Pollution Pods
Michael Pinsky
Pollution Pods

Five geodesic domes are connected to form a ring. Within each dome the air quality of five global cities is recreated. A carefully mixed recipe emulates the relative presence of ozone, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide which pollute these cities. Starting from the hosting city, the visitor passes through increasingly polluted cells, from dry and cold locations to hot and humid.

The release of toxic gases from domestic and industrial sources both increase the rate of global warming and have a direct effect on our present day health. In the West, in cities such as London, one in five children suffer from asthma. Whilst in the developing countries such as Delhi, over half the children have stunted lung development and will never completely recover. However, this pollution is difficult to understand through images, as the smog of such as Delhi seems almost romantic and much of the most dangerous toxins are not visible at all.

Much of this pollution is driven by the insatiable appetite of capitalist consumerism. Whilst we here in the developed world live in an environment with relatively clean air, people in countries such as China and India are being poisoned by the air borne toxins created from industries fulfilling orders from the West.

The experience of walking through the pollution pods demonstrates that these worlds are interconnected and interdependent. Our need for ever cheaper goods is reflected in the ill-health of many people in world and in the ill-health of our planet as a whole. In this installation we can feel, taste and smell the environments that are the norm for a huge swathe of the world’s population.
1.1 Background

The Pollution Pods were developed as part of 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 to produce convincing representations of polluted air in cities around the world. This research has expanded to include scent specialists from the UK and Holland.

The installation was first shown in Trondheim as part of the STARMUS festival which combined presentations from leading artists, astronauts and scientists including Steven Hawkins and Charlie Duke. Subsequently, the installation was shown in Somerset House in London.

Pollution Pods has been central to the Climart research project where a team of psychologists from the Norwegian University for Science and Technology (NTNU) have been trying to establish whether art can change people’s perception of climate change.

The Climart team are as follows:

Christian A. Klöckner, environmental psychologist, NTNU (project leader)

David Buckland, Director, Cape Farewell

Sam Jury, artist, (co-coordinator)

Laura Sommer, environmental psychologist, NTNU

Paul Stern, environmental psychologist, National Research Council

Janet Swim, environmental psychologist, Penn State University

Martina Zienert & Joachim Borner environmental communicators, Kolleg fuer Management und Gestaltung nachhaltiger Entwicklung

Peter Huybers, climate scientist, Harvard University

Edgar Hertwich, environmental scientist, Yale University
3.1 Reviews

Die Zeit (De) *Ein Iglu voller Delhi* Fritz Habekuss, May

The Smithsonian (USA) *Experience Some of the World’s Most Polluted Cities in This Exhibit* Julissa Treviño, May

New York Times (USA) *How’s the air in London?* Ceylan Yeginsu, Apr

BBC Radio4 *Today Programme* John Humphreys, Apr

The Guardian *How’s London ‘pollution pods’ let you sample the smog in Beijing and Delhi* Elle Hunt, Apr

BBC1 Television *Breakfast* David Sillito, Apr

France Inter (Fr) *Un Jour Dan Le Monde* Véronique Sanson, Apr

Tages Schau (De) *Smog-Reise um die Welt* News, Apr

The Independent *Technology designed to clean air in schools trialled in London ‘pollution pods’* Joss Gabbatiss, Apr

ITV News *It’s enough to make your eyes water* Martin Stew, Apr

BBC London *News* Asad Ahmad, Apr

The Lancet *Modern Art Stinks* Talha Khan Burki, Apr

Nouvo RSI (Sz) *L’installazione che toglie il respiro* News, Apr

BBC News *Art installation creates smelling pods of major cities’ air* David Sillito, Apr

Mashable *These domes simulate the air quality of some of the most polluted cities* Maria Dermentzi, Apr

Next City *In London, Step out of One Bubble and into Another* Alexis Lipsitz Flippin, Apr

The Manuel *‘Pollution Pods’ Let You Choke on the Air of the Most Polluted Cities* Mike Richard, Apr

HuffPost *What Is Earth Day… And Does It Actually Make A Difference?* Sara CNelson, Apr

Reuters *Artist’s ‘pollution pods’ highlight global air quality problem* Serena Chaudhry, Apr

EarthAir *Today Pollution Pods Show Londoners the Toxic Air They’re Helping Create* Brian Kahn, Apr

Dezeen *Pollution-filled domes installed at London’s Somerset House* Tom Ravenscroft, Apr

