

CRISIS FROM THE INSIDE OUT

Storytelling through poetry film in the Anthropocene

A landscape of cracked, dry earth under a cloudy sky, with a dead tree on the right.

‘We are living in the age of humans. Our species has caused huge changes on our planet, including global warming, ocean acidification, and habitat destruction.’ – *Natural History Museum*

Image: Pixabay

ALBATROSS

A film by Chris Jordan



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CREATIVE STORYTELLING

- ▶ Art enables us to work with these feelings without turning away
- ▶ To reach people at a deeper level
- ▶ The process can be cathartic, connecting and galvanizing



Telling the Anthropocene story

'The heart that breaks open can contain the whole universe' – Joanna Macy



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The world is not a problem to be solved; it is a living being to which we belong. The world is part of our own self and we are a part of its suffering wholeness. Until we go to the root of our image of separateness, there can be no healing.

– *Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee*



THE WORK THAT RECONNECTS

- ▶ Gratitude
- ▶ Honouring
- ▶ Seeing with new eyes
- ▶ Going forth



Seeing with new eyes

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Poetry is the mother tongue of the human race

–Johann Georg Hamman

POETRY – GOING BEYOND

- ▶ Poetry is fundamentally extra sensory and alchemical
- ▶ People reach for it in life's most felt moments
- ▶ Intense and immense, it's a distillation and elevation of human experience
- ▶ An immersive experience in itself, perhaps



Videopoetry is a hybrid form; it borrows its elements from every art form that is available. It is not simply the illustration of a previously written poem. It could be, but *only if the visual and sound treatment turns it inside out so that the original words, the text of the videopoem, are seen (or heard) in an entirely new context, in an entirely new structure.*

—Tom Konyves

TELLING ANTHROPOCENE STORIES THROUGH POETRY FILM

- I previously worked with poetry and art photography separately
- Words didn't feel enough, images didn't feel enough.
- Straightforward Anthropocene narratives can feel both not enough and too much
- Responding to these times calls for going beyond facts
- Climate and ecological breakdown are real life horror that can make us shut down



Videopoem stills



THE **RIALTO**
NATURE
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POETRY
COMPETITION
2022



Jane Lovell, 'Blame the Fox'



From page to screen

