

# Grantham Climate Art Prize 2023



**Palette for the Planet**  
**A greener, cleaner, cooler future**  
A competition for 11-25 year olds to make  
a creative difference on the street



# Time to make a difference



**‘Art is a powerful way of communicating ideas, thought & emotion.**

**I feel privileged to support a prize that enables young artists to communicate their commitment, ideas and sense of urgency about how we tackle the climate crisis.’**

*Helen Cammock, Turner prize winning artist & Patron of the Grantham Climate Art Prize*

Our planet is warming. Taking action on climate change will mean, quite literally, the world.

For the Grantham Climate Art Prize 2023 we’re focussing on the positive actions that we can **all** take to tackle the climate crisis and help our environment.

We need governments, policymakers and businesses to make big decisions. Of course we do. We need them to make drastic emission cuts that limit climate change to acceptable levels, but they’re not alone. **We are in it together.** Each individual small change that we make will have ripples across the globe.

We’ve identified 9 things that we can all do to help. Small changes can make a big difference. But how do we get the message across?

We need you. We need your help.

The Grantham Climate Art Prize is a **nationwide** competition for young people to draw attention to the climate crisis and the need for urgent, positive action.

If you are aged 11-25 years old, we want you to take inspiration from our **9 things you can do about climate change**. Whether you choose to illustrate one thing - or all of them. We want you to design a mural to convey to your community what we all need to do.

Pick up your pencils. Share a slogan. Grab your palette for the planet. Help create a **greener, cleaner, cooler future**.

**Three winning designs** will be recreated by professional mural artists in three cities before the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference COP28 starts in November 2023. Winners will receive a £500 prize, with 6 runners-up receiving £250. Their work will be shown on bus shelters, the tube network and billboards across London to reach politicians and decision makers. They will then be seen nationally as part of an ongoing exhibition of the Grantham Climate Art Prize.