Accuweather *Art exhibit sheds light on startling difference in air quality across the globe* Jillian MacMath, Apr

i24News *Stateside | Cirque du So Strange* David Shuster, Apr

Inhabitat *Pollution Pods let visitors taste pollution from around the world* Lucy Wang, Apr

Time Out *Pollution Pods* Editor, Apr

Architect (USA) *This week in Tech* Katharine Keane, Apr

Geek (USA) *Pollution Pods’ Show Londoners How Toxic They’re Making the Air* Daniel Starkey, Apr

FM104 (ie) *Pollution Pods: Highlighting the Difference in Air Quality* Orla Conways, Apr

Uncrate *Pollution Pods* Editor, Apr

Air Quality News *Pollution Pods offers glimpse of global air quality* Editor, Apr
Hypebeast *Pollution Pods Let You Experience the Air Quality of Cities Around the World* Joanna Fu, Apr

Secret London *This Chilling Installation Will Recreate The Pollution In Different Cities* Georgie Hoole, Apr

Document *Michael Pinsky’s latest installation deemed too toxic for the public* Caroline Christie, Apr

City Lab *London’s Latest Exhibit: Horrendous Pollution* Feargus O’Sullivan, Apr

It’s Nice That *Visitors will breathe in the pollution of different cities in upcoming installation* Jenny Brewer, Apr

Curbed *Catch a whiff of polluted cities in these geodesic domes* Liz Stinson, Apr

C|net *Smog as art? Sample the world’s most polluted cities’ dirty air* Bonnie Burton, Apr

The Building Centre *Igloo-like pollution pods illustrate how rapid urbanization affects quality* Editor, Apr

Greenpeace Magazine *Künstlerporträt (1/3): Michael Pinsky* Inga Laas, Apr

El Espectador (Sp) *El artista que da un tour por los aires más contaminados del mundo* News, Apr

Zpravy (Cz) *Znečištění na vlastní kůži. Zažijte, jaký je toxický vzduch Indie nebo Číny* Jana Trantinová, Apr

Folha de S.Paulo (Br) *Poluição de São Paulo vira obra de arte na Somerset House, em Londres* Américo Martins, Apr

Time Out *Six mother nature-loving ways to celebrate Earth Day in London* Alexandra Sims, Apr

Country and Town House *Join Somerset House in Celebrating Earth Day* Bella Lewis, Apr

Art and Architecture Journal *Michael Pinsky – Pollution Pods* Jeremy Hunt, Apr

London Live *Art installation to tackle air pollution* News, Apr

Stupid Dope (USA) *Art With Meaning! Pollution Pods At Somerset House* Jesse James, Apr

TimeOut Shanghai (Cn) *These ‘pollution pods’ are letting Londoners sample Beijing’s air* Leanne Wong, Apr

The Indian Express (In) *How polluted New Delhi really is?* Lifestyle Desk, Apr

Land Art Generator Initiative *Pollution Pods: Making Climate Change Visceral Through Art* Tafline Laylin, Apr

BBC Radio London *Pollution Pods* Vanessa Feltz, Apr

Side B (Hk) *Beijing Smog Air* Editor, Apr

BBC Culture *Earth Day* News, Apr

outthere (Fr) *Ces dômes recréent la pollution de l’air des villes* Juliette Leclercq, Apr

BBC World Service *The Newsroom* David Sillito, Apr

GQ (Au) *New Pollution Pods Let You Experience The Air Quality Of Cities* Brad Nash, Apr

Design Curial *An Environmental Rallying Cry* Sam Forsdick, Apr

Evening Standard *Pollution Pods* Picture Story, Apr

Innovant *Pollution Pods : des installations qui recréent les environnements pollués* Sharon, Apr
Reviews

Architecture & Design (Au) **Controversial “pollution pods”** Stephanie Stefanovic, Apr

That’s Beijing **Art Installation Gives Londoners a Taste of Beijing Air** Jonty Dixon, Apr

Time Out **Thank Pod its Earth Day** Alexandra Sims, Apr

Bento **In diesen Kuppeln kann man den Smog aus aller Welt einatmen** Hannah Doll, Apr

Architectural Design (In) **Art installation in London simulates life in the world’s most polluted cities** Maanya Sachdeva, Apr

Greenpeace Magazine (De) **Smog – Schnupperexkurs in fünf Metropolen** Inga Laas, Apr

