

## FAVOURITE PROJECTS

# Life in the Greenhouse



Rising tides and storm surges – the news is bad and it's getting worse. Here in Britain, a sea level rise of five metres would displace over two million people and flood 10,000 square kilometres of land ... and this is what scientists are telling us may happen this century.

So should we be panicking? A group of ecological artists who have just set out on tour with their new exhibition, Greenhouse Britain, think not. "Every disaster offers new opportunities and points of evolution" says artist David Haley. "This exhibition puts together a set of creative scenarios about how we might be able to live with the effects of rising sea level and climate change - how we might respond and what the outcome of those responses might be. We have taken the science and moved one step further to look at new forms of settlement, new methods of food production and the ways that we might begin to live within a new landscape with other species".

The exhibition has been developed by American eco-artists Newton and Helen Mayer Harrison with their British associates. It has been funded by Defra as part of their 'communicating climate change' initiative and is based on the work of many of our top science institutes such as the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change, Sheffield University and the Grassland and Environmental Research Centre in Devon. The centrepiece will be a giant model of the country on which we can

witness for ourselves the rising waters as they slowly redraw our coastline.

"The oceans will rise gracefully. Can we withdraw with equal grace?" This is the central question of the exhibition. "It's about storytelling for the future" says the producer Chris Fremantle. "There are many statistics being bandied around about climate change and it's really difficult to forecast what will actually happen. So we are asking the really important question of 'what is it that we want to create for ourselves?' As human beings we are only one of the inhabitants of the planet and what we do will change things for all the other inhabitants. So what is the story we want to be telling? With this exhibition we are asking more than simply how we cut our carbon emissions. We are asking how it is that we imagine ourselves living in the future".

Down in the South West we are lucky enough to have Greenhouse Britain opening at Devon's Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World (CCANW) until 23rd December. It's a great opportunity to see how a group of artists can work together with scientists and politicians to look at the single most important issue of our times: How do we want to live and how do we go about it?

[www.ccanw.co.uk](http://www.ccanw.co.uk); 01392 832277  
[www.greenhousebritain.net](http://www.greenhousebritain.net)

A CELEBRATION OF ALTERNATIVE AND GREEN LIFESTYLE IN THE SOUTH WEST

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