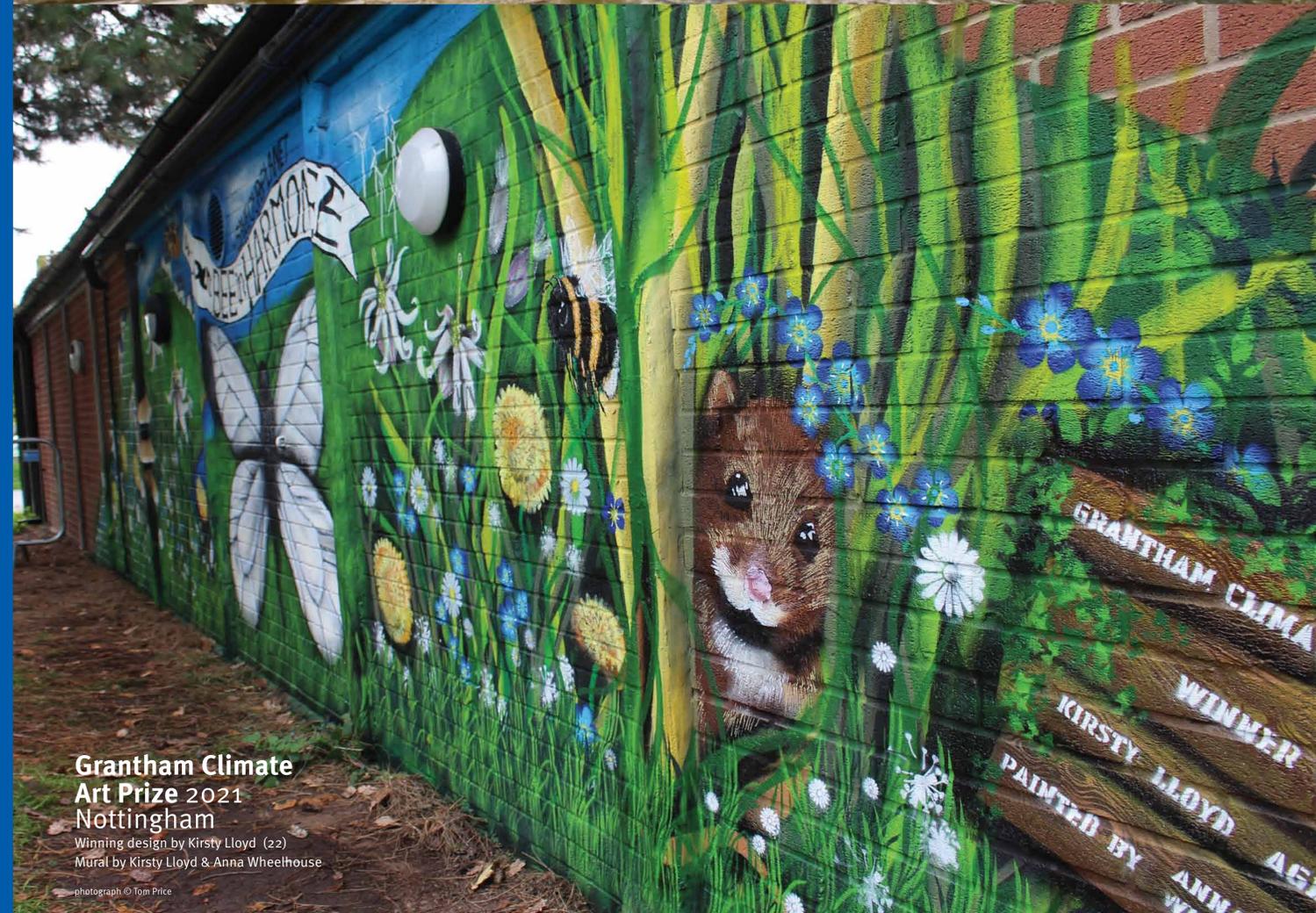
**Make your mural matter!**

**We can’t wait to see your designs.**

**Good luck from us all!**



**Grantham Climate Art Prize 2021**  
Stoke-on-Trent  
Winning design by Jasmine Barrett (23)  
Mural by Grega Greaves (CANS)



**Grantham Climate Art Prize 2021**  
Nottingham  
Winning design by Kirsty Lloyd (22)  
Mural by Kirsty Lloyd & Anna Wheelhouse

photograph © Tom Price



# Grantham Climate Art Prize 2023

The Grantham Institute – Climate Change and the Environment at Imperial College London is delighted to be teaming up again with Octopus Energy to deliver this year’s competition.

The Grantham Climate Art Prize is a biennial competition for young people to design murals and billboards drawing attention to the climate crisis and the need for urgent, positive action revealing messages of hope for the future.

## Previous Prizes

In 2018, the Grantham Institute – Climate Change and the Environment at Imperial College London brought together exciting emerging artistic talent and top climate and environmental researchers for the first Grantham Art Prize. Working with the Royal College of Art, it fused together art and science to create conversations about the urgent issue of climate change.

In 2021, the conversation took to the streets, breaking free from the white gallery walls and scientific laboratories with the newly re-imagined Grantham Climate Art Prize.

Capturing the thoughts and hopes of young people through workshops and an open competition, seven murals were painted in Brighton, East London, Glasgow, Leicester, Nottingham, Rochdale and Stoke-on-Trent. An additional artwork was painted, in South-West London, as part of a pilot project to reconnect school students to nature particularly affected by lockdowns and COVID-19.

Created for their local communities – and designed to capture the imagination of world leaders and decision-makers at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference COP26 and beyond – the murals reflected young peoples’ hopes for our climate, our environment and the species that sustain us.

Through the competition we heard from Colin, Mayokun, Julia, Kirsty, Laszlo, Mya, Stephany, Muhammad, Jasmine and 101 other young people who want to make a positive impact, who want change to happen on their doorstep.

In 2023, we are looking for you to join them to help make a positive impact on the world around us with this year’s prize.

