

PRESS RELEASE

13 AUGUST 2018

ARTSADMIN'S NEW COMMISSION BY METIS ASKS HOW WE CAN SHAPE THE FUTURE

The Pit, Barbican | 6–9 September 2018



Photo by Christa Holka. Design by Sarah Ferrari

Artsadmin announces a major new commission, *WE KNOW NOT WHAT WE MAY BE* by METIS, an immersive installation premiering at Barbican this September to initiate conversations about how we might live together in the face of radical social and environmental challenges.

Working with a host of inspirational experts, among them economists, architects and environmentalists, Zoë Svendsen, Artistic Director of METIS, asks if human ingenuity can restore our relationships to one another and to the planet.

Part conference, part durational artwork and part think-tank, **WE KNOW NOT WHAT WE MAY BE** starts with a short talk by a visionary speaker from the fields of economics, architecture and the environment (speakers include Paul Mason, Kate Raworth and Ha-Joon Chang – see full listings below). Audiences become co-workers as they enter Barbican's The Pit and, through storytelling, interaction and experimentation, are invited to collaborate to imagine alternative visions for the future.

Artsadmin works with artists and activists to support, commission and produce projects exploring, communicating and taking practical action against issues around climate change and the environment. Previous major commissions include Amy Sharrocks' [Museum of Water](#), a collection of publicly donated water and accompanying stories encouraging audiences to ponder our precious liquid and how we use it; Clare Patey's '1001 Books' as part of the [Empathy Museum](#), inviting audiences to take a moment to look at the

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world through someone else's eyes, and Michael Pinsky's [Plunge](#), a public installation inviting passersby to ponder our rising sea levels.

"Artsadmin is proud to have commissioned and produced this extraordinary new work by METIS offering audiences a unique opportunity to listen, discuss and participate in ideas to create a more positive future. WE KNOW NOT WHAT WE MAY BE is part of Season for Change, a national programme demonstrating how the arts can inspire action on the most important issues of our time, environment and climate change."

– Judith Knight, Co-Director, Artsadmin

"In my last work, [World Factory](#), people connected their actions with the bigger system of consumer capitalism. It triggered the question: 'but what can we do?' I wanted to make something that would ask that question, even if there is no easy answer! What we are creating is a five-day experiment bringing audiences into contact with experts and artists to imagine what fundamental changes we could make - by exploring the big economic ideas that might change our power structures and our reliance on resource-hungry, earth-stripping, fossil-fuel addicted financial systems."

– Zoë Svendsen, Artistic Director of METIS

Zoë Svendsen has drawn together an impressive range of collaborators including lighting designer Guy Hoare, sound designer Carolyn Downing and Berlin based videographer Chris Kondek together with Hoipolloi's Shôn Dale-Jones and Steffi Mueller, to create **WE KNOW NOT WHAT WE MAY BE**. Zoë's bold and thorough approach to research, performance and interactivity have become the trademark of METIS' work. Through her 'research-in-public' she initiates conversations, challenges people's sense of what is possible, and finds ways in which individuals and society can take an active part in transforming the future. METIS' previous work, World Factory, was shown at the Young Vic in 2015 and continued on a sell-out tour of the UK.

WE KNOW NOT WHAT WE MAY BE is part of [Season for Change](#), a UK-wide programme of cultural responses celebrating the environment and inspiring urgent action on climate change, led by Artsadmin and Julie's Bicycle.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

METIS: WE KNOW NOT WHAT WE MAY BE

UK

Directed by Zoë Svendsen

Sound by Carolyn Downing

Lighting by Guy Hoare

[#METISBarbican](#)

Speakers:

Thu 6 Sep, 6.15pm: Peter Newell, advisor on low carbon economy, Green Peace UK board member, speaking on the global politics of transformation to a green future.

Thu 6 Sep, 7pm: Chris Hope, climate modeller and former advisor to the House of Lords inquiry into the economics of climate change, speaking on how the carbon tax can transform the economy and address climate change.

Thu 6 Sep, 8pm: Frances Coppola, former banker, writes for Forbes and the Financial Times, speaking on universal basic income and its transformative potential for human agency.

Thu 6 Sep, 9pm: Fran Boait, Executive Director of Positive Money, speaking on transforming the economic system through changing how money works.

Fri 7 Sep, 6.15pm: Andrew Simms, political economist, campaigner and author of *Cancel the Apocalypse: The New Path to Prosperity*, speaking on the efforts to transition rapidly to a low carbon economy.

Fri 7 Sep, 7pm: Kate Raworth, economist and author of *Doughnut Economics*, speaking on how the economy is embedded in, and interdependent with, the social and natural world.

Fri 7 Sep, 8pm: Wanda Wyporska, Executive Director at The Equality Trust, speaking on (in)equality and the redistribution of wealth.

