

MADELINE SUGERMAN (FL)



Climactic Upheaval, encaustic mixed media,
12 x 10 inches

Whether one believes in the Greenhouse effect and depletion of the Earth's ozone layer or natural cyclic variations in our climate, there is no doubt that Planet Earth is warming.

The increasing frequency and intensity of volcanic eruptions and earthquakes parallel the dramatic melting of the polar ice caps and glaciers worldwide. Thus sea levels are rising and coastal cities are in constant danger of flooding. The most vulnerable cities are under the threat of being consumed in their entirety. The frequency of ferocious hurricanes worldwide is a direct result of atmospheric and ocean warming. Even coral reefs have been ravaged by increasing ocean temperatures. In fact, Australia's Great Barrier Reef may be damaged beyond the possibility of recovery. Our reef systems are an important link in the oceanic food chain allowing our fisheries to thrive as a food source for humankind.

Global warming has fueled the intensity of wild fires, severe droughts and loss of valuable farmland. Increasing temperature and humidity worldwide provide an incubator for dangerous viruses to spawn and wreak havoc on us in the form of pandemics. Our melting glaciers have unleashed dangerous microbes which laid dormant for centuries, frozen in time, to emerge once again.

So in all of this what is the role of the artist? We cannot undo the ravages that fossil fuels have inflicted. We cannot cure the bleaching and degradation of the coral reefs, but through our rich palettes of fiery crimson and orange we can depict the assault on our planet by seismic and volcanic destruction. The hues of icy blue represent melting of the glaciers and swelling of the oceans. The earthy brown tones are reflective of our forests and their threat of consumption by vicious conflagrations. Scientific advancement may help the Earth survive but artists will always be the soul of the march to end Global Warming.

Madeline Sugerman
Artist Statement