

Solutions for Climate Change Communications: A Survey of Climate Change Arts Studies

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Introduction

In the face of climate change challenges, scientific communities have made significant strides in understanding and addressing the issues, yet there remains a challenge in engaging and mobilizing the general public. While many of those efforts rely on traditional communication methods, such as conferences, community meetings and outreach booths, artists on local and international levels employ various mediums, from films to music to installations, to invite diverse voices into climate change dialogues. We asked the question, what advantages can the arts have in communicating climate challenges and solutions? Our survey of peer-reviewed papers on climate change arts indicates that art's interdisciplinary and universal nature efficiently conveys the complexities and urgency of climate change to broad audiences. Overall, we argue that the scientific community should leverage the arts in their solutions implementation strategies because they are a highly compelling form of climate change communication, more accessible to non-specialists and readily transferable across disciplines and cultures.

Methodology

The purpose of this review was to gather data from across disciplines about the effectiveness of arts in communicating climate change challenges to the public. We reviewed seven papers from the NCSU Library's Journal Database that appeared in a search for "climate change arts" and also met the following criteria: included artworks in their full context and contained data about audience perceptions of those artworks.

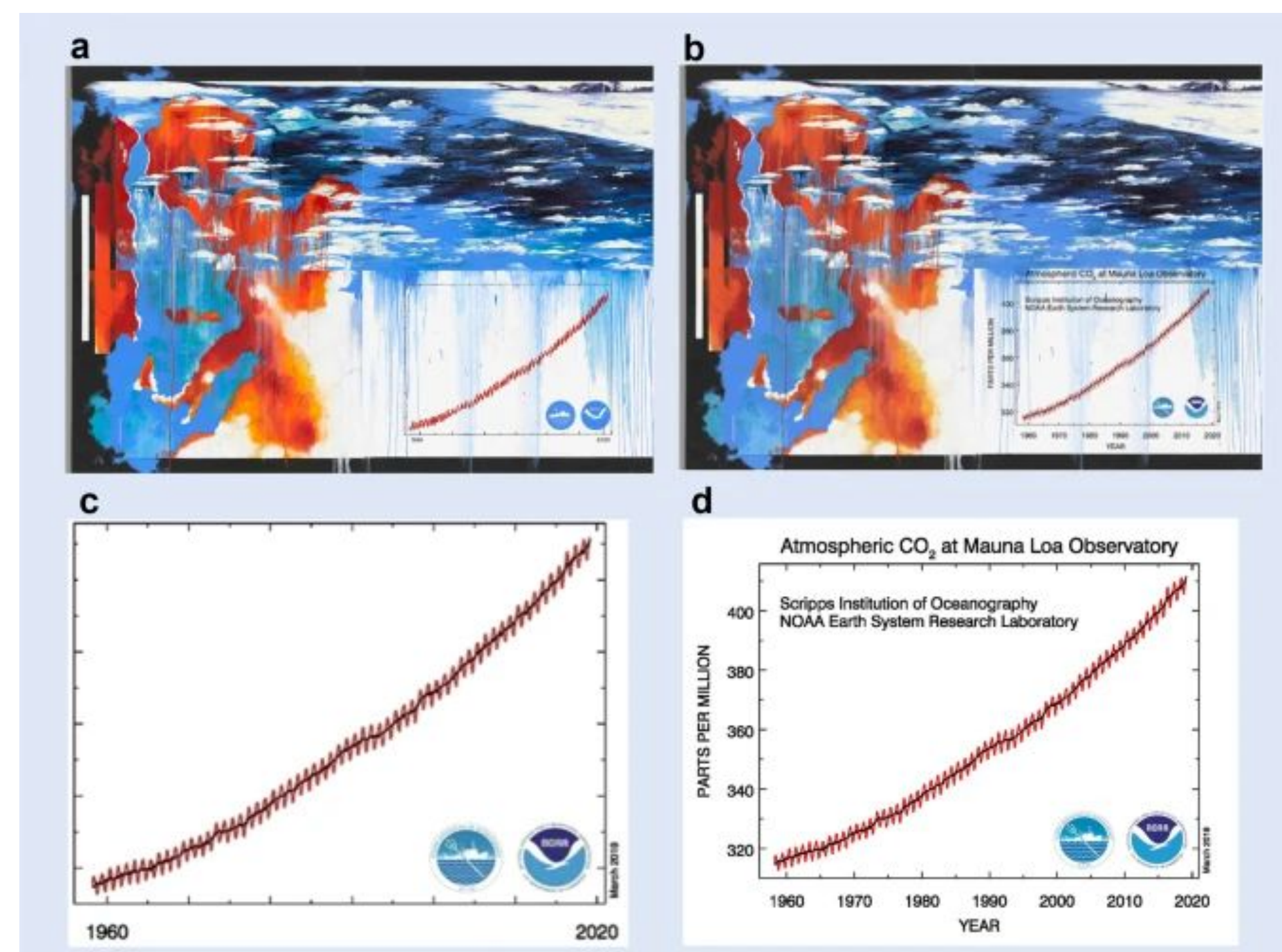
Conclusion

While the research shows that arts can be highly effective for communicating climate change to the public, there are several gaps and challenges that need to be addressed. First, different arts appear to have different parameters for successful communication (for example, photography and cartoons appear to be more effective under differing sets of parameters). Second, most research at this time focuses on North American and European audiences. More work needs to be done to determine the best attributes for the various artforms in various cultures. Each culture will respond uniquely to each communication strategy.

Sources

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Images



Visual depictions of climate change data had a stronger positive emotion but did not differ in credibility (Li, et al. 2023).



Ice watch in Copenhagen



Figure 3. Exemplary pictures of colorful artworks showing geographical, systemic interconnectness as well as drawing on mythology setting up Cluster 3: (upper row, left to right) *Crystall Ball*, artist credit: Les Radiolaires for Universcience, photo credit: Xavier Tiret, les Ailes du Chapeau; *Climate is on the Wall*, artist credit: Doudou Style, photo credit: Lisa Pahlke. (lower row, left to right) *La Terre*, artist credit: Jisook Min, photo credit: Jisook Min; *Venus of the Trash Isle*, artist credit: Jave Yoshimoto, photo credit: Jave Yoshimoto. See the online article for the color version of this figure.

