

CLIMATE CONNECTIONS

a zine by Ottawa youth with a passion for the environment



By Rae Landriau
@createchangecollective

ABOUT

The world is a strange place right now. At times it feels even surreal, immersing us in an environment where a lot of emotions are at play.

The Latin roots of the word emotion are e (out) + movere (move). Emotions create feelings that ebb and flow, however in the hustle and bustle of the busy world we live in these feelings often get dammed up.

It can be a lot to carry these complex feelings which is why art is an incredible way to express and release those emotions. Allowing ourselves to work through feelings and develop healthy ways of coping.

The Climate Connections Zine is aimed at allowing youth in Ottawa to express themselves and the complex emotions they have about nature, climate change and the environment, discussing themes of climate anxiety, diaspora, awe, amazement and joy.

This project was made possible with generous funding from Youth Action Now and their Start Up Now grant. With this funding Create Change Collective was able to host this project and provide honorarium bags for all accepted art submissions.

By Rae Landriau





We Are No Different

By Daria Maystruk

Stemmed from humanity's deep intertwining connection with nature. The painting is meant to evoke a sense of peace and fulfillment, as the human figure melds into the landscape around them. The warm greens and oranges used throughout the entire piece offer cohesion to the composition, mirroring the unity between human nature and nature itself. Humans are part of nature and nature is a source of humanity—we are no different.



Sedimentary rocks rich with selenite deposits in the desert climate of the Tecopa-Death Valley region, U.S.A.
By Meredith Burnett

Rising Sublime

By Bailey Wagner

Elements of the sublime are used to create a scene of a changing world under climate change, specifically coastal cities endangered by the rising seas. The scene is obscure, unfamiliar and terrifying, but hope flickers in sorrow through the resilience of the city's community. Enduring, despite being small and insignificant compared to the vast chaos of our environment. As our climate morphs into something unfamiliar, we must adapt physically, but also emotionally. Prepare to accept beauty, joy and gratitude in a devastated world created by only a few. Experiencing our changing world is sublime.



This photo was taken in Wells, Nevada on the last day of a long 2 weeks of field work. After sitting in town for 6 hours waiting for a tire to be replaced - once we were able to make it back out in to the field we were rewarded with the most beautiful sunset. I remember feeling how lucky it was that I may have been the only person in the world to see this sunset from these hills.

By Martina Boddy



Our trip west. This photo is from a recent trip I took out west with my partner. I am reminded to be grateful for all this planet has to offer, and mindful of the land I occupy every day.
By Hannah Newman



Algae painting of the Great Lakes

By Abbey Morris

The Great Lakes hold 20% of the world's freshwater supply. Unfortunately, harmful algae blooms have been growing out of control due to pollution caused by agriculture and fertilizer runoff. These algae blooms release toxins into the environment, leading to illness or even death. By protecting our water, we protect our health.



PROTECT OUR WATER

Bran Castle

By Olena Romazanova

Bran Castle in Transylvania, Romania against the backdrop of forest, hills and beautiful nature. It is also known as a Dracula's Castle. I wanted to express "the history, the myth, the intrigue and the magic of this wonderful place".



Winter Bloom

by Jordynn Bateman

A snowshoeing trip in Eastern Ontario.
This leaf was one of the only things left
in the dead of winter, yet despite its
isolation, it was still so connected.





The seven wonders of the world are often man-made creations, whereas the real wonders of the world are the world in itself.

By Anjaliya Sonnilal

This photo was taken on the ridge of Thechàl Dhàl (Sheep Mountain) in Kluane National Park and Reserve, Yukon at approximately 1km of elevation. The photo depicts the long winding path up the mountain, and the feet of the hiker who climbed it. By Nicholas Pontone



