

**The
Solution?
Just do
nothing**

What's your contribution?

A modern tragedy

Hyper globalisation / Hyper production / Hyper capitalization / Hyper mobility / Hyper alimentation / Hyper consumption

The law of action and reaction applies on almost everything we do on a daily basis and of course affects our planet. No matter if we are mobile, we eat or we consume; relating thereto is (almost) always the emission of greenhouse gasses. Either through the direct combustion of fossil fuels such as oil, gas or coal (e.g. flying), deforestation (e.g. fodder production) or through industrial factory farming (e.g. cattle breeding).

The accumulation of greenhouse gasses in our atmosphere amplifies the greenhouse effect.

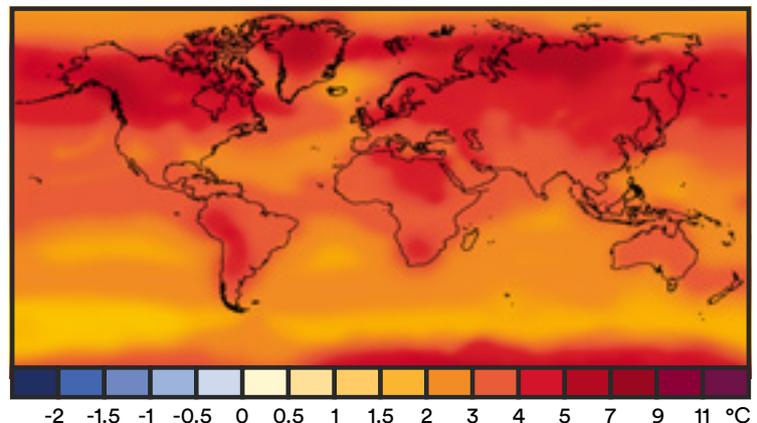
Therefore the atmosphere heats up and the consequence is the anthropogenic or man-made climate change.

The rising temperatures increase the strain on the adaptability of natural eco systems and their wildlife and vegetation.

When eco systems cannot adapt anymore, they die off, as for example coral reefs or forests.

The temperature scale shows how much the earth's surface temperature will rise between 2081–2100 in comparison to the timespan between 1986–2005, if we keep walking the current path and do not limit our greenhouse gas emissions.

The scenario (RCP 8.5) presented herein by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assumes a greenhouse gas concentration of 1377 ppm equivalent of CO₂ by 2100 (ppm: parts per million). This would result in a global average temperature of 4°C higher than the average between 1986–2005. The current state (June 2020) of greenhouse gas concentration is at 416 ppm, which is already an unbeaten record since human existence.



Coral death – the trophy for our hard work.

Manmade global warming

Greenhouse effect

The sun shoots its rays onto our earth. Those who are not emitted back into space, are absorbed by the earth's surface and the oceans, to then be stored as heat in our atmosphere, where it is blocked from going back into space by greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, CO₂; methane, CH₄; nitrous oxide, N₂O etc.). The higher the concentration of these greenhouse gases, the warmer it gets. Therefore, all human activities that release greenhouse gases (e.g. burning fossil fuels) result in our climate changing. The biggest manmade changes in temperature were provoked through industrialization in the middle of the 19th century. Since 1990 humans have released more greenhouse gases than throughout the entire history of humanity.

Climate

An average change in weather over a long period of time.

Weather

The condition of the atmosphere at a specific time in a specific place. If it gets especially cold once, we talk about weather and not climate.

Consequences

Climate change is already noticeable today: Ocean temperatures have risen by 1.5°C. If we do not adhere to the Paris climate treaty to not surpass a rise in temperature of more than 2°C compared to pre-industrial measures, we see ourselves threatened by a climate collapse. Switzerland is legally bound to the Paris climate change treaty, but so far has not been doing nearly enough.

Here is a global outlook to what will happen if we do not stop global warming and the temperature rises more than 2°C, up to 4°C.

- All glaciers melt
- Coral reefs die off
- Rivers and their entire eco systems will die off
- The number of storms, floods and hurricanes will increase severely
- Dry regions will become dryer and therefore become uninhabitable for humans, animals and plants
- Nordic coniferous forests will die off
- Infectious diseases will increase because melting ice and permafrost soil bring back long assumed extinct pathogens (e.g. viruses)
- Changing ocean currents, for example «El Niño» in the Pacific
- Up to 30% of species could go extinct
- Rising sea levels: Until 2050 around 0.3m, until 2100 around 0.8m
- Drought throughout Europe almost all year round
- Middle east, Sahel and USA uninhabitable for the most part
- Floods and uninhabitability will increase severely
- Instability within society will generate an enormous potential for conflicts and even war
- By 2050 up to 1 billion people will seek refuge from the consequences of global warming

Our global master piece

Historic responsibility

Uneven distribution

The profit and suffering from burning fossil fuels are unevenly distributed. 90 companies have been solely responsible for 63% of the global greenhouse gas emissions between 1850 – 2015.

