Where art meets science
Pollution Pods
Experiencing air pollution in settings around the world

Place des Nations, Geneva
Monday 29 October 16:00–18:00
Tuesday 30 October 09:00–18:00
Wednesday 31 October 09:00–19:30
Thursday 01 November 09:00–18:00
Friday 02 November 09:00–18:00

On the occasion of the
FIRST WHO GLOBAL CONFERENCE
ON AIR POLLUTION AND HEALTH
IMPROVING AIR QUALITY, COMBATTING CLIMATE CHANGE – SAVING LIVES

Pollution Pods is a sensory art exhibit created by UK artist Michael Pinsky. Six geodesic domes are connected in a ring. Within each dome, the air quality in various locations around the world is simulated. The visitor passes through each pod, moving between different settings, with different levels of air pollution as well as arid to humid and cooler to warmer climate conditions.

A carefully mixed and harmless recipe simulates the relative presence of ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide that pollute these cities, also replicating the different climate zones.
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About the Pollution Pods

Pollution Pods was commissioned by Climart, an interdisciplinary and international research project, which has brought together environmental psychologists, natural scientists and artists in order to investigate how environmental art functions as a tool for climate change communication. The Climart team collaborated with chemists at the Norwegian Institute of Air Research and AirLabs. The exhibit aims to raise awareness about the reality in different regions of the world regarding air pollution and health, and increases demand for action. The lead artist, Pinsky, will be present at the exhibition as well as other interpreters to guide visitors and talk about the issues of air pollution and health.

About the artist

Michael Pinsky is a British artist whose work has been shown in galleries and public spaces internationally. Taking the combined roles of artist, urban planner, activist, researcher and citizen, he often starts residencies and commissions without a specified agenda, working with local people and resources, allowing the physical, social and political environment to define his work methodology. Past work has been shown at TATE Britain; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chengdu; Saatchi Gallery; Victoria and Albert Museum; Institute for Contemporary Art, London; La Villette, Paris; BALTIC, Gateshead; Centre for Contemporary Art, Glasgow and more.

Conference

The First WHO Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health: Improving Air Quality, Combatting Climate Change – Saving Lives is taking 30 October – 1 November in Geneva. The Conference at WHO headquarters in Geneva, is being held in collaboration with UN Environment, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), The World Bank, Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It brings together ministers of health, finance and development, as well as urban leaders, activists and scientists, to talk about this global health threat that kills some 7 million people annually and also accelerates climate change.

Further information:

Pollution Pods is managed by Cape Farewell an arts organization which fosters cross disciplinary collaborations to raise awareness around climate change.

This exhibit is organized by the World Health Organization with the support of the Swiss Confederation.