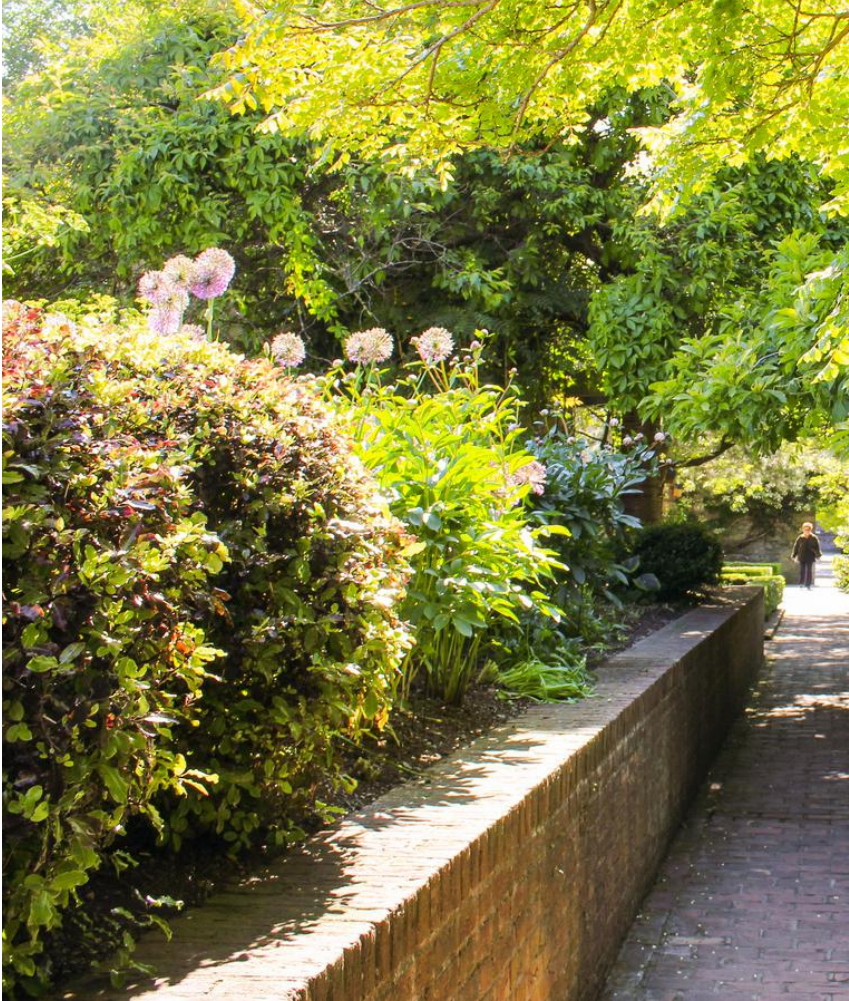
Wander/Wonder

Take the path that man has not stood
With its overgrowth and glory hidden
Take the path that leaves you curious
Questioning the contents and critters within

take off your pair of shoes
And place them in your hand
And go off with solely your desire
To feel your feet hit the land
and walk far and wide, cross rivers climb mountains
Smell the air, smell the leaves the trees the flowers

This is where you will discover yourself
A true wanderer
A true philosopher

J.B.