Among the 10 highest-revenue companies are 8 directly or indirectly linked to burning fossil fuels and polluting our world disproportionately. Historically, countries with the highest greenhouse gas emissions are those who dominate the world's economy, e.g. countries in Europe or the United States of America.

The perversion

The countries that suffer the most from climate change are also the one's making the least profit off of fossil fuels (e.g. countries in Africa, Asia and South America)

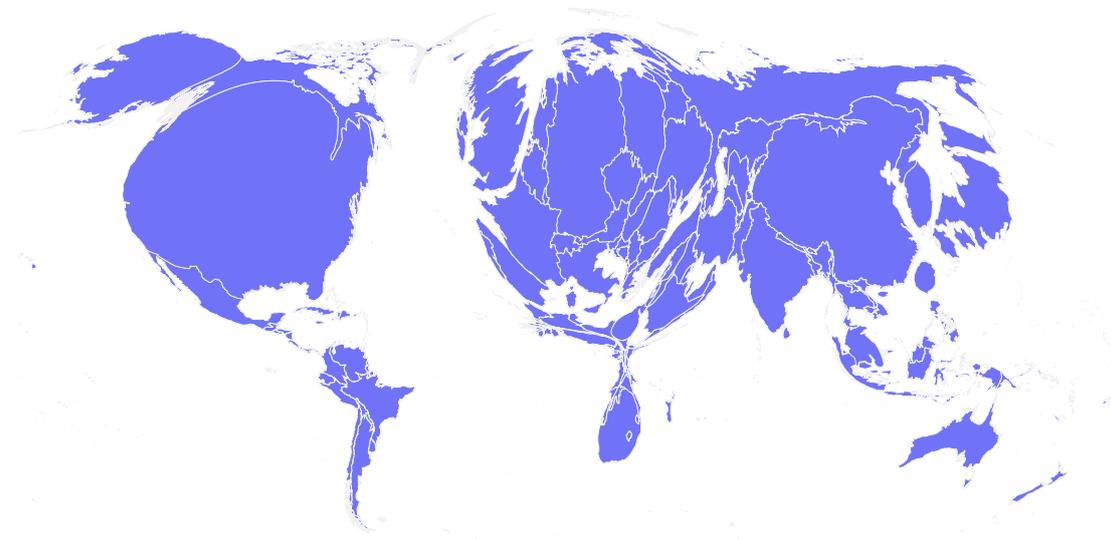
Their eco systems are also the one's absorbing most of the excessive emissions from rich regions and therefore battle against climate change.

And Switzerland?

Switzerland carries part of the responsibility even if it's a small country. Swiss people have a very high greenhouse gas emission factor per capita. Most of these emissions come from the production of goods in foreign countries. But there are also international companies based in Switzerland with very high greenhouse gas emissions. Even extremer are investment companies and banks making huge profits off of trading fossil fuels. In 2017 two of the biggest Swiss banks alone were responsible for emissions as high as 93.9 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent. This corresponds to an amount twice as high as the emissions produced in the whole of Switzerland in one year. The Swiss National Bank plays a critical role.

The consequence

In a system, where money stands over everything, the individual is responsible for consuming and entrepreneurial livelihoods. But objective politics need to make fundamental and structural changes through regulations in order to adhere to the binding climate treaty.



Global greenhouse gas emissions cumulated since 1850.

The size of the countries shows the CO₂ emission between 1850 and 2011.

**We didn't know any better...
sorry**

It's nice here.

What is the solution?

Diet	Mobility	Consumption	Political Participation	Reside and build
Eat plant-based, locally grown and seasonal.	Try whenever possible to do without your motor vehicle.	Do without status consumption	Participate actively in every day politics	Share your living space
Do without meat (no matter where it's from)	Share your vehicle	Use the waste hierarchy for orientation	Fight incorrect climate policies	Share your utilities
Refusing to eat meat, cheese and dairy combats deforestation, because fodder is mostly grown in countries like Brasil.	Use bus, train, bike or your feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid • Reduce • Reuse • Repair • Recycle • Discard 	Vote against fossil fuel lobbyist politics	Reduce your water, heat and electricity usage
Read about transparent labels and alternatives	Travel carefully considered	Do without unsustainable products and fast fashion	Vote for change	Chose energy from sustainable sources (Solar, wind or water power)
	Do without flying	Buy second hand		Produce your energy on your house or in your neighborhood (Solar panels)

