### CONTACTS

#### COAL

**Phoebe-Lin Elnan**

contact@projetcoal.fr

#### Platform on Disaster Displacement

**Chirine El Labbane**

Communications Officer

chirinee@unops.org

+41 79 542 18 09

### Image credits

Cover: Alex Hartley, *Nowhereisland*,  
Winning project of COAL Prize 2015

COAL



PLATFORM  
ON DISASTER  
DISPLACEMENT  
COLLABORATION TO THE TRANSITION



Uncertain Journeys



Art  
Climat  
Transition



# PRESS VISUALS



**Alex Hartley**, *Nowhereisland*, Winning project of COAL Prize 2015



**Firoz Mahmud** (Bangladesh), *Soaked Dream Project*



**PLATFORM** (Italy), *That which is to come is just a promise*



**honey & bunny** (Austria), *eat | disaster | art*



**Jad El Khoury** (Lebanon), *Curtains of hope*



**Justin Brice Guariglia** (United States), *REDUCE SPEED NOW! x Climate Refugee Crisis*



**Lena Dobrowolska and Teo Ormond-Skeaping** (Poland & United Kingdom), *You never know, one day you too may become a refugee*



**Lucy Hayto** (United Kingdom), *All Things Will Change*



**Maria Lucia Cruz Correia** (Portugal/Belgium), *Voice of nature Kinstitute*



**Mélanie Pavy** (France), *CITIZEN OMEGA*



**Mélanie Trugeon and Claire Malary** (France), *Le désert d'Ata*

**High-resolution photos available upon request: [contact@projetcoal.fr](mailto:contact@projetcoal.fr)**