The Guardian **Pollution Pods** Picture Story, Apr

Ecology Way **Pollution Pods let visitors taste pollution from around the world** Admin, Apr

Global Citizen (USA) **These ‘Pollution Pods’ Have Sprung Up in London for a Great Reason** Imogen Calderwood, Apr

Deccan Herald (In) **Londoners breathe Delhi smoke in unique exhibition** News, Apr

Unsorted **Pollution-filled domes installed at London’s Somerset House** Tom Ravenscroft, Apr

NowThis (USA) **Pollution Pods Let You Breathe Smog from Different Cities** Daniel Shapiro, Apr

Building Design **Walk-in pollution domes to be built at Somerset House** Elizabeth Hopkirk, Apr

This is place **Artist’s ‘pollution pods’ highlight cities’ air quality problem** Serena Chaudhry, Apr

Metro (Be) **Nieuw kunstproject laat je letterlijk proeven van vervuilde lucht** Editor, Apr

Grand Tour 2020 **The Ungated Community** Pieter Van Bogaert, March

Time Out **These ‘Pollution Pods’ will measure London’s air quality in real time** Alexandra Sims, March

Londonist **The Biggest Exhibitions And Art Events To Look Forward To In April 2018** Tabish Khan, March

Discovery Channel (Ca) **Daily Planet** Koula Bouloukos, Sep

The Art Newspaper **UK artists call for rethink on climate change iconography** Gareth Harris, Aug

Next Nature **The Smell of Global Economy** Elle Zhan Wei, Aug

Bird in Flight (Ru) **Уличный арт-проект попросил** Алена Агаджикова, Aug

CNN **Futuristic domes let you experience world’s worst pollution** Alicia Kirby, June

The Telegraph **Art installation captures the unique scents** Christopher Beanland, June

Live Science (USA) **Take a Whiff of Cities’ Unique Smells** Mindy Weisberger, June

Interior Design (USA) **7 Environmentally Engaging Art Installations** Athena Waligore, July

Asian Paint’s Colour Quotient **Olfactory excursion to five cities of the world** Preksha Sharma, July

Nordic Journal of Science and Technology (No) **Front Cover** Ivana Suboticki, July

About Design World (In) **Sniffing in Pollution Pod** Anjani Maharana, June
Mother Nature Network (USA) *This is art for your nose* Matt Hickman, June

AccuWeather (USA) *Bizarre Art Installation* Jillian MacMath, July

ORF (At) Austrian national public service radio, *Johnny’s Journeys* Johnny Bliss, July

FAD *Pollution Pods by the artist Michael Pinsky* Mark Westall, June

The Spaces *Pollution pods recreate the smells of the city* Betty Wood, June

Addressa (No) *Her forsker de på hvordan kunst kan påvirke synet ditt på klimautslipp* Aagot Opheim, July

Gemini (No) *Stinky city air as climate art* Vibeke Ann Pettersen, June

NRK Radio (No) *Distriktsprogram – Trøndelag* Håkon Hallingstad, June

NRK Newton (No) *LYDIA PUSTER INN HELE VERDEN!* Lydia Gieselmann, June

LS:N *Global Art installation captures the scent of five cities* Rhiannon McGregor, June

Cultured (USA) *Michael Pinsky’s World* Brook Mason, June

#Legend *Stop and smell pollution in Norway* Editor, June

Getty Images *Day 3 Starmus Festival* Michael Campanella, June

Billfold *It’s pollution but in Pod form* Nicole Deiker, June

Fox News (USA) *Bizzare Art Installation* Editor, June

Culture & Life *Pollution Pods installation* Andrew Soar, June

Green Screen *Cúpulas que simulan el ambiente contaminado de varias ciudades* Eduardo Berrueco, July

AirisLife *Even Air Pollution can Create Something Positive* Christine, June

Vix (Sp) *Estas cápsulas son una instalación* Valentina, June

Finsight (Hk) “*Pollution Pods*” Allows Visitors to Experience the World’s Worst Pollution Editor, June

Warp(Sp) *Conoce más de Climart* Eugenia Flores, June

El Noticiero(Sp) *Así se vive en las cuatro ciudades más contaminadas del mundo* Editor, July

Milenio(Sp) *En Noruega, artista encierra contaminación en cápsulas* Editor, July

White Media (Jp) *What’s the dome?* Reika Hirota, July

Universitets Avisa (No) *Forskere lar Starmus-gjester oppleve kraftig forurensning* Kristoffer Furberg, May