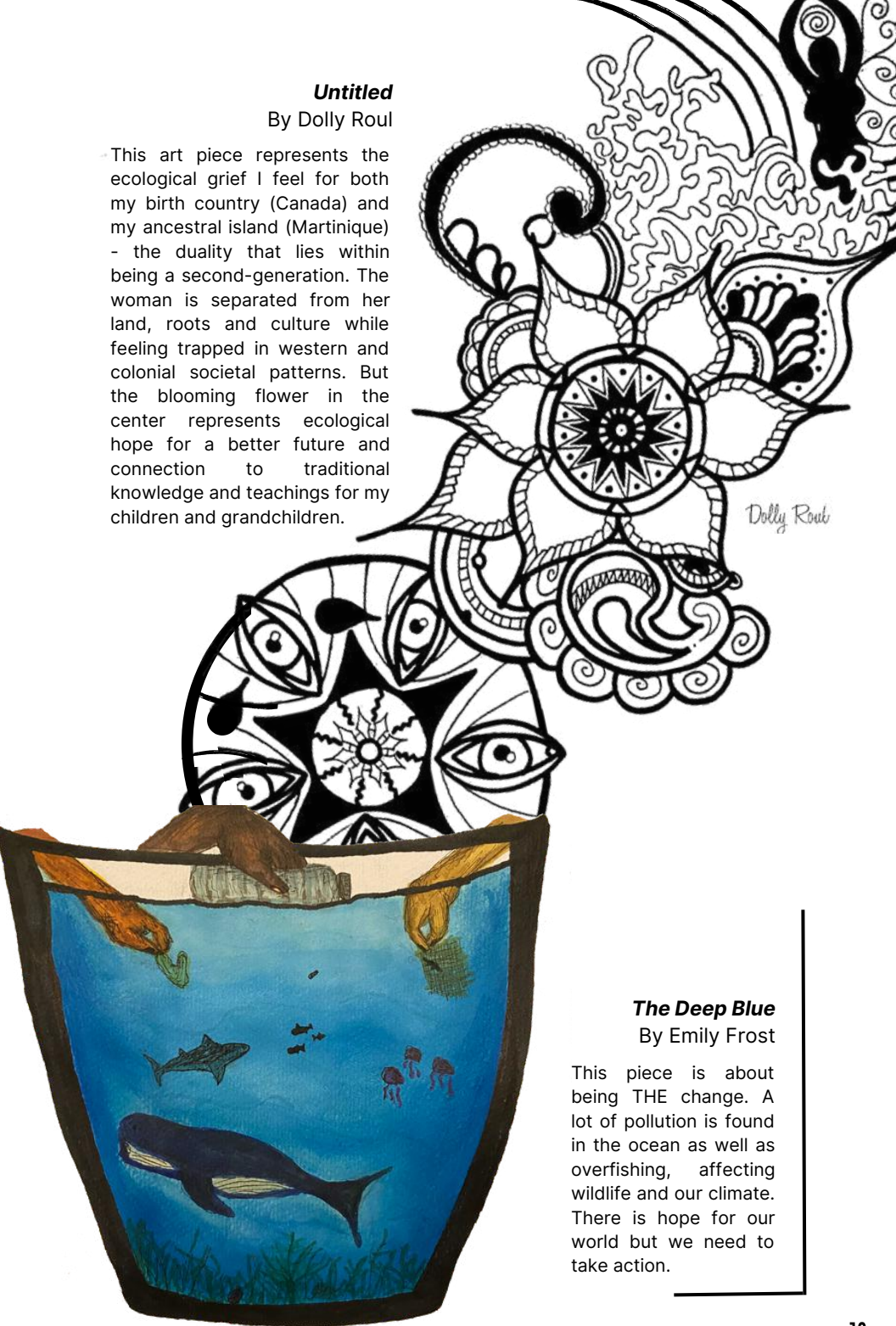


This photo was taken on the grounds of the Dublin Castle where there's walking trails full of lovely trees and nature!
By Sinead Fryday

Untitled

By Dolly Roul

This art piece represents the ecological grief I feel for both my birth country (Canada) and my ancestral island (Martinique) - the duality that lies within being a second-generation. The woman is separated from her land, roots and culture while feeling trapped in western and colonial societal patterns. But the blooming flower in the center represents ecological hope for a better future and connection to traditional knowledge and teachings for my children and grandchildren.



