

CLIMARTE

ARTS FOR A SAFE CLIMATE

Media release

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It's time for the arts to take a stand on climate change

As political leaders continue to negotiate small steps for action on climate change in Cancun in Mexico, a new non partisan and not for profit group has formed to represent the deep running climate concerns of people working in all sectors of the Australian Arts industry.

The new initiative launched in Melbourne today calls for all those involved in the arts sector— including arts organisations, practitioners, administrators, patrons and academics from the visual arts, music, theatre, dance, literature, design, architecture, and cinema—to form a broad alliance to advocate for urgent action to address the critical threat of climate change.

CLIMARTE co-founder and convenor Guy Abrahams said: “We have heard the scientists. We have watched and waited for our politicians to act. We have watched them argue amongst themselves and then do almost nothing. We have witnessed a failure of leadership, a failure of nerve, a failure of creativity, and a failure of morality. Perhaps the Federal Government’s new Climate Change Committee marks a move in the right direction; but let’s not wait to see.”

Launched during the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico, CLIMARTE hopes to attract a strong following in the arts sector to help create a growing influence from civil society for action on climate change.

“By joining CLIMARTE members will acknowledge the enormous risks that human induced climate change poses to our world,” Mr Abrahams said.

“Our aim is to create a strong arts voice to join with other concerned citizens in calling for immediate, effective action to be taken to restore a safe climate.”

The arts have a unique role in communicating the risk of climate change in ways that scientists cannot, Mr Abrahams said.

“The arts can not only *show* but indeed they can make us *feel* the very problems that we are facing. They can inspire us to acknowledge that we are part of nature and not separate from it.”

For more information contact Guy Abrahams at guy.abrahams@climarte.org or 0409 428 600