

Environmental Graphiti – Art From the Science of Climate Change

Alisa Singer
United States (amsamema@gmail.com)

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Numerous charts, graphs, and maps illustrating the science of climate change can be found with any Google search; the data tells an alarming story, but too many people aren't paying attention.

Data and statistics can confuse and intimidate, but I believe art can dramatize the science in a way that charts and graphs cannot, enticing people into the room and making them more receptive to learning a bit about the science. I took on the challenge of transforming climate science data into art, when I created the series of digital paintings Environmental Graphiti -The Art of Climate Change. The actual "blueprint" for each of the digital paintings in this series is a chart, graph, map, word, or number representing a key fact about climate change.

The art is contemporary, bold, and vividly colored. It can be used in various formats – digital (e.g., incorporated into educational materials) or printed for exhibition - typically large and glossy (metal or photos on board) to attract attention and draw people in. Each painting is displayed with a plaque depicting the underlying climate data source and explaining its significance.

Once viewers realize they are not looking at mere abstract images, they are intrigued and a kind of "double take" occurs. Moving back and forth from art to graph, they try to decipher how the data is reflected in the art and, in the process, become more engaged with both the art and the underlying message.

There are now 60 digital paintings in the series, loosely divided into four galleries: "Why is our climate changing?" "How is climate change affecting our world?" "Who is at risk (humans and other species)? and "What can we do to address climate change?"

Art has an appeal that crosses boundaries, inviting people from diverse backgrounds, disciplines and perspectives into the conversation about the different aspects and impacts of climate change. The powerful combination of art and science not only inspires and motivates, but also helps to de-politicize the subject and open minds to more effective dialogue and understanding.

Art, science, and cause are a dynamic combination with synergies that enhance the qualities and impact of each: Art can serve as an inviting point of entry to make scientific information more accessible and comprehensible. Art derived from science is inherently unique and meaningful, which makes it more engaging and satisfying. And art combined with science can effectively serve the cause of climate change education as a powerful tool to tell the story about how our world is being, and will be, impacted - a story that needs to be told by as many people, in as many ways, as the imagination allows.

To learn more about Environmental Graphiti, view the art, and see past collaborations and exhibits:
<http://www.environmentalgraphiti.org>