The Deep Blue

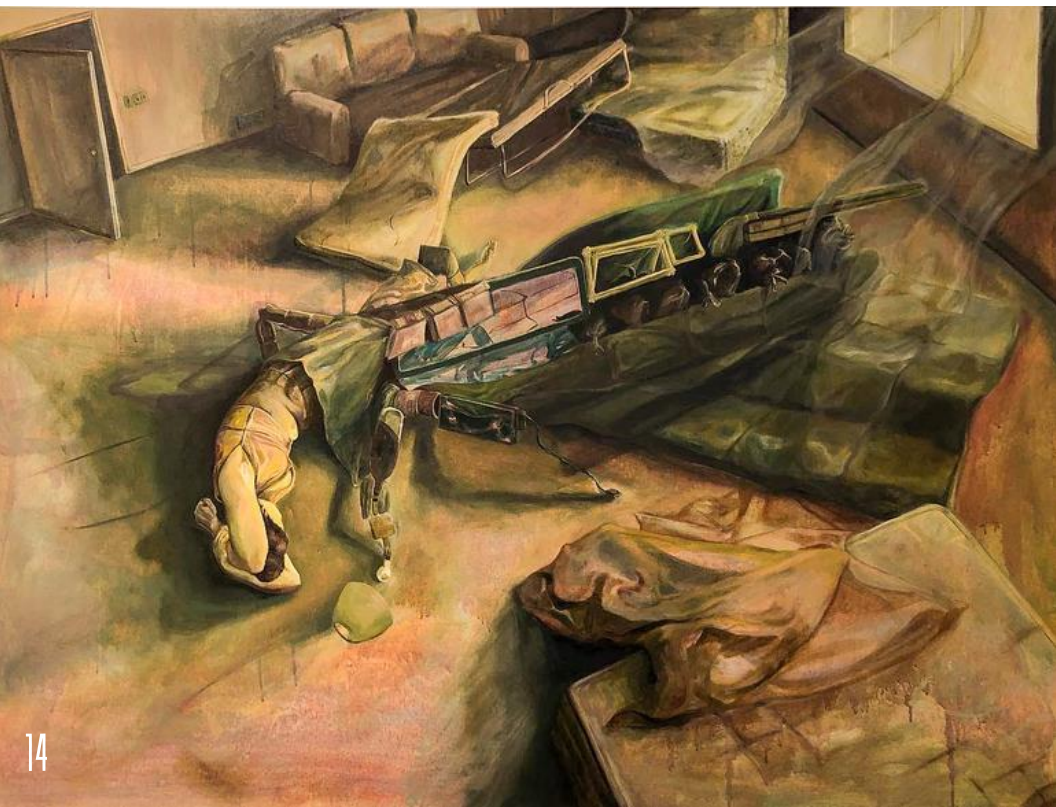
By Emily Frost

This piece is about being THE change. A lot of pollution is found in the ocean as well as overfishing, affecting wildlife and our climate. There is hope for our world but we need to take action.

Cricket at Night

By Erin Szturm

"Cricket at night" (2022) is an oil on panel painting and a bit of a visual play on many folks' curious habits of rubbing their legs together to fall asleep, like a cricket. It explores underlying similarities between humans and what many perceive are lesser beings, like insects; within both are similar habits and personality if one dares to care to look deeper. The artist also delves into anxieties that keep her up late regarding the physical garbage humanity covers the world and ourselves with, like the excess we often swim in from our safe spaces and cities to countryside's and oceanic bodies. This mass-scale cluttering of many natural environments effects/affects not only our minds, bodies, but those creatures we often forget. The artist hopes everyone will try to remember everything has a place and matters to that space, so, we should all put in the effort to have a more heartfelt cohabitation throughout every delicate ecosystem we traverse through.



Feels like home.
By Patricia Feng



The climate is changing,
Hot getting hotter,
Oceans getting emptier,
Glaciers getting smaller
Forests getting flatter,

The climate is changes,
Why aren't we?

K.P



Seeking little sparks of joy throughout the day, wards the brain rot away. An intimate look at a rose lily taken during a stroll in Los Angeles years ago.

By Brittany Vo

By Anjaliya Sonnilal



Eco-Anxiety

By Ameerah Konseiga

In this drawing, I tried to transcribe how I experienced eco-anxiety. Whenever I went to bed, I would often have anxious thoughts about what our planet would look like in the future, how safe would be my family and how much animals and trees would be left. In this piece, I represented these feelings by drawing a young girl lying in a bed, surrounded by these same fears and anxious thoughts (forest fires, floods, endangered animals...) as she tries to fall asleep. The planet earth she holds in her hands, however, represents the ever-existing hope for our world to be made a better place, and the idea that this potential lies right there, in our hands.

This drawing is a really precious piece for me as it has helped me cope with my eco-anxiety by acknowledging my feelings and accepting the things about climate change that I couldn't control. I hope it will inspire other people that are also struggling with their own fears about the future to understand that they are not alone, and that there would always be hope.



