



Advancing a Planetary Arts Movement: A Manifesto for X-ART

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Abstract

This article introduces a new Planetary Arts Movement—also called X-ART, whereby X-ART refers to Existential Threats and the desire for humanity to continue to Exist. It builds upon the original vision and legacy of eminent artists and scientists at the foundation of the World Academy of Art and Science in 1960, whilst reflecting the existential challenges that the world faces today. The article outlines the vision, goal, purpose, origins, context and guiding values and principles of this new initiative. The main global challenges and priorities for the Planetary Arts Movement are described along with the root causes and strategic solutions. The scope of X-ART includes creative solutions to addressing our global challenges, framed under the sustainable development clusters of Planet, People, Peace and Prosperity. Finally, an initial action plan for advancing this new global arts initiative is outlined, followed by a Manifesto for the Planetary Arts Movement, X-ART which invites wider engagement with artists, scientists and creatives from around the world. This introduction is intended as an overview to the Planetary Arts initiative, with further concepts expanded upon in a series of related articles in this and future editions of Cadmus.

1. Vision

For All forms of the Arts and Creatives to bring forth a flourishing Planet together, forging a Culture of Peace to secure the Wellbeing of Future Generations.

2. Goal

To engage all forms of the Arts to enhance understanding of threats to our life on this earth and to act as catalysts for creative solutions to bring about a peaceful and flourishing world for All.

3. Purpose

To advance a new global art movement—‘X-ART’ to inspire all forms of the Arts around the world with a common purpose, by acting as catalysts that transform global threats for our survival, into diverse and innovative solutions for human security as a foundation for our existence (*X = Exist*), and enable humanity to bring forth a flourishing future for all, united by a vision of planetary peace.

4. Origins

This global art initiative is a revival of the vision laid out during the establishment of

the World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS), which was founded in 1960 by eminent Scientists such as Einstein and Oppenheimer, also included the prominent artist, Henry Moore. An early initiative to create a world art centre was supported by Peggy Guggenheim, Max Ernst and Salvador Dali and was designed by the Architect, Buckminster Fuller.¹ WAAS serves as an interdisciplinary forum that promotes free thinking to identify root causes and generate innovative solutions that address the pressing challenges confronting humanity. WAAS promotes human security, affirms universal human rights and acts to serve the common good of all of humanity.

Our turbulent times, calls us to question the very nature of what it is to be alive as Humans, with the threat of potentially no longer existing triggering inspired perspectives on the purpose of our life and ultimately the future of Humanity.

5. Context

To take forward this WAAS Planetary Art initiative, X-ART a new WAAS Committee is being formed: the Planetary Arts X-EXIST ‘PAX’ Committee. The PAX Committee **aims** to act as a tool for global transformation: it is youth driven, innovative and solution focused, promotes partnerships, and enables artistic communities to act as a catalyst for positive change, by creating a shared vision together that enhances a culture of peace with a flourishing planet for all. Our turbulent times, calls us to question the very nature of what it is to be alive as Humans, with the threat of potentially no longer existing triggering inspired perspectives on the purpose of our life and ultimately the future of Humanity. Turning these thoughts into action, can mobilize collaborative and innovative solutions, to actively create the **World that We Want**—in order to survive and thrive.

6. Planetary Art Principles

This Planetary art initiative intends to enable partnerships and collaborative creative responses around the world, within and between countries and communities, united by a common vision and guided by the following principles:

- **Wisdom** – support and communicate scientific, interdisciplinary and traditional knowledge;
- **Ecology** – promote diversity with nature based and environmental solutions;
- **Creativity** – act as catalysts for transformation, to create positive planetary change;
- **All-inclusive** – for all the arts, embraces everyone as artists, and art is for everyone;
- **Narrative** – use stories to enhance engagement, meaning and purpose, whilst motivating creativity and collaborative activities;

- **Networks** – enable artists to connect and inspire others through positive influence and organic growth;

The Arts provide a form to communicate and explore themes in-depth and/or as part of a trans-disciplinary perspective to act as a catalyst for positive transformation on our collective human journey.

Priorities for securing the survival of humanity include our planetary emergency with risks from tipping points escalating runaway climate change; pandemics continue to be a risk with an increase in genetic modification, environmental pressures and demographic trends combined with a weakening of multi-lateral governance and public health systems; nuclear catastrophe continues to loom whilst we allow unresolved conflicts to escalate and inadequate controls for nuclear weapons systems. Whilst a lack of global governance for weaponized and emerging technologies, including Artificial General Intelligence presents substantial risks for our future.

Further information about the key threats and risks to the survival of humanity are summarized in a Cadmus article.²

7. Root Causes and Strategic Solutions

To ensure our collective survival, we need to understand the root causes of our global challenges, the role that human security plays as a foundation for resilience and sustainable development, and to envision and create a flourishing future world together. In these critical times, we need to apply strategic foresight to design effective plans that are evidence informed. Combining the arts with the sciences, can bring narratives to life, communicate complexity, motivate meaning, and enhance diverse trans and multidisciplinary perspectives on the world, that inspires innovative and creative solutions.

