

第8回



FUTURE DESIGN 2025

未来のために、芸術は何ができるのか？

What can art do for the future?

13 Sep 2025

Michael Munker
michael@milliongenerations.org



Credits

Future Design at UN and EU Commission

Prof. Tatsuyoshi Saijo, Dr. Masako Ichihara
Design exhibited jacket Toshiko Fujita

Letters of Utrecht

Foundation Letters van Utrecht delettersvanutrecht.nl
Font by Hanneke Verheijke
Poets, stone masons and contributors see delettersvanutrecht.nl

Long-term art projects

milliongenerations.org/index.php?title=LTAP
Stiftung 7000 Eichen 7000-eichen.de
Long Now Foundation longnow.org
Foundation Letters van Utrecht delettersvanutrecht.nl
Future Library Trust futurelibrary.no, Katie Paterson Studios
Longplayer Trust longplayer.org
John-Cage-Organ-Stiftung Halberstadt www.aslsp.org
Stiftung Wemdingen Zeitpyramide zeitpyramide.de

Additional images

Chantal Heijnen chantalheijnen.com (New York Sep 2024)
Sunshine Mathon (slide 1&last)
Mariano Cecowski (Cava de los manos)
Michael Munker where not otherwise indicated

Ideas

Don't know where they come from



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Good Ancestors exhibition (EU and UN)

https://milliongenerations.org/index.php?title=Good_Ancestors_exhibition_2024

This exhibition is supported by the European Commission. It is based on the Good Ancestors exhibition that was shown in the United Nations General Assembly building in September 2024 and had been organised by the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations. The original exhibit was organised by the two missions to the UN (the co-facilitators of the negotiations) in support of the UN Declaration on Future Generations.

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milliongenerations

2008-2034

how can there be most happiness?

Assume a very long future:

communication

understanding

billions of years...

2012- Letters of Utrecht

2022- Long-term art projects

2024- Good Ancestors exhibition

more Saturdays / surviving progress

Letters van Utrecht

2012 –
for as long as
there are
Saturdays



Letters van Utrecht

2012 –
for as long as
there are
Saturdays



Letters van Utrecht

2012 –
for as long as
there are
Saturdays



Ruben van Gogh
1 - 124

JE ZULT ERGENS MOETEN BEGINNEN OM HET VERLEDEN EEN PLAATS TE
GEVEN. HET HEDEN DOET ER STEEDS MINDER TOE. HOE VERDER JE
BENT. HOE BETER. GA MAAR DOOR NU.

Ingmar Heytze
125 - 240

LAAT JE SPOREN NA. VERGEET DE FLITS WAARIN JE MAG BESTAAN. DE
WERELD IS JE STRATENPLAN. WAS ER EEN TIJD DAT JE EEN ANDER
WAS: DIE GING VOORBIJ.

Chrétien Breukers
241 - 374

JE BENT DIE ANDER AL. JE BENT. ZOALS JE WEET. VAN DIT VERHAAL
DE SPIL. DIT IS DE EEUWIGHEID. DIE DUURT. DIE HEEFT DE TIJD.
GA DAAROM OP IN JE VERHAAL EN ZWELG. VERTEL.

Alexis de Roode
375 - 532

VERTEL ONS WIE JE BENT MET ELKE STAP. IN ONS VERHAAL
VERDWIJNEN WIJ VANZELF. EN ENKEL JIJ BLIJFT OVER OP DEN DUUR.
JIJ EN DEZE LETTERS. DIE UIT STEEN GEHOUDEN ZIJN. ZOALS DE
LETTERS OP ONS GRAF.

Ellen Deckwitz
533 - 682

DE BARSTEN IN DE DOM. NAAR DE HEMEL OPGESTOKEN ALS EEN
WIJSVINGER. OM DE SCHULDIGEN AAN TE DUIDEN EN MEER TIJD TE
EISEN. ZODAT WE WEER RECHTOP KUNNEN GAAN. ALS MENSEN LANGS DE
GRACHT.

Mark Boog
683 - 832

DIE NAAR HUN VOETEN STAREN. KIJK OMHOOG! ZIE UTRECHTS KERKEN
UITSTEKEN BOVEN HET MAAIVELD. HEF DE HANDEN. SMEEK MET DE
TORENS OM DIT VOORRECHT: TE ZIJN. NU TE ZIJN. HET IS MOOI
WEER.