Ponds surrounding Ottawa.
By Nick Schultz

MEET THE ARTISTS



Abbey Morris (she/her) is a Science Communicator. She earned her Master of Science Communication degree from Laurentian University and her B.Sc. in Neuroscience and Mental Health with a minor in Psychology from Carleton University. She is passionate about art, science, and social justice.
Website: <https://abbeymor.wixsite.com/home>
Instagram: @abs.mor
LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/abigail-morris-1b99a513a



Anjaliya Sonnilal (she/her) and is a Master of Science student at the University of Ottawa pursuing studies in Systems Science and Engineering.
LinkedIn: Anjaliya Sonnilal



Dolly Roul (she/her) is a Black female artist, born and raised in Canada with ancestry from Martinique (a French Caribbean Island). As a young Black woman and a second-generation Canadian, she uses her art to express the issues that she experiences such as racism, culture clash, mental health issues and much more. Dolly's art is a part of her; It is emotional and personal. It is her way to express things that cannot fully be explained with words.
Instagram: [pnp_love10](https://www.instagram.com/pnp_love10)



Erin Szturm (she/her) is a fine artist pursuing her BFA at the University of Ottawa, specializing in painting and drawing in oils and chalk pastel. Uprooted from Northern Ontario and her hometown of Thunder Bay with its forests, farms, and local histories, she quite abruptly jumped to Ottawa with its vast galleries and arresting museum archives; this large change currently inspires her surreal works exploring her relation and situation between nature and humanity, rural and urban sites, always entwining complex, underlying narratives.
Website: <https://erinszturm.wixsite.com/erinszturm?>
Instagram: @ermaybe



Olena Romazanova (she/her) is a self taught artist from Ukraine. Her passions are architecture, art, books and jewelry. She moved to Ottawa recently and is striving to realize herself as an artist.



Martina Boddy (she/her) is an long-time Ottawa resident. She is currently working on her MSc in Earth Science at Carleton University. In her free time she loves to hike, bike, recycle and take public transit.
Instagram: [@martinasrockcollection](https://www.instagram.com/martinasrockcollection)



Brittany Vo (she/her)



Nick Schultz (he/him)

Ameerah Konseiga (she/her), is a first year student at the University of Ottawa in Environmental Studies. Her main hobbies are drawing and writing. She uses these forms of art to express herself and advocate for meaningful causes.

Bailey Wagner (they/them) is a queer, disabled, settler-canadian who has been a guest on unceded Algonquin territory their whole life. They study environmental engineering, with a minor in environment and climate humanities. Bailey's goals as an academic are to help create communities, through both art and research, and bringing Indigenous, disabled, and queer perspectives to the forefront of climate change research.

Emily Frost (she/her) is a Indigenous youth artist who has been creating art since she was a child. She uses many art media's to create such as ceramics, charcoal, paint and drawing.

Keiko Pomakis (she/her) is a high school student, looking to make positive change in the world. She is an active member of her school's student council and Eco Justice club.

Hannah Newman (she/her) is a public health nurse and masters student studying HIV testing and prevention research. In her (somewhat limited) free time, she enjoys spending time outdoors, art, eating good food, and quality time with friends/family.

Daria Maystruk (she/her)
Instagram: @dares_diary

Jordynn Bateman (she/her)

Meredith Burnett (she/her)

Nicholas Pontone (he/him)

Patricia Feng (she/her)

Sinead Fryday (she/her)

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As an Ottawa based organization we recognize the colonial structures that are upheld by our presence here on stolen land.

Ottawa is built on unceded Algonquin Anishinaabe territory. Ottawa is derived from the Algonquin word “Adawe”, which means “to trade”. Making reference to Kichi Sibi, the Ottawa River, a highway for trade and travel.

Through our actions we, Create Change Collective, hope to honour the peoples of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Nation, who are the traditional guardians of this land, past, present and future. As we organize around anti-racism and decolonization, we recognize the ways in which our presence on this land upholds colonialism and reproduces dispossession and violence for Indigenous people. For those of us who are settlers, we commit to working and learning more about how we can prioritize upholding conditions of the treaties that govern this land.

Rae Landriau is graduate student with a passion for the environment and activism. Rae founded **@createchangecollective** in order to engage community members in current environmental issues through educational campaigns and events. To be able to make a difference in the world around them!