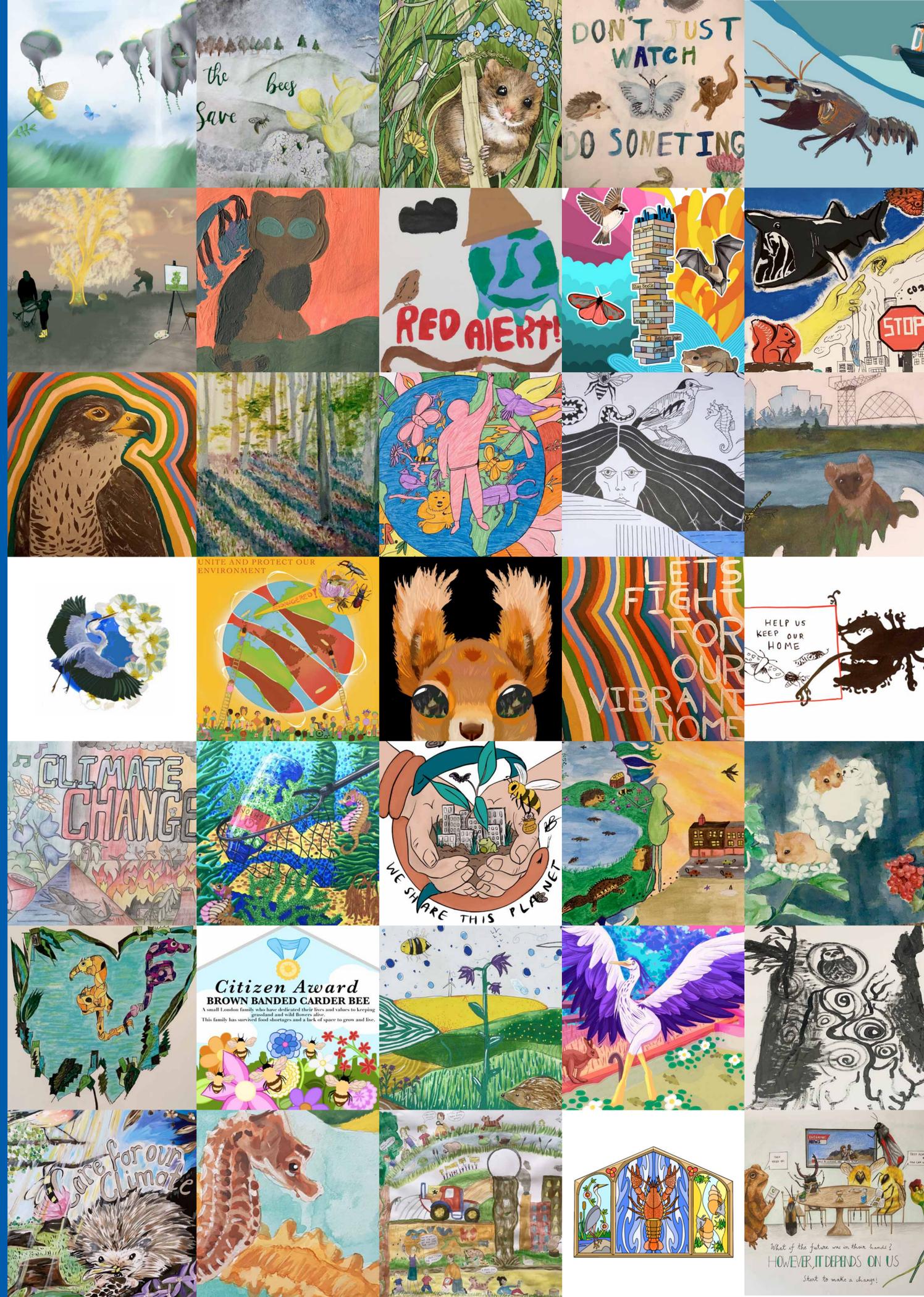
**‘Art has the potential to inspire minds and touch emotions in a way that science alone often finds challenging.’**

*Martin Siegert, Visiting Professor at the Grantham Institute*

**‘Including young people in the climate conversation should be common practice. The climate emergency impacts every aspect of our future’**

*Jasmine Barrett, winning designer of the Stoke-on-Trent mural in 2021*

Opposite: A snapshot of entries from the Grantham Climate Art Prize 2021 focussed on biodiversity loss and endangered species in the UK.





Grantham Climate Art Prize 2021 Brighton  
 Winning design by Julia Skulska (18)  
 Mural by Charlie Rallings at Brighton Think Big  
 photograph © Elise Pitthouse



Grantham Climate Art Prize 2021 East London  
 Winning design by Mya Subong (24)  
 Mural by Michelle Meola  
 photograph © Gerry Tissier

