

ARTIST BRIEF

Climate Canvas - Precious Resources | Art Competition 2026

1. Context & Purpose

Climate Canvas: Precious Resources is a competition that calls on artists across the Bay of Plenty to use their creative talents to give voice to the climate and to the innovations, relationships and ideas that may shape a thriving whenua.

The competition is designed to awaken hope, amplify activism, and spark creative conversations around climate change and community resilience. Artists and creatives are encouraged to submit visual artworks that explore ecological systems, social equity, intergenerational thinking, or draw inspiration from positive developments in climate science, technology, or sustainable design.

2. Who Can Apply

- Eligibility criteria: All ages are welcome to enter, but you must live in the Tauranga, Western Bay of Plenty or Rotorua area.
- Accepted media formats: visual art, mounted on canvas or board, size constraints 22" x 28" maximum, 2D or 3D as long as it can hang well on the canvas / board.

3. Competition Themes & Inspirations

Climate Canvas – Precious Resources is a visual art competition that invites artists to look at what we have, what we use, and what we stand to lose. This year's theme is **Precious Resources**.

From the water in our rivers to the fabric in our wardrobes, the world is rich with materials and systems that sustain us, yet too often we treat them as disposable or infinite. We ask: what does it look like to truly value what we have?

We invite you to respond to themes of:

- **Material life cycles** - the story of textiles, plastics, timber, and other materials, from origin to reuse, repair, and reimagining
- **Water, soil, and air** - our most fundamental commons, and what it means to protect, restore, or mourn them

- **The economy of enough** - alternatives to extraction and waste; circular thinking, repair culture, and sufficiency
- **Indigenous and traditional knowledge** - the deep wisdom of peoples who have long understood how to live within limits, including mātauranga Māori and kaitiakitanga
- **Invisible abundance** - resources we overlook: community, time, biodiversity, seed banks, silence

Whether your work is made *from* reclaimed materials, or simply speaks *about* them, we welcome approaches that are speculative, symbolic, or grounded in everyday life.

4. Submission Requirements

- What to include:
 - o Artwork title
 - o Artist statement: 100 words maximum explaining the concept, motivation, material choices, and its connection to climate action and the guiding themes.
 - o Technical details: Materials, dimensions, installation instructions.
 - o Asking price if you wish to sell your artwork; or your permission if you wish to donate your artwork to Envirohub.
- Apart from visual appreciation, there will be no other type of interaction of the audience with the artwork.

6. Evaluation Criteria

- Relevance to the Precious Resource theme.
- Conceptual clarity & originality.
- Material / environmental sustainability (eg low-impact or recycled materials).
- Artistic quality & creativity.

7. Timeline & Logistics

- 15 July - Submissions open
- 31 August - Submissions close 5pm
- 3 September - Finalists announced

- 7-10 September - Finalists drop off art to Envirohub in Tauranga
- 17-20 September - Exhibition of Finalists at Cargo Shed with Peoples Choice voting
- 20 September - Awards night at the Cargo Shed
- October/November (dates to be confirmed) – Finalist Exhibition, Carlton Gallery, Katikati - Selected finalists' work will be exhibited at Carlton Gallery, Katikati. The gallery will retain a 35% commission on any works sold during the exhibition. If you are selected as a top 10 finalist and do not wish for your work to be included in this exhibition, please let us know.

8. Prizes & Recognition

Prizes kindly provided by Creative Bay of Plenty include:

- 1st Place - \$800
- 2nd Place - \$400
- 3rd Place - \$200
- People's Choice Award - \$300. People can vote for their favourite piece from the finalists, in person, during the exhibition at the Cargo Shed from 17-20 September
- Chance to exhibit or sell work.
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9. Rights & Use

- By entering this competition, you are giving Envirohub the right to use your submission in online promotion, publications, and exhibitions, acknowledging you as the artist.
- Copyright remains with the artist.

10. Submission Process & Contact Info

- Submission for judging closes at 5pm on the 31 August and must be made via this link:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeldhs1GAPUaYYb2LBuoGKSaPCdnP5zZGzDVGkblm7bAXqKFg/viewform?usp=header>
- Required artist information: photos of the art, contact details, name, price if applicable. For more info, see submission form.

- All finalists need to bring their physical art to Envirohub (31b Glasgow Street, Tauranga) by 10 September to be judged and exhibited at the Cargo Shed.