

Activity sheet

Title of work: A People's Archive of Sinking and Melting

Artist: Amy Balkin

An 'archive' is a collection of objects or documents. Amy's archive helps people to understand that some places are disappearing because of the changing climate.

These objects come from all over the world - including Antarctica, Nepal, Senegal, Peru and Greenland. Though we all share life on earth, often it is rich countries that cause the most damage to it, but poor countries that are the worst affected!

For this exhibition, Talbot Rice Gallery is asking people from all over Scotland to send in objects with a description.

Activity:

Think/Write

What objects do you think would tell people about important changes taking place in our world?

What name would you give your object?

What is it made of?

When and where did you find it?

What else would you tell other people about it?

Draw your object:

Activity sheet

Title of work: Growth Assembly

Artist: Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg and Sascha Pohflepp

Through these drawings the artists imagine a future where plants could grow anything we might want, including machine parts!

In this future all we would need is a seed. This work shows us different parts that fit together to make a 'herbicide sprayer' – a machine that kills unwanted plants.

The artists let us decide whether it is good or bad that people choose which plants live or die. The old-fashioned style of drawing reminds us that in the past people haven't always got this right.

Activity:

Draw

Imagine that the things you use every day (handles, footballs, shoes, bushes) were grown inside plants, what would those plants look like?

Think

Do you think it is okay that we just expect plants and other things in nature to do things for us?

Activity sheet

Title of work: There's No Place Called Home (Edinburgh)

Artist: James Webb

Do you remember how quiet it was during the first lockdown? With no cars, no airplanes and no builders at work, it was so easy to hear the birds sing.

Sadly, global warming is making things hard for a lot of birds. As the Earth heats up their homes might change, they might have to change where they fly or even flee from wild fires. Some birds might even decide not to travel anymore.

James has hidden speakers in a tree in the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh that play the sound of a bird called a Jamaican Becard, a bird you only find in Jamaica (so far). He has done this kind of project many times before in different places and with different birds. This way he gets us to think about faraway places and why the birds might have suddenly arrived in our city.

Activity:

Visit

Take a postcard from the exhibition and see if you can find James' work at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (check with an adult and remind them to book a ticket).

Can you recognise the sound of a bird that comes from a very long way away?

Remember / Write

How many names of birds can you remember?

Write a list of bird names:

Think

In what ways do you think that the things we do affect these birds and how they: sing, sleep, fly, make nests, find their way around or find food? What do you think it might be like to fly across the world?

Activity sheet

Title of work: The Lure of Tomorrow's Harvests

Artist: Tonya McMullen

During lockdown, Tonya felt that with less traffic and more flowers blooming the bees would have a really good year. So, she worked with beekeepers across Edinburgh to collect honey and then worked with scientists to find out which plants the bees had visited.

The honeys are all kinds of different colours, and the strange images the scientists made of the pollen from the plants show that they have lots of different things in them. Tonya wants us to think about our relationship to other creatures and how we might look after them better in the future.

Activity:

Think

Choose other animals or insects and think about how they might be able to help you map the city in a different way.

Draw

Can you draw the kind of map your chosen animal might help make?

OR

Tonya's work looks like a real beehive. Can you draw a picture of what an archive made for your chosen animal would look like?