Individual potential

An effective way for climate protection always involves reducing the absolute amount of greenhouse gases. But a relevant part of the global population lives far beyond their means. If we would divide the still acceptable amount of CO₂ emissions (as agreed upon with the Paris climate treaty) each person would only be allowed to produce between 1-2 tonnes of CO₂ per year. For comparison, flying to New York and back produces about 4 tonnes and the average Swiss person produces about 12 tonnes of CO₂ per year. To achieve the goal of 1-2 tonnes of CO₂, the absolute emission per person counts. Symbolic

actions like PET recycling and forgoing plastic bags therefor play a subordinate role.

So, what is your contribution?

Artistic entitlement

We bring together, what belongs together

Manmade climate change leads to more and more natural eco systems collapsing. It is happening now and today. Where politics fail, we start artistically. In a drastically changing world we want to drive the attention towards two phenomenon's: Coral death and glacier shrinkage. Tropical coral bleaching happens between January and March – simultaneously Swiss glaciers, who have been here for thousands of years, are melting away. Two habitats, thousands of kilometres apart united in destruction. Climate change is happening to all of us and the consequences are unforeseeable! We bring together what's geographically so far apart.

Whitening out

It represents the first victim of prosperity: dead coral reefs. Beautifully glowing in bright white before dying off. The clay art pieces optically represent this phenomenon in the heart of Switzerland, in front of the glaciers garden. 466 clay corals grace the ground in front of the Lion Monument. At night the corals are illuminated and represent natures cry for help, shortly before the corals start to bleach.

We place our art open to the public because access to the climate change discussion is difficult for many people. Forming a political opinion is often skewed by abstract images and visions in the media. But in our everyday lives we hardly have points of contact with current, visual changes. Global warming isn't a trending topic, it is a real situation, that negatively affects our everyday lives. We need everybody's effort – economy, politics and civil society – to provoke a fundamental change in thinking. Where the awareness for the consequences of our behaviour is missing, wrong decisions are made and facts are ignored or even denied.

Installation

Time: 21.08.2020 – 20.09.2020

Location: Fountain in front of the Lion Monument (inaugurated 10.08.1821)

Extent: 466 handmade clay corals

Concept: A dead coral reef visualizing a collapsed eco system. Illuminated at night, they represent the corals last cry for help before dying.

Production

Claim: Sustainable production with regional products. Our clay originates in Westerwald (Germany) and the wood comes from the Lucerne region.

People involved: Around 70 active people

Amount of Material: About 800 kg

Working hours: Around 1400 hours

Approach per coral

1. Moulding the blank clay coral by hand (1h)
2. Resting time (5 days)
3. Burning process: raw firing at 1070°C (1 day)
4. Glazing and drying: blank corals absorb glaze (30 min)
5. Glaze firing: finishing (1 day)

Coral reef

Ocean's rain forests

Coral reefs are some of the world's oldest and biologically diverse eco systems. These "rain forests of the oceans" have developed over the past 240 million years and host today, more species than any other marine habitat, although they only make up 0.1% of the oceans surface. Reefs host 25% of all marine life and form the nursery for a quarter of all fish species. For a minimum of one million of animal and plant species, the reef forms their basis of existence in over 100 different countries. They are highly sensible eco systems and very important spawning grounds. That is the reason why they are incessant for oceanic diversity. Reefs are also natural barriers and protect coast lines from storms and erosion. Therefore, they are also very important for coast line inhabitants and coast line farming.

Oxidative stress – when an eco system collapses

Stony corals live in symbiosis with the algae zooxanthellae, which are responsible for the colouring. The algae operate photosynthesis and supply the corals with nutrients. This symbiotic relation reacts sensitively to stress, such as environmental toxins, intense direct sunlight or an abrupt change in salinity, but mostly to rising temperatures. The zooxanthellae lose their ability to operate photosynthesis in higher water temperatures. Thus, the host cell undergoes oxidative stress and the algae are repelled by the corals. The corals lose their color and bleach.

Beautifully glowing to death

Shortly before bleaching some corals become fluorescent and produce a chemical sunscreen in order to protect themselves from the heat. But without zooxanthellae corals cannot live for long before dying off, unless the algae come back within a few weeks (the specific timespan depends on the species). If the conditions normalize after coral bleaching, perhaps the corals can regenerate if being populated by coral babies, which then grow into colonies. Specific corals manage to do so in 10 to 15 years but with older reefs this process takes decades. It is very important that there be no more bleaching or other disturbances during this phase of regeneration. Water pollution, over fishing and diseases additionally slow down the reef's recovery phase.