# 9 Things you can do about climate change



- #1 Make your voice heard by those in power**  
 Tell your MP or local councillors about changes you'd like to see to improve the environment, air quality, green spaces, cycling infrastructure, energy efficient homes, etc.
- #2 Eat Less Meat and Dairy**  
 Avoiding meat and dairy, particularly beef and lamb will reduce your environmental impact. One eighth of Greenhouse Gas Emissions come from meat and dairy products.
- #3 Cut back on flying**  
 Try to holiday closer to home and when possible travel by train, hold meetings online instead of flying abroad for work.
- #4 Leave the car at home**  
 Try to walk, cycle or take public transport whenever possible and try to share lifts, or use an electric car e.g. from a hire or car club scheme if the only possible way is by car.
- #5 Reduce your energy use and bills**  
 Make sure your home is energy efficient and well insulated, use low energy light bulbs, switch to a green energy tariff, turn down the heating and wear extra layers.
- #6 Respect and protect green spaces**  
 Green spaces absorb carbon dioxide emissions and can reduce flooding by absorbing surface rainwater. They also provide a habitat for birds, insects, amphibians, and mammals.
- #7 Spend and bank your money as responsibly as you can**  
 Choose an ethical bank account where your money won't be invested in fossil fuels.
- #8 Cut consumption and waste**  
 Avoid single use items and fast fashion by repairing items and reusing them or passing them on/ donating them to charity. Also reduce the food you waste. 1/3 of food is wasted!
- #9 Talk about the changes you make**  
 Share your tips on positive changes you have made with your friends and family – don't be confrontational – be positive and encourage them!

**'If everyone who passed by each mural did one extra thing to help stop climate change - whether it be picking up a piece of litter, having a vegetarian sandwich for lunch, or writing a letter to your MP demanding action - it really would make a difference'**

*Dr Will Pearse, Senior Lecturer in Applied Ecology at Imperial College London*

**Go to our Action Hub to find out more**  
[www.imperial.ac.uk/grantham/news/action-hub/](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/grantham/news/action-hub/)

# The design brief and a few tips



Create an original mural design that represents a message of hope based on the Grantham Institute's **9 things you can do about climate change** to present a greener, cleaner, cooler future.

You can submit any type of 2D art. It can be a painting, a drawing, photography or a typographic solution. Your design must be your own original artwork. Don't use other peoples' imagery or AI.

## Top tips for creating your artwork

- Your design will be scaled up to go on a large wall. It will be BIG. Think about how much detail is needed. Be clear, bright and bold.
- Don't overcomplicate your imagery with lots of different messages.
- Imagine someone walking past your design. They might look at your design for 5-15 seconds. How does it make them feel? Will it make them stop and think?
- Join one of our workshops with insights by artists and climate scientists. Follow us on social media to find out when and where.
- Try showing your design to people you trust. Did it provoke the reaction that you wanted? If not, try and take on board constructive criticism. If the answer is yes, then its time to finish it, photograph it and submit it.
- When you send in your design via the online form make sure you take a photograph in good light with no shadows. Is it in focus and fully visible? Your file needs to be a JPEG, PNG, EPS file and under 10MB.

You need to submit your entry by **Friday 15 September 2023**.

You must be aged **11-25** when you enter.

## How will your work be judged?

Your design will be judged in three age groups: 11 – 14, 15 – 18, 19 – 25

We are looking for:

- **Creativity and originality.**
- **A Positive message:** Does your design provides a message of hope on climate change?
- **Deliverable, Impactful & Clear:** Can the image be reproduced easily by an artist as a wall mural? Is your message clear? Did you hit the brief?

## Any Questions?

Check out our FAQs here: [octopus.energy/grantham-art-prize-2023/](https://octopus.energy/grantham-art-prize-2023/)

## Helpful links

Grantham Institute - Climate Change & the Environment, Imperial College  
[imperial.ac.uk/grantham/about-us/](https://imperial.ac.uk/grantham/about-us/)

Nine Things You Can Do About Climate Change  
[imperial.ac.uk/stories/climate-action/](https://imperial.ac.uk/stories/climate-action/)

9 Things you can do for your health and the planet  
[imperial.ac.uk/grantham/publications/9-things-you-can-do-for-your-health-and-the-planet.php](https://imperial.ac.uk/grantham/publications/9-things-you-can-do-for-your-health-and-the-planet.php)

9 things you can do to protect the natural world  
[imperial.ac.uk/stories/protecting-nature/](https://imperial.ac.uk/stories/protecting-nature/)

Saving the planet one meal at a time  
[granthaminstitute.com/2019/06/25/saving-the-planet-one-meal-at-a-time/](https://granthaminstitute.com/2019/06/25/saving-the-planet-one-meal-at-a-time/)

## Social Media

 @Grantham\_IC  
@OctopusEnergy

 imperialcollege  
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 Imperial College London  
Octopus Energy

 @imperialcollegevideo &  
@OctopusEnergy



## Grantham Climate Art Prize 2021 Glasgow

Winning design by Colin Li (14)  
Mural by Ciaran Globel & Conzo Throb, Globel Bros.

photograph © Conzo Throb





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