

Global Warming Exhibition

By Eve Bryan

Introduction

For my exhibition I chose the theme 'global warming'. I chose this subject because I personally am interested and concerned with global warming, in particular the environmental effect it has on the world, within the animal kingdom, and of course on humans. Global warming does and eventually will affect everyone therefore I believe the subject should be made more popular and should be talked about more. I am also focusing on how many people do not believe in the existence of global warming and how the government try to cover it up, also focusing on people ignoring the existence of global warming because they believe it is not important. I then researched into this theme and tried to find artists that work on this subject. Instead of choosing multiple different artists for this theme, I decided to stick with one artist, Pawel Kuczynski. Kuczynski is a Polish artist that creates important art as it expresses extremely important topics in a very easy way to understand, his art is colourful and 'cartoonish' which makes it friendly and approachable to the audience, it then pulls them in into thinking about the meaning of the art without being overbearing and scaring the audience away.

Analysis

What is global warming? Global warming is the rising of the earth's temperature and atmosphere, both on land and sea. Over the past 100 years the temperature of the world has increased by 0.75°C (1.4°F), the majority of this increase has happened since 1975. In the past earth's warming happened because of natural causes, but now it is being caused because of the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere which are produced by human activities. Global warming is affecting many places around the earth, for example melting the ice glaciers which, in turn, is causing the average sea level to rise. It is also changing the weather patterns in places, making it dryer and causing longer periods of drought, at the same time making other places wetter and causing floods. Who is Pawel Kuczynski? Kuczynski is a Polish artist, born in 1976, he graduated with a graphics degree from the Fine Arts Academy in Poznan. Much of his artwork deals with serious issues, such as poverty, politics, greed, morality and global warming. His art style is cartoonish and whimsical contrasting with the serious themes of the work, this makes it interesting to analyse. Pawel Kuczynski has been focusing on satire since 2004 and has achieved many prizes and distinctions for his work.

Quotes / References about Global Warming

"If we take all these actions and if it turns out not to be true, we have reduced pollution and have better ways to live, the downside is very small. The other way around, and we don't act, and it turns out to be true, then we have betrayed future generations and we don't have the right to do that." - Tony Blair

"The dismaying truth is that birtherism is part of a larger pattern of rejection of reality that has taken hold of intimidating segments of one of the two political parties that alternate in power in our governing institutions. It is akin to the view that global warming is a hoax, or that the budget can be balanced through spending cuts alone, or that contraception causes abortion, or that evolution is just another theory, on a par with the theory that the earth is six thousand years old." - Hendrik Hertzberg

"Global warming, along with the cutting and burning of forests and other critical habitats, is causing the loss of living species at a level comparable to the extinction event that wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. That event was believed to have been caused by a giant asteroid. This time it is not an asteroid colliding with the Earth and wreaking havoc: it is us."

- Al Gore, *An Inconvenient Truth: The Planetary Emergency of Global Warming and What We Can Do About It*

"...trying to predict whether global warming will moderate the next ice age is not only impossible but irrelevant. It doesn't help us get through the next few centuries. And one can only imagine our future, shivering, ice age descendants cursing us for leaving them no fossil fuel to create a global warming "greenhouse" effect when one is really needed." - John Harte

The Artwork

I chose six pieces of artwork by Pawel Kuczynski to display in the art gallery, focusing on the theme of global warming. The first piece of art I chose to display in the gallery is this piece, it is two men seemingly painting over the cloud of smoke with white paint, attempting to cover up the existence of it and ignoring the pollution it is causing. This is focusing on the point I made about people covering up global warming. The second piece I chose was of penguins desperately trying to hold on to the ice, but it is falling apart, this is focusing on the effect of the animal kingdom, especially in the arctic where the effect is becoming more and more obvious, and the suffering of the animals is increasing. The third

piece of art I chose to display in the gallery is this piece, it is very much like the first piece, with a man seemingly painting a sun over the cloud of smoke, attempting to ignore its existence entirely. The fourth painting makes a bold comment on the dangers of environmental damage and global warming. It depicts a juxtaposition of a penguin, in a dry dessert, because its natural habitat has been destroyed. It is now satirically forced to live in a freezer attached to a tree. This painting forces its audience to think about the consequences of global warming on the penguins habitat and survival since their habitats will be destroyed. The fifth piece I chose is of a man nailing the ocean to the sand, I understood this as an extreme form of Geo-engineering, which, rather than changing ourselves as humans and treating the earth better, we would change the earth to cope with the warming, an example of this is seeding clouds to reflect sunlight back into space. I feel as though this over exaggeration benefits its audience as they can see exactly what they are doing to the earth. I feel as though the the sixth and final piece by Kuczynski i decided to display in the gallery, sums up global warming perfectly, it is of the earth as a pan, as if we are cooking, boiling the earth, there are also bird feet sticking out of the pan, showing the suffering of the animals because of global warming, there is also camouflage on the top of the pan, I took this as the covering up of global warming. In conclusion, I believe all of the artworks relate to the theme of global warming, the artist, I believe, is a correct match for the message I am trying to relay to the audience of this gallery exhibition. In order to raise awareness about the issue of global warming we must draw attention in a way that shows people what they are doing to the world without being overbearing, I believe the art gallery and the are we are showing will do this, and get it's audience thinking and talking about the issues.