Baban Kirkuki
833 - 988

STAAR MAAR VERDER. HET LEVEN IS GETUIGE VAN JE BLIK OP DE
HORIZON. JOUW VOETSTAPPEN VERBINDEN HET VERLEDEN MET
GESCHREVEN LETTERS. ALLE SEIZOENEN HERKENNEN ZICH IN DEZE
ONEINDIGE STAD.

Vicky Francken
989 - 1157

HIER - HET WOORD - IS DRIJFZAND. EEN HITTEGOLF GESTOELD OP
EEN BEVROREN GRACHT. SPOEL DE CASSETTE TERUG. LEG
ACHTERWAARTS EEN AFSTAND AF EN KIJK VOORUIT: HET GEHEUGEN IS
EEN KLIMPLANT EN DE TIJD EEN TUIN.

Anne Broeksma
1158 - 1320

LANGZAAM KRUIPEN DIEREN TUSSEN BLADEREN UIT. DRADEN BRENGEN
LICHT NAAR DIEPERE LAGEN. DE NACHT EET DE TUIN LEEG. LEPEL
VOOR LEPEL. HET GEHEIM IS DIT: TE LEVEN IN DE RUIMTE DIE
WORDT ACHTERGELATEN

Hanneke Van Eijken
1321 - ?

DOOR TE ADEMEN. DE BOMEN S...

Only you remain in
the long run

長い目で見れば、残
るのはあなただけだ。

Oldest art ~70.000 (or 500.000?) years old

Cava de los manos, Argentina ~9.000 - 13.000 years



Credit: Mariano Cecowski



Long-term art projects LTAP 2022-

Letters of Utrecht

7000 Oaks

The sound of the future:
A 1,000-year musical composition



[Longplayer.org](https://longplayer.org)

The world's
slowest concert



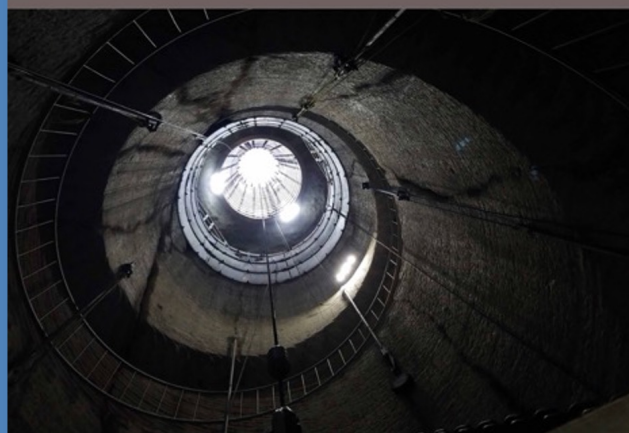
[Cage Project aslsp.org](https://cageproject.aslsp.org)

The books that can't be read
until next century



futurelibrary.no

A clock designed to keep
time for 10 millennia



[Longnow.org](https://longnow.org)

The pyramid that will take
1,200 years to build



zeitpyramide.de

...

Good Ancestors: Art and Culture for Future Generations

In the early 21st Century, most children's education – and yet the world has never been so interconnected – has been a mix of digital and physical. We hope to build on a platform to enhance generations that is a better right than the past. The world's most powerful and most important art is the one that is not made by the hand of man, but by the hand of nature. The world's most powerful and most important art is the one that is not made by the hand of man, but by the hand of nature. The world's most powerful and most important art is the one that is not made by the hand of man, but by the hand of nature.

How can we be good ancestors towards future generations and leave a better world behind than the one we inherited?

The "Good Ancestors" exhibition invites you to journey across time, from the coast of the sea to the heart of the earth, to explore the world's most powerful and most important art. The exhibition is a journey across time, from the coast of the sea to the heart of the earth, to explore the world's most powerful and most important art. The exhibition is a journey across time, from the coast of the sea to the heart of the earth, to explore the world's most powerful and most important art.

Through art and culture, we are reminded of our collective responsibility towards future generations, reflecting the experiences and knowledge needed to understand their rights. By embracing the idea of our far distant descendants, we find a path forward, one that transcends culture and geography. Embracing future generations may be humanity's most powerful legacy and the key to our collective wellbeing.

EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

2024-2025

2024-2025

2024-2025

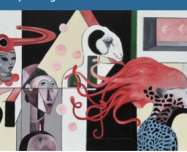
A cave where you can join hands with deep-time ancestors



Cave of the Hands (Cueva de las Manos)

The Cave of the Hands is a prehistoric site in Argentina, known for its thousands of red handprints. The handprints are of various sizes, suggesting they were made by people of different ages and heights. The site is located in a cave, and the handprints are made of red ochre. The site is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

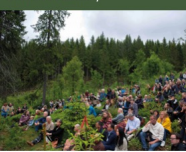
New Mythologies



Ancestors Dreaming

An exhibition of contemporary art inspired by mythologies from around the world. The exhibition features works by artists from various cultures, including a woman with long red hair, a man with a beard, and various animals. The exhibition is a journey across time, from the coast of the sea to the heart of the earth, to explore the world's most powerful and most important art.

The books that can't be read until next century



Future Library

A project where a collection of 100 books is being written by 100 authors, but the books will not be opened until the year 2100. The books are being written by authors from various cultures and languages. The project is a journey across time, from the coast of the sea to the heart of the earth, to explore the world's most powerful and most important art.

The largest African art piece ever made



The Great African Art Banner

A massive banner created by a group of African artists, featuring various art styles and patterns. The banner is a journey across time, from the coast of the sea to the heart of the earth, to explore the world's most powerful and most important art.

The pyramid that will take 1,200 years to build



Time Pyramid (Ectopiramide)

A pyramid made of stone blocks, designed to take 1,200 years to build. The pyramid is a journey across time, from the coast of the sea to the heart of the earth, to explore the world's most powerful and most important art.

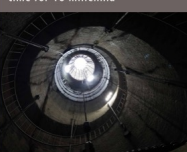
This ancient horse must be maintained, or it will disappear



The White Horse of Uffington

A white horse sculpture in a field, known as the White Horse of Uffington. The sculpture is a journey across time, from the coast of the sea to the heart of the earth, to explore the world's most powerful and most important art.

A clock designed to keep time for 10 millennia



The Clock of the Long Now

A clock designed to keep time for 10,000 years. The clock is a journey across time, from the coast of the sea to the heart of the earth, to explore the world's most powerful and most important art.

Oceanic feeling: sensing the eternal currents of the sea



Fishermess and the Ocean

A large, dark, abstract sculpture resembling a fish or a whale. The sculpture is a journey across time, from the coast of the sea to the heart of the earth, to explore the world's most powerful and most important art.

The sound of the future: A 1,000-year musical composition



Longplayer

A 1,000-year musical composition, where the music is played by a large number of people. The composition is a journey across time, from the coast of the sea to the heart of the earth, to explore the world's most powerful and most important art.

Inspiration from indigenous mythologies



Spirits of Transformation: Pamirima's Work (Espíritos da Transformação)

A large, colorful, abstract sculpture resembling a person's face. The sculpture is a journey across time, from the coast of the sea to the heart of the earth, to explore the world's most powerful and most important art.

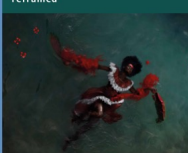
The world's slowest concert



Cage Project Halberstadt

A large, dark, abstract sculpture resembling a person's face. The sculpture is a journey across time, from the coast of the sea to the heart of the earth, to explore the world's most powerful and most important art.

The ghosts of the past – reframed



Ghost Island

A large, dark, abstract sculpture resembling a person's face. The sculpture is a journey across time, from the coast of the sea to the heart of the earth, to explore the world's most powerful and most important art.

Why wearing the clothing of tomorrow's people brings them closer



Future Design

A group of people sitting around a table, wearing traditional clothing. The group is a journey across time, from the coast of the sea to the heart of the earth, to explore the world's most powerful and most important art.

Long before humanity, these organisms thrived on Earth



Fungal Futures

A large, dark, abstract sculpture resembling a person's face. The sculpture is a journey across time, from the coast of the sea to the heart of the earth, to explore the world's most powerful and most important art.

A poem carved into the streets to increase the number of Saturdays



The Letters of Utrecht (De Letters van Utrecht)

A large, dark, abstract sculpture resembling a person's face. The sculpture is a journey across time, from the coast of the sea to the heart of the earth, to explore the world's most powerful and most important art.

