

KARST

KARST presents: [Against Apartheid](#)

29 September - 2 December 2023

22 George Place, Millbay, Plymouth PL1 3NY



It's a pleasure to meet you (2016), Sue Williamson

[Against Apartheid](#)

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This autumn, a new group exhibition curated by Ashish Ghadiali will open at KARST gallery in Plymouth, UK. Through the work of international contemporary artists and activists, the exhibition explores the origins of climate apartheid.

UN Special Rapporteur, Philip Alston, has dubbed the potential outcome of anthropogenic climate change as “climate apartheid¹” – where life becomes impossible for increasing sections of the human population. This scenario would predominantly impact black and brown communities living on the frontlines of climate breakdown.

Against Apartheid situates this projected future in historic ecologies of empire – African enslavement, the middle passage, the plantation and the genocide of indigenous peoples as well as the geopolitics of international borders, urban air pollution and species migration.

Featured artists include: Sue Williamson, Khaled Jarrar, Liquid Traces, Forensic Oceanography, Annalee Davis, Kiluanji Kia Henda, Sylvie Séma Glissant, Kedisha Coakley, Angela Camacho, Ashanti Hare and Iman Dato. New representations of work by climate

¹ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/06/1041261>

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scientists affiliated with the University of Exeter's Global Systems Institute and by the activist collectives, Alarm Phone and the Anti-Raids Network also feature.

Artists and activists included in the show put forward strategies for challenging the inherited culture of apartheid - restoring hidden lives and forgotten futures. Works in the exhibition point towards the transcendence of race-thinking, new ecologies and intergenerational and interspecies sensibilities through which landscapes and our sense of future possibility is transfigured and transformed.

The exhibition responds to recent research² from the leading edge of Earth system science and led by the University of Exeter's Professor Tim Lenton (on which Ghadiali has also been a collaborator) that projects radical shifts through the course of the 21st century in what is known as "the human climate niche". The study points towards the essential and racialised injustice and draws connections between forced migration and global warming - themes that *Against Apartheid* works to draw together and amplify. Describing the implications of the study, Lenton says:

"Currently weak international climate policies will commit two billion mostly black and brown people to live in unprecedented hot temperatures later this century. Already deaths from extreme heat are escalating in the Global South. This climate apartheid needs to be fought with a decisive effort to limit global warming to 1.5C, and to provide meaningful finance from the Global North to those suffering loss and damages in the Global South."

Ashish Ghadiali, Curator of *Against Apartheid* says:

"*Against Apartheid* speaks to the underlying conviction that has driven the emergence of Radical Ecology: that the planetary crises we face are in essence crises of relation and imagination and that through the agency of contemporary artists, activists and thinkers new worlds come into being. I hope that visitors coming into the space we're creating will have the same feeling I've experienced while putting the show together: that just and sustainable futures are emerging here."

Ben Borthwick, Head of Programme at KARST says:

"Ghadiali's exhibition activates themes that are significant to Plymouth - historically branded as the 'city of discovery' and more recently recognised for its pivotal role in initiating Britain's slave trade, underpinning its imperial legacy. We are excited to bring this timely exploration of the intersecting strands of climate change and colonialism to KARST."

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Against Apartheid is an exhibition by Radical Ecology in collaboration with the University of Exeter's Global Systems Institute, supported by Arts Council England.

For more information, please contact Tilly or Rachel at marketing@karst.org.uk.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

[Click here for selected images of the featured artists work and accompanying credits.](#)

About KARST

KARST is an ambitious contemporary art space comprising a free public gallery space and artists' studios. A test-bed for experimentation across art forms, KARST attracts diverse audiences through cutting edge exhibitions, screenings, events, and performances. Founded in 2012 as a result of British Art Show 7, KARST has since experienced exponential growth and was one of the British Art Show 9 host venues in 2022. It is one of the South West's largest independent contemporary arts galleries and has worked with more than 300 artists and curators, enabling over 100 commissions. KARST has been an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) since 2018.

[Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#) / [Website](#)

About Radical Ecology

Led by Ashish Ghadiali, Radical Ecology's core team shares a combined experience that includes many years of grassroots organising, political leadership, research and multidisciplinary creative practice. They believe that the collective problems we face demand new collective solutions and so strive to create the conditions for collaboration to emerge that can speak to the complexity of our contemporary worlds across silos of discipline, geography, species and scale.

[Instagram](#) / [Website](#)

About Ashish Ghadiali

Ashish Ghadiali is the Founding Director of Radical Ecology. He is also the Co-Chair and Co-Principal Investigator of Addressing the New Denialism, a programme of research and public engagement that has culminated in the influential 2023 paper Quantifying the Human Cost of Global Warming.

He is currently the lead author on a publication for COP28, Towards a New Global Architecture for Climate Finance, and working on Dart River, a book project for Hutchinson Heinemann. Ashish is also a regular contributor to the Guardian and the Observer, as well as a practising filmmaker with recent credits including Planetary Imagination (2023) a 5-screen film installation, for The Box, Plymouth, and the feature documentary, The Confession (2016) for BFI and BBC Storyville.

Links/further reading

1 - <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/06/1041261>

2 - https://earthenvironmentcommunity.nature.com/posts/against-apartheid?channel_id=behind-the-paper