Since industrialization two thirds of all coral reefs have been irreversibly damaged or completely destroyed by manmade global warming. The ocean's temperature has risen by 1.5°C and has become sour through storing high amounts of CO₂. Globally about 4 million people rely on the oceans for food supply.

Glaciers

Other wonders of nature are dying too

From rising temperatures other eco systems natural wonders are affected as well. Scientist say, that by the end of the century not one of the 400'000 alpine glaciers will exist anymore. The glaciers have lost 17% of their ice volume alone between 2000 and 2014 (Switzerland, France, Austria and Italy). These huge glaciers, as well as the polar ice caps store together 70% of all fresh water. Additionally, our alpine landscape is home to so many different species, that are now endangered. If the yearly melting water is missing, animals will leave and plants will die. Our cities will be streaked by dried out riverbeds and natural drinking water reservoirs will dry out. The consequences for alpine tourism are unimaginable. And of course, a rising oceanic level will endanger coast line habitats.

Coral bleaching

The Great Barrier Reef spreads 2300 kilometres along the coast of Australia. It covers an area of 350'000 square kilometres. This eco system is one of the biggest coral reefs and even visible from outer space.

The global coral bleach in 2016 and 2017 have drastically changed the Great Barrier Reef. 50% of the corals died off. This year another bleach followed which affected 60% of all corals, this time even in the southern part of the reef, where the water temperatures are cooler.



Who we are

We are standing at a cross roads of human history. We feel a standstill of our systems in our daily lives, the borders of tolerance blur and objective discussions are poisoned by emotions. The ecological collapse as a consequence for human arbitrariness has caught up to us. We set an exclamation mark with creativity and intellect, where the trigger point of our civilization should lie. We are woke, we lead the way, we react against irresponsibility.

Biotope of relevance

The experiment as subject of our behaviour. Operating as interdisciplinary organ, we visualize the relevance of current events in an artistic way. In search of drastic expression, we keep an eye on the beauty of our world. A community of togetherness for new impulses. An environment for creative interaction with an increasingly blurred reality. A sphere for awakening as a compensation for arbitrariness.

Sustainable is our moral entitlement, that finally something has to change.

Sustainable is our feeling, that now the time for that has come.

Sustainable is our will, that this is not the climax, but the prelude to more initiatives.

Sustainable is our believe, that we will reach people with our message.

We are an educational and artistic collective for interdisciplinary collaboration in education, design, research, photography, graphic design, illustration, economy and urbanism.

Imprint

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Thank you, for your support

Dying corals represent the glowing creation of our progress, the consequences of our unrestrained lust. Seemingly disorientated and cut off from our natural instinct, we feel obligated to participate in a collective compensation to consume. We're loving it! Our pursuit of happiness has successfully materialized and succumbed to the dictate of the ever more. Because only who has and can do, is allowed to be: In the straitjacket of status consumption we tend to forget that our shares of mother nature aren't saleable. Around the clock new products help satisfy our newly, every day made up needs. And every oh so small product helps to combat our subjective emptiness. When the wide selfie grin becomes the mirror to our self-optimization, we just might have reached the end of the path. But we are good people: we love symbolic campaigns faithfully, neatly compost the leftovers of our feasts, to then fly around the world one more time. Our self-praise for this non-contribution is the culmination of our individual failure. Our conscience is easy, but the consequence there of is nature's enemy. Our progress has become morality. He who chooses to march in his own direction, risks being banned from paradise. But who did we build this paradise for? The performance caste agrees: We fight the problems caused by progress with progress. Technology as a wonderful virtue will solve problems, which we didn't have, if it weren't for technology. Where greed erodes humaneness, modesty and abstention resemble a naïve regression. But what do we sacrifice if we learn to renounce certain things out of solicitude? The search for meaning has begun during the current standstill.

Doing nothing is the solution.

Deceleration becomes a fundamental human right. The medial call for fast normality is supposed to cloud us. But if we go on, the way we have been, the chain reaction can be expected sooner, rather than later. What if we wake up far into the night mare and our beds are swimming in warm water? Thankfully the house of cards that is our eco system doesn't know revenge, but logic only. Broadly awake we can own up and say art and science alone won't help anymore. Faster than we are expecting, we are degraded to spectators to the collapse. At least the corals are having a real fine time: They die, they glow and become wonderfully white.