

See Things Differently – Nicola Anthony's live installation at Expo 2020 Dubai interacts with #COP26 Tweets to represent tipping point of global action on climate crisis



The Flow of Time (Singapore Art Museum Installation View) by Nicola Anthony, Paper fragments, ceramic fragments, mirror polished aluminium, 360 x 150 x 150cm

A live sculpture commission at the UK Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai will draw attention to issues around the environment and sustainability by connecting with online conversations on COP26.

From the 1st – 9th November 2021, visitors will be able to see British contemporary artist Nicola Anthony, member of the Royal Society of Sculptors, working to create a new sculpture inside the Inspiration Gallery on the commissioning theme, *See Things Differently*. The time frame coincides with the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference, or COP26, scheduled to be held in the city of Glasgow between 31 October and 12 November.

The interactive installation will respond to live tweets with fibre optics pulsing and flashing in response to messages carrying the COP26 hashtag. Those tweeting will be active participants in the artwork and the flashes of light signify voices around the world which together will represent a global conversation. The work symbolises the notions of unity, solidarity and responsibility, that we must all act together to avoid the potential climate crisis.

Reflecting on time and balance, Nicola Anthony will build a 2-metre hourglass-shaped installation through which the fibreoptics will hang. Suspended from above, the hourglass, which will be encapsulated within a 2.75-metre steel box frame, will appear on its side to represent a turning point. The shape of the glass will be formed from fragments hanging on nylon thread; recycled paper and scavenged ocean waste materials. A view of the earth made up of pixels will reveal itself at the circular end of the sculpture.

Nicola Anthony said: *"I often use the shape of an hourglass in my sculpture to symbolise important moments and turning points. In this work it also references the tipping point which we are fast approaching with our environment, and I hope that the audience will think about sustainability, balance, and regeneration."*

The commission will feature alongside a host of talent from across the UK's creative industries, during 'In the Future, How Will We Create?' – a five-day innovation themed event that will explore how creativity can tackle some of the major challenges of our time.

Nicola Anthony was selected for the Live Sculpture Commission for the cultural programme of the UK at Expo 2020 Dubai by an industry panel led by Clare Burnett, President of the Royal Society of Sculptors, with Dr Paul Thompson, Vice Chancellor of the Royal College of Art (Heritage partner of the UK Pavilion) and Dan Ramsey, Director, GREAT Britain and Northern Ireland campaign.

Laura Faulkner OBE, UK Commissioner General for Expo 2020 Dubai, says: *"The UK has long inspired the world through our creative industries, so we are all excited that such an accomplished sculpture as Nicola will be creating a new piece at the Pavilion. Creativity is the spark for innovation and seeing things differently is something we will all have to do to overcome global challenges. The Live Sculpture Commission will be an incredible addition to our cultural programme and we can't wait for visitors to the UK Pavilion to experience it."*

On 11th November, Nicola will host a talk at the pavilion, where she will discuss her work and the thought process behind it.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

For further information on the Live Sculpture Commission please contact Julia Safe, Account Manager, Flint Culture - julia.safe@flint-culture.com

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Additional information on the work:

The found materials have been collected from UK and Dubai beaches, with thanks to [Companies For Good](#) who helped Nicola Anthony to gather ghost nets and beach refuse in Dubai.

The fibre optics and control system are supplied and commissioned by [Sciencetech Lighting Solutions](#) in partnership with [Fibre Pros](#).

About Nicola Anthony

Nicola Anthony is a British artist known for metal text sculptures and burned paper assemblages, which give glimpses into the effects of displacement, migration, intergenerational trauma, and emergent behaviour in society. She focuses her research on untold narratives, collective memory, hybrid intelligence and the embodiment of life stories. She is also influenced by epigenetics, big data, linguistics, and the inseparable existence of nature and culture.

Anthony has been shortlisted for the Sovereign Art Prize 2020, recently had three works acquired by Ingram Collection of British Art, and has been spotlighted by Smartify as one of 50 noteworthy female artists in UK collections.

Select public sculptures are in London Villiers Street, National University of Ireland (commissioned by European city of culture 2020), Aspen Colorado, Marina Bay Singapore, Lim Chin Tsong Palace (Myanmar), and National Design Centre (Singapore).

In recent years she had a solo exhibition at Singapore Art Museum, exhibited at the Kuala Lumpur Biennale, the Tsunami Museum in Indonesia, and created public sculptures in the USA, Ireland, England and Singapore. Featured in influential public and private collections around the world, she has been shortlisted for the Sovereign Asian Art Prize, received the 'New Voices of Ireland' award, and has had three works acquired by The Ingram Collection of British Art.

Nicola graduated from University of the Arts London and Loughborough University in the early 2000s, where her degree exhibition was sponsored by Tate Britain, and subsequently won the Astrazeneca Commission 2006. She now works between her two artist studios in the UK and Singapore, and is also a trustee for the Royal Society of Sculptors in the UK.

About Royal Society of Sculptors

The Royal Society of Sculptors is an artist-led, membership organisation created more than 100 years ago to champion contemporary sculpture and the artists who create it. They provide a supportive membership community to sculptors throughout their careers, offering access to expert advice, training, bursaries, residencies and awards. The Society leads the conversation about sculpture today through exhibitions and events for all. Today it welcomes everyone interested in exploring this art form and its many possibilities.

The Royal Society of Sculptors is based in London's South Kensington, in a beautiful listed building, Dora House, that hosts an array of exhibitions, artists' talks and creative workshops.

Sculptors.org.uk | [@royal_sculptors](https://twitter.com/royal_sculptors)

About the UK at Expo 2020 Dubai

The UK is participating in Expo 2020 Dubai, taking place from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022. More than 190 nations are taking part with 70% of the visitors expected from around the world. The overarching theme for Expo 2020 Dubai is 'Connecting Minds, Creating the Future'.

The UK's participation in Expo 2020 Dubai will be led by the Department for International Trade (DIT), with support from the Devolved Administrations and other UK Government Departments. The UK's presence will consist of a self-build country Pavilion and an accompanying business, cultural, tourism and education events programme. The theme of the UK Pavilion is 'Innovating for a Shared Future' and will be based in the 'Opportunity' district. Find out more on the [UK at Expo 2020 Dubai website](#)