

# climate change

DANIELLE EUBANK MN'15  
danielle@danieleubank.com

Climate change has exacerbated global average temperatures, leading to a reduction of crops, increased sea rise and flood risks, decreasing river flow in many rivers, increases in area burned by wildfire in the western United States and a rapid melting-rate of Arctic sea ice. Less ice cover in the Arctic means species endangerment and decreasing albedo leading to amplified global warming.

I have made it my life's work to show the preciousness of water and how critical saving the oceans is to combatting climate change. I began my quest to paint the Earth's five major oceans in 2001 and, since then, I've painted more than 250 bodies of water in and around 22 countries. I have been an expedition artist aboard three sailing expeditions: *Phoenicia*, a recreation of a 600 BCE vessel that circumnavigated Africa; *The Borobudur Ship*, a recreation of an 800 CE Indonesian vessel that sailed from Indonesia to Ghana; and *The Arctic Circle*, a voyage to the high Arctic on a three-masted barquentine. I am committed to using my art to forward our public conversation about how climate change threatens our seas and what we can do, in our own lives, to support the environment. Through the theme of water, I explore natural forms and the consequences of the human footprint on landscapes all over the world as I paint the world's major bodies of water. Destruction surrounds many sites where I paint water. I consider the forms created by water ripples, oil slicks and refuse to be a foundation for deconstruction. I create patterns within patterns, representing vertical stacks of rhythms in the physical matter I paint. Looking for formal value is my way of coping with the destruction.

I am helping people take small steps to combat climate change. For the Creative Climate Awards exhibition\*, I have created 24 handheld cards with my artwork on one side and small, simple suggested steps we all can take to help combat climate change, on the reverse. Changes such as waiting to run the dishwasher until you have a full load, or drinking tap water instead of water from plastic

bottles, make a big impact on our oceans and waterways and take very little effort on our part. In addition to the cards, I am showing the *Phoenicia Reflection III* collection.

Why? According to EcoCivilization.info and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, if everyone on the planet was responsible for emitting 3 tons of carbon dioxide per year that would equal what is naturally absorbed by the ocean, soil, and biomass. This would maintain an equal amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, a balance. Right now the global average is 4.5 tons of carbon dioxide per person per year. Lowering our emissions from 4.5 tons to 3 tons doesn't sound too difficult. That would take care of the threat of climate change!

Unfortunately the average person in the United States produces 17.5 tons per person per year. Some countries perform worse. While the U.S. is about 10th on the list there are many of us, so it's vital that we lower our carbon dioxide emissions. The biggest driver of creating carbon dioxide is burning fossil fuels: coal, oil, and gas. So, how can an individual make a difference? My philosophy is that each of us can do something, however small, to help. Here are a few items, as noted on my cards, that you can start doing today:

- I will switch to LEDs. In the US, broad use of LEDs over 10 years could save the equivalent annual electrical output of 44 power plants (about 348 TWh). [curbed.com]

- I won't do the dishes until I have a full load. My dishwasher uses 12 gallons of water whether it's full or empty. [epa.ohio.gov]

- I will walk and ride my bike more which will reduce my carbon footprint by one pound for every mile I don't drive. [earthday.org]

- I will drink tap water. Around 90% of water bottles end up in landfills rather than being recycled. [50waystohelp.com]

- I will wash clothes in cold water. It is as effective as using warm and 75% of greenhouse-gas emissions produced by a load of laundry come from warming the water. [curbed.com]

One does not need to become a saint or live an impossible life that has no relationship to the modern world. It's imperative to take the time to enjoy and observe the natural environment. That's why I paint water. I am inspired by the natural world. A crack in the tree bark, the color of a beetle's wing, or a blue snow shadow creates imprints in my mind. Equally, human endeavors, particularly in the arts and sciences, motivate me. Anyone using creative drive to push the boundaries of their field should be applauded.

My oil on linen paintings deal with the formal qualities of wavelets and curlicues, from bodies of water all over the world. I focus to the basic elements that constitute water. I want people to really look, observe, and hopefully appreciate our most valuable resource. This is a way I can make a difference.

In my quest to paint Earth's five oceans, I am scheduled to travel to Antarctica in February 2019 to paint my last ocean, the Southern Ocean, as part of my landmark series, *One Artist Five Oceans*. I hope this will help bring awareness to a broader audience about climate change and the state of our oceans (www.oneartistfiveoceans.com).



EDNOTE: MULTI-TALENTED DANIELLE EUBANK'S PHOTOGRAPH WAS SELECTED FOR USE ON OUR MOST RECENT MEMBERSHIP CARD

\* THE CREATIVE CLIMATE AWARDS ARE AN ANNUAL SERIES OF EVENTS THAT SHOWCASE ARTISTS CREATING CLIMATE-INSPIRED PERFORMANCES, INSTALLATIONS, AND EXHIBITS. "WE USE THE ARTS AND CREATIVITY TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE, BROADEN THE CLIMATE CONVERSATION, EDUCATE, AND INCITE ACTION," EXPLAINS TARA DEPORTE, FOUNDER OF THE HUMAN IMPACTS INSTITUTE.



SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA 44X28" (2010)



CAPE TOWN WATERFRONT II 38X38" (2014)



ARCTIC XI 80X72" (2018)



ISLE OF MULL, SCOTLAND 26X44" (2014) | ALL PAINTINGS ARE OIL ON LINEN BY DANIELLE EUBANK