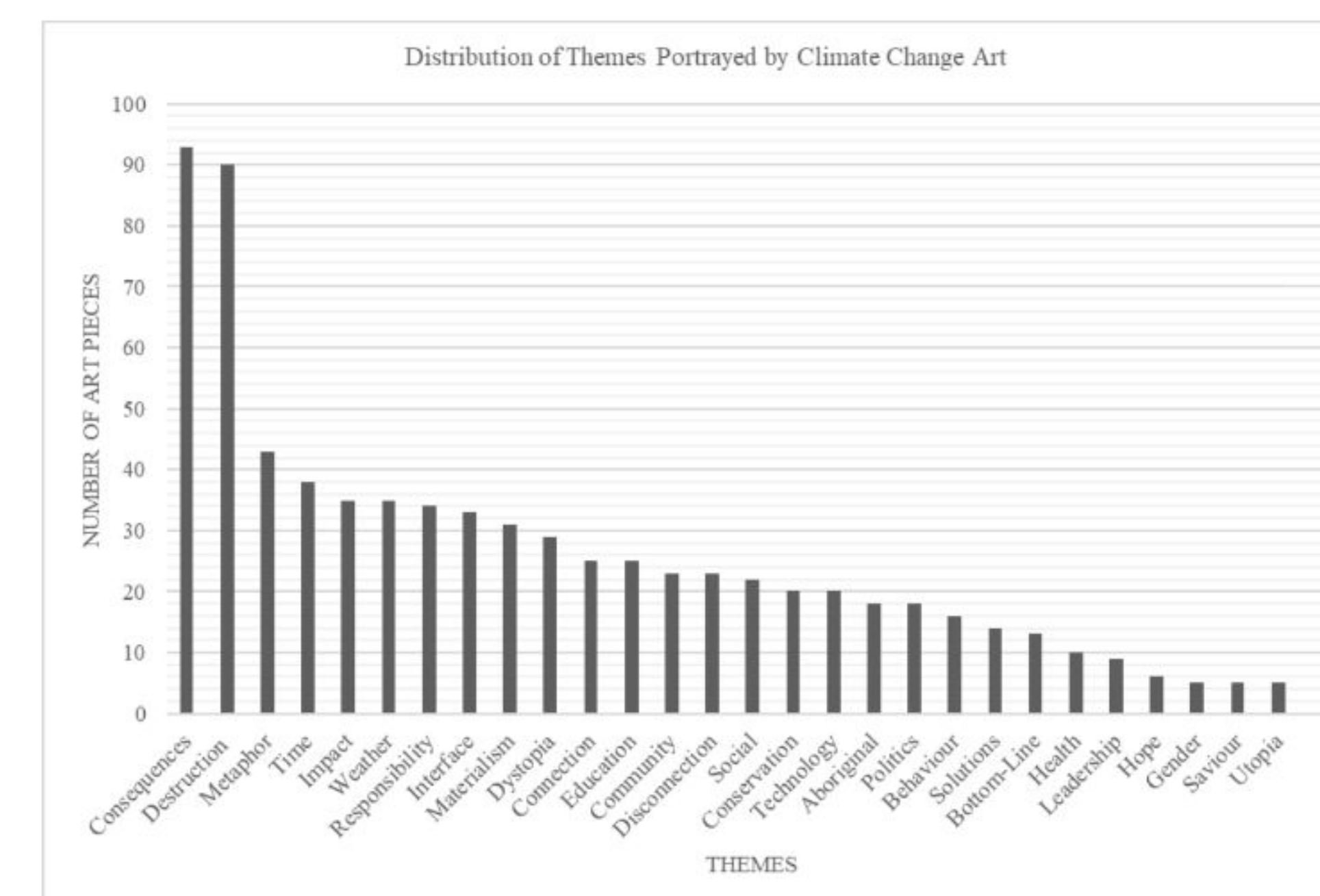
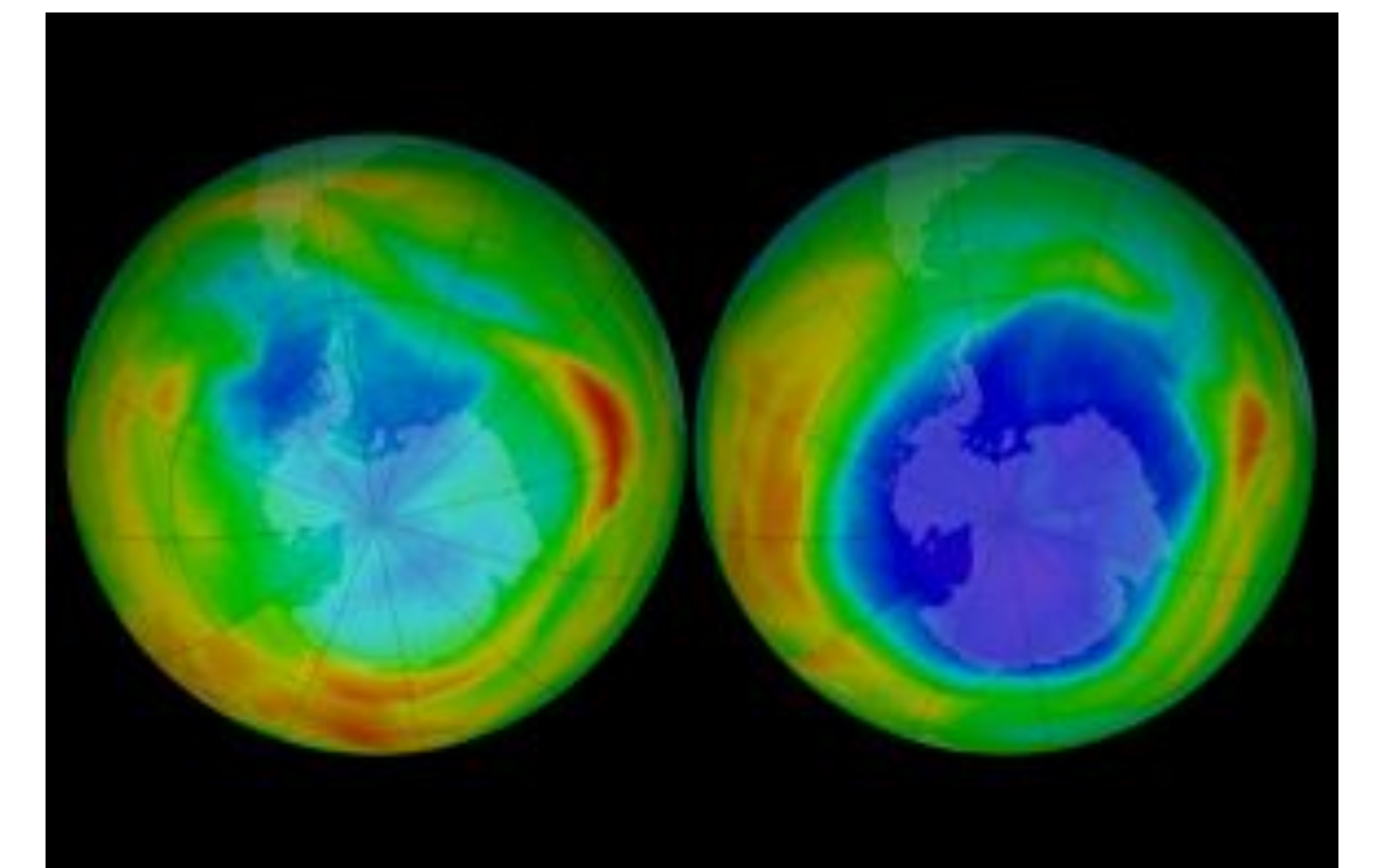
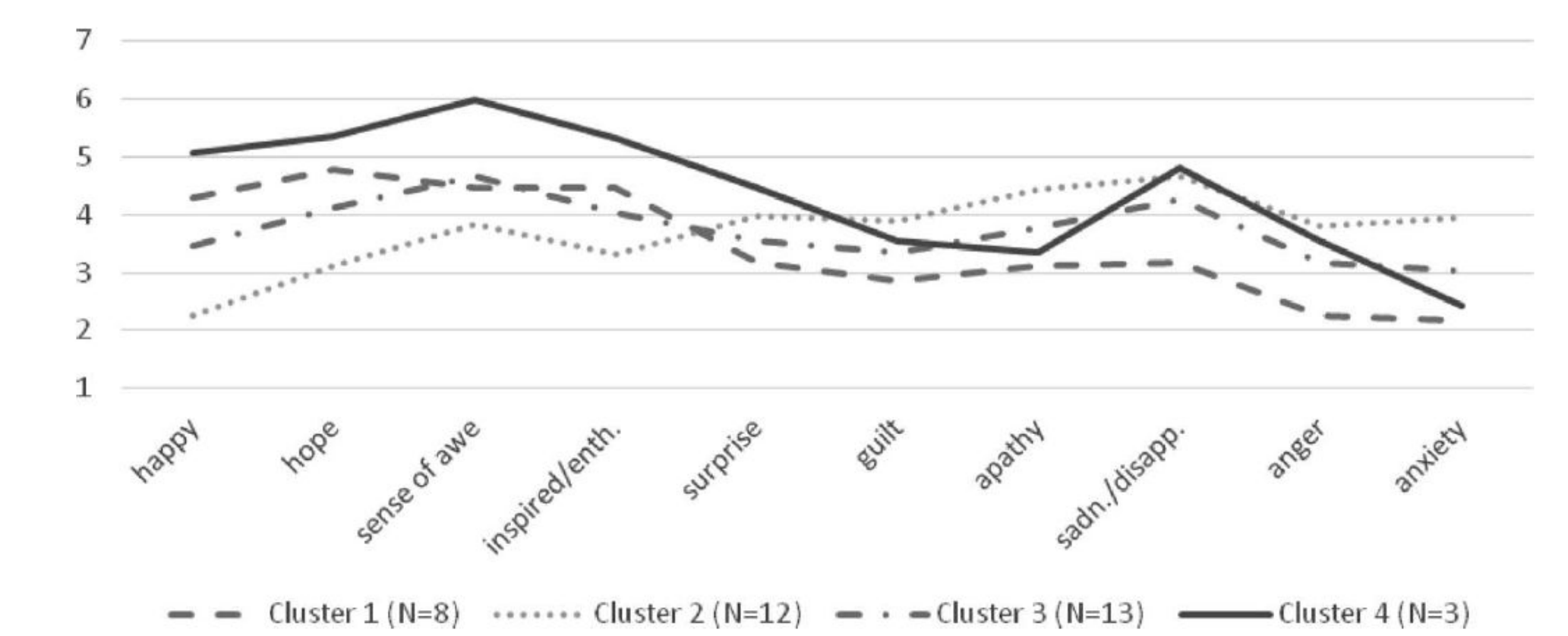


Figure 11: Dominant Themes Found in Climate Change Art
Source: Doll 2018



Ozone hole before and after Montreal Protocol



Somme, L.K., Klöckner, C.A.: Results of a study that asked participants to describe their reactions to an exhibition displaying various works of art thematically surrounding climate change.