Fri 7 Sep, 9pm: Sue Riddlestone, Co-founder of Bioregional (zero carbon communities BedZED & OneBrighton), author of *London 2012 Olympic Sustainability Strategy*, speaking on how to create low carbon living and its implications.

Sat 8 Sep, 2.15pm: Doina Petrescu, activist, architect and educator, founder of Atelier d'architecture autogerée (Paris), Speaking on architecture for community resilience.

Sat 8 Sep, 3pm: Richard Murphy, political economist & tax avoidance campaigner, speaking on how to reform the UK tax system as the primary means to achieve a better, fairer economics.

Sat 8 Sep, 4pm: Ha-Joon Chang, author of *23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism*, speaking on the power of economics for global justice.

Sat 8 Sep, 5pm: Kriti Sharma, Artificial intelligence technologist/ mobile product inventor, speaking on the power of economics for global justice.

Sat 8 Sep, 6pm: Anna Coote, social policy advocate, analyst and writer, speaking on addressing inequality with universal public services.

Sat 8 Sep, 7pm: Dave Wetzel, activist and land tax expert, speaking on the reform of land ownership and how authorities can use their tax systems to make better use of urban areas

Sat 8 Sep, 9pm: Faiza Shaheen, economist, writer, activist & Director of CLASS, Speaking on restructuring systems to allow full social mobility.

Sun 9 Sep, 2.15pm: Terry McAllister, freelance journalist, writer and former Energy Editor at The Guardian focuses particularly focused on the impact of trade and industry on the environment. Speaking on the future of energy.

Sun 9 Sep, 3pm: Indy Johar, consultant on social systems' change, co-founder of social ventures including Impact Hub Westminster and HubLaunchpad Accelerator, speaking on thinking big, beyond the limits of contemporary capitalism.

Sun 9 Sep, 4pm: Carolyn Steel, architect, lecturer and author of *Hungry City*, speaking on how to imagine the future city through its relationship with food.

Sun 9 Sep, 5pm: Indra Adnan, writer, consultant, psycho-social therapist & founder and Director of the Soft Power Network, speaking on the psychology of society and the redistribution of power.

Sun 9 Sep, 6pm: Kate Fletcher, Professor of Sustainability, Design, Fashion at the Centre for Sustainable Fashion, speaking on fast fashion as a system and how to rethink it.

Sun 9 Sep, 7pm: Paul Mason, journalist (Channel 4 News' economics editor/BBC Newsnight's business editor), filmmaker and author, speaking on the power of collaborative networks for social change.

Booking information

The Pit, Barbican

1 hour 15 minutes/no interval (indicative duration. Tickets are valid for the named speaker's talk only, after which ticket-holders are invited to participate in the installation for as long as they like)

£12 plus booking fee

Age guidance: 13+

Credits

Commissioned and produced by Artsadmin.

Supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England with additional support from Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts, Barbican London, Cockayne – Grants for the Arts and The London Community Foundation, and University of Cambridge.

Developed as part of the Future Scenarios Networked Residency for the Culture and Climate Change project, supported by the Jerwood Charitable Foundation, Open University and Sheffield University. Part of the Season for Change, a UK-wide programme of cultural responses celebrating the environment and inspiring urgent action on climate change.

MEDIA CONTACT

For more information, interviews and images, or to organise a press ticket, contact Alexander Turton alexander@artsadmin.co.uk / 020 7247 5102

ABOUT ARTSADMIN

Artsadmin is a producing organisation, which enables artists to create without boundaries, connecting bold interdisciplinary work with local, national and international audiences. The advisory service supports artists at every stage of their development with free advice and opportunities. In London's East End, Artsadmin has established as its base Toynbee Studios, a centre for the creation, development and presentation of new work, where new talent is constantly nurtured.

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ABOUT METIS

METIS is a performing arts company that works as a network of artists and collaborators. It creates interdisciplinary performance projects that invite citizens to consider and tackle the contemporary challenges facing society. METIS' previous credits include 3rd Ring Out (Greenwich & Docklands International Festival) and World Factory (Young Vic; short-listed for the Berlin Theatertreffen New Projects Prize 2016).

★★★★ "Innovative, thought-provoking and richly absorbing" – Evening Standard on METIS' World Factory

Rigorous research lies behind all METIS' projects. They draw on our fascination with maps, space, technology, travel and history to create expressive pieces that connect and unite people. Performance and installation are accompanied by electronic and printed media, documenting and celebrating the research that underpins each project. METIS are committed to public engagement in their projects – not just at the point of presenting a performance, but through the whole process.

SEASON FOR CHANGE

Season for Change is a UK-wide programme of cultural responses celebrating the environment and inspiring urgent action on climate change, led by Artsadmin and Julie's Bicycle. From June–December 2018, organisations and artists across the UK spark conversations about the future of our planet through performances, exhibitions, talks, film screenings, workshops and events.

www.seasonforchange.org.uk [#SeasonforChange](https://twitter.com/SeasonforChange)