

Press Release

SERPENTINE PODCAST SEASON 3: BACK TO EARTH

NEW PODCAST SERIES ON ART & ECOLOGY



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How can art respond to the climate emergency?

This 8 part podcast series follows artists and an art organisation developing projects, interventions and campaigns at the crossroads of art and the climate emergency.

Presented by artist **Victoria Sin** with Serpentine's curator of General Ecology **Lucia Pietroiusti**, plus special-guest hosts throughout, the *Back to Earth* podcast series brings together conversations, sound commissions, music and field reports, tracking the journey of an arts institution dedicating itself to artist-driven approaches to ecology, technology and equality.

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This podcast is part of a wider *Back to Earth* project, which invites 65+ artists to devise an environmental campaign or intervention to respond to contemporary ecological crises. *Back to Earth* will run throughout the Serpentine Galleries' programmes onsite, offsite and online, in 2020 and beyond. Bringing together voices across disciplines, the series offers a vital opportunity to join the research and discussions that inform the Galleries' activities at such a critical time of planetary-scale human and ecological emergencies.

Produced by Reduced Listening.

Episode 1: 'How Do We Get There?' – 3 April 2020

How can art respond to the climate emergency? How can the Serpentine, in its 50th year, contribute to discourse around the climate crisis in a meaningful way? Hosts Victoria Sin and Lucia Pietroiusti welcome you to a new season of Serpentine Podcast, back in the studio to reveal how a radical new programme for the Serpentine is being shaped.

- Serpentine Artistic Director **Hans Ulrich Obrist** explains how his personal actions are inspired by artists.

- Climate Justice campaigner **Suzanne Dhaliwal** describes a decolonised view of climate activism

- London-based art duo **Cooking Sections** share a rich archive of environmental campaigns throughout history with contributions from students from the Royal College of Art's School of Architecture.

Sound design by **Brian Eno**. Additional sound by Cooking Sections.

Episode 2: 'Sowing the Seeds' – 17 April 2020

How are artists developing campaigns for the Earth? How can an artwork reconnect us with the environment? Can we "feel" the speed of climate change, or hear the sounds of a seed? Episode 2, hosts Victoria Sin & Lucia Pietroiusti welcome Ayesha Tan Jones, James Bridle & Cecilia Vicuña, three artists participating in *Back to Earth*, to begin to sow the seeds of their multifaceted campaigns.

- Artist, musician and witch **Ayesha Tan Jones** shares their plans to bring balance and harmony through singing in sacred and un-sacred sites.

- Artist and writer **James Bridle** speaks about trees as "very slow animals" and suggests a simple way for measuring the speed of climate change in your own home.

- The episode also features Seed Songs by **Cecilia Vicuña**, recorded in the foothills of the Andes mountains, Chile, in 2015, as well as excerpts from the opera *Parasites of Pangu* by Ayesha Tan Jones

Over the rest of the fortnightly series listeners will gain an insight into some of the *Back to Earth* campaigns, including diaries from the artists and progress reports from the field. The series will also focus a number of special episodes on particular topics, from the question of environmental personhood in legal structures through to ecological design.

A newly-programmed episode, released in May, will also take some time to reflect on the Covid-19 outbreak, to consider the pandemic in its global, interspecies and environmental context.

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Press images at serpentinegalleries.org/press

Notes to Editors

Serpentine Galleries

Championing the possibilities of new ideas in contemporary art since opening in 1970, the Serpentine has presented pioneering exhibitions for half a century, showing a wide range of work from emerging practitioners to the most internationally recognised artists of our time, providing a place for them to experiment and an open platform for them to be seen and heard.

Victoria Sin is a London based artist concerned with the experience of the physical within the social body. Their work explores desire, identification and objectification within systems of looking and reification of ideal images within technologies of representation. They work across performance, moving image, writing, installation, and print, and use drag as a tool to challenge expectations and attitudes on femme identities and how images and iconography of femininity are produced, inscribed, and performed. Their long term project, Dream Babes, explores speculative fiction as a productive strategy of queer resistance, invading existing narratives around naturalised states of sex, gender and race, imaging futurity that does not depend on existing historical and social infrastructure.

Lucia Pietroiusti is Curator of General Ecology at the Serpentine Galleries (London) as well as the Curator of Sun & Sea (Marina) by Rugile Barzdziukaite, Vaiva Grainyte and Lina Lapelyte, the Lithuanian Pavilion at the 58th Venice Biennale, 2019, awarded the Golden Lion for Best National Participation. She is the curator (with Filipa Ramos) of the durational festival on interspecies consciousness, [The Shape of a Circle in the Mind of a Fish](#) (2018-19) as well as the research, publication and performance project, [PLANTSEX](#), on erotics and botany. Since 2013, she has programmed and produced research projects, artist commissions and performances, as well as film and collaborative partnerships, at the Serpentine Galleries. Pietroiusti was the co-curator of the 2018 (Work), 2016 (Miracle), 2015 (Transformation) and 2014 (Extinction) editions of the Serpentine's yearly Marathon festival of art, science and technology; and the co-curator (with Kay Watson) and co-presenter (with Victoria Sin) of [The Serpentine Podcast](#). Previously, Pietroiusti has been Assistant Curator at the Irish Museum of Modern Art (2007-2009) and Associate Editor of the journal of the arts and letters, Boulevard Magenta (2008-2010). Pietroiusti is currently researching more-than-humanism, ecology, interspecies consciousness, species extinction, plant intelligence, botany and myth.

Reduced Listening produces award-winning original podcasts for the BBC, Google, Audible, The Financial Times, Serpentine Galleries, Frieze, Somerset House and Manchester International Festival. They also make the experimental music show Late Junction for BBC Radio 3, as well as documentaries and culture focused speech radio.