For far future generations

What do you want to leave behind?

The past has and generations meet to this poster invite all visitors to write to future generations. Please write legibly what you would like to tell or what you want to leave behind for future generations. Please then deposit it in the position below or mail it later to the address on the back of the card or send an image to artproject@thefuturegenerations.org.

DATE: _____ NAME: _____

Collective Time Capsule

A large, dark, abstract sculpture resembling a person's face. The sculpture is a journey across time, from the coast of the sea to the heart of the earth, to explore the world's most powerful and most important art.

Why wearing the clothing of tomorrow's people brings them closer

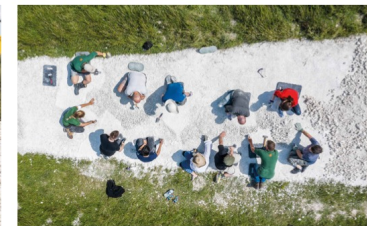


Future Design

Location: Japan and worldwide
Established: early 2010s
Project leader: Tatsuyoshi Saijo
Custodian: Future Design Research Center, Kyoto University of Advanced Science

Future Design Councils involve asking people to wear ceremonial robes that place them in the shoes of future generations when weighing the pros and cons of policies. Led by the economist Tatsuyoshi Saijo of the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature in Kyoto, this simple ritual has been shown to change how people think, fostering greater care and concern for future generations. Saijo describes such acts of temporal empathy as "futurability". "A person exhibits futurability when she or he experiences an increase in happiness as a result of deciding to, and taking action to, forgo current benefits to enrich future generations," he writes.

This ancient horse must be maintained, or it will disappear



The White Horse of Uffington

Location: Oxfordshire, United Kingdom
Established: ~1,000 BCE
Artist: Unknown
Custodians: English Heritage; The National Trust; Long Now London

Dating to the Bronze Age, a horse the size of a football field is carved into the grass of a hill in Southern England.

Left alone, it would be overgrown and disappear within a decade, so it has been maintained for 3,000 years by a process of "rechalking". Every year, the UK National Trust – and volunteers such as the Long Now London group – attend the site with mallets and buckets of fresh chalk to ensure this ancient artwork continues to exist for future generations to see. It reminds us that long-term cultural legacies often require maintenance – and if we want them to last, we need communities willing to take on that mantle within their lifetimes.

Good Ancestors exhibition September 2024 @ UN
16 projects to inspire emotional connection
to support UN Declaration on Future Generations



For far future generations

What should last?

DATE _____

NAME _____



Collective Time Capsule

Location: Created by attendees of the UN Summit of the Future
Established: September 2024
Artist: Angelina Kumar
Archiving Location: Deep in a saltmine in Hallstatt/Austria
Memory of Mankind established in 2012
Artist: Martin Kunze

Helpful replies shall become part of the Memory of Mankind Project. Text on the postcards will be archived on ceramic tablets and stored deep in the oldest salt mine to be found and read hundreds of thousand years into the future.

They will also be placed on a website to encourage wider reflection and to make it more likely that there will be a long future.

In a long future there should be someone who is aware. Someone who can understand what you wrote and can answer these questions for their future generations.



Good Ancestors exhibition in 2025 @ European Commission to support European Strategy of Intergenerational Fairness



Glenn Micallef
@GlennMicallef

Moment #1. The Good Ancestor exhibition: I began by opening an exhibition on future generations — a powerful reminder of our duty to be good ancestors. 🇪🇺

Through art and culture, we are called to imagine and build a world that is fairer, more sustainable, and more inclusive for those who will come after us.



👤 European Commission and 3 others

17:53 · 29/04/2025 · **336** Views

Emotional connections with future generations

European Commission gathers more examples
to expand the Good Ancestors exhibition and
communicate Intergenerational Fairness

Which things work for you?

The world, especially Japan, must have many examples

Together they inspire a connection with future generations

Feeling future generations helps us connect with each other

All far descendants are shared

Their existence is our common goal

第8回



FUTURE DESIGN 2025

Suggestions?
Questions?

ご提案は？
ご質問は？

未来のために、芸術は何ができるのか？

What can art do for the future?

Michael Munker

michael@milliongenerations.org