8. Scope

All aspects of the Arts are applied to aid understanding of root causes of our global challenges, whilst enabling strategic solutions—this initiative is initially guided by Strategy X-EXIST³ with creative activities inspired by a series of living Plans for Peace,⁴ the Planet,⁵ People,⁶ Sustainable Prosperity and Planetary Leaders.⁷ The below clusters also act to strengthen resilience, human security and to enable the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Arts provide a form to communicate and explore themes in-depth and/or as part of a trans-disciplinary perspective to act as a catalyst for positive transformation on our collective human journey. The following areas provide a guide for the scope of artistic and creative expression, mainstreamed across multidisciplinary fora:

- **Planet:** threats range from mass extinctions from asteroids, massive volcanic eruptions and biodiversity collapse to threats from our climate emergency; to illustrating the regeneration and recovery of environments including air, water and earth, with the co-creation of diverse, vibrant ecosystems and a healthy planet for all of life.
- **People:** ranging from inequalities, food and water insecurity that act as drivers for migration and conflict, with the risk of pandemics and disease threatening human existence; prompting us to question the depths of meaning and the complexity of all stages and diverse forms of humanity, whilst helping us to envision and create communities, to bring forth a future of human-kind.
- **Peace:** aiding understanding of the root causes and emotional responses of violence, conflicts and wars, including the risks from nuclear, chemical, biological and technological warfare; communicating our common human journey in finding pathways to peace to the creation of communities for a culture of peace.
- **Prosperity:** calling into question the lack of sustainability of our current Mechanical-Technical- Industrial world, with unhealthy crowded cities and widening inequalities that act as drivers for pandemics, wars and our planetary emergency; to a transformation of prosperity based upon sustainable energy and nature-based solutions that places wellbeing at the heart of what we do, and advanced through global goods and innovations that creates a flourishing world for all.

9. An Action Plan for the Planetary Arts Initiative

A Planetary Arts— X-Exist ‘PAX’ Committee, has been established under the umbrella of the World Academy of Art and Science, to provide thought leadership and strategic direction to the advancement of the Planetary Arts initiative. The below points outline an initial plan of action to advance X-ART:

1. **Expand WAAS Arts Membership:** identify and communicate the historic origins of the Arts within WAAS; identify and engage current WAAS fellows with an interest and/or expertise in the Arts; enhance the diversity of WAAS membership by engaging and inviting leaders in the arts world to become WAAS fellows.
2. **Apply the Arts to enhance Planetary Leadership:** apply knowledge and skills from the Arts to enhance multi-disciplinary leadership capacity that enables action to address the root causes of our global turmoil and turbulence, including understanding of scientific evidence on the threats to human existence, in order to strategically communicate, influence and advocate our collective energies to prevent and avert risks to human survival and related global challenges.
3. **Inspire Creative Solutions:** search for innovative solutions and emphasize the role of the Arts to communicate a greater appreciation of the whole picture, including an understanding of multi-disciplinary systems with the promotion of creativity to enable the generation of innovative solutions to address our global challenges and mobilize collective action; collate and share good practice from the Arts world to inspire multidisciplinary and creative solutions.

4. **Mainstream the Arts:** embed and apply the Arts across WAAS initiatives to amplify effectiveness and benefit common goals and agendas; promote mainstreaming of the Arts across multiple sectors (including Planet, People, Peace, Prosperity and Planetary Leadership) with partners, to enable professional development and systems transformation for a sustainable world.
5. **Establish a ‘Planetary Art Alliance’ (PAALL):** enable greater engagement with the Arts world by setting up an Alliance of organizations, institutions and wider partners who are able to support the WAAS Arts initiative, and to inspire, mobilize, fund and encourage community networks and collaborative activities related to the WAAS Planetary Arts movement. Appoint well known artists and creatives as Planetary Art Ambassadors to act as champions.
6. **Promote ‘Planetary Art Networks’ (PAN):** encourage networks and communities of Planetary Art to form and evolve around topics, themes, geographies and principles supported by the PAALLs, through convening, curating, performing, mobilizing partnerships and promoting strategic collaborative activities, enabled by ambassadors and supported by PAALLs with capacity and partnership building, resources and funding.

The Planetary Arts Movement, also called ‘X-ART’ (X = Exist), calls upon all the Arts, Artists and Creatives around the World, to act as catalysts to transform global threats for our survival, by bringing forth a flourishing future for All.

The added value that the World Academy of Art and Science can bring to this agenda is the ability to take a trans-disciplinary approach to enable a holistic systems perspective to human security and in doing so transform dominant narratives and contribute to wider advocacy. The WAAS can play a pivotal role mobilizing the arts around the world by building capacity to create a more secure world for all through its links with academies and partnerships around the world.

This introduction to the new Planetary Arts initiative has been developed in close collaboration with the World Academy of Art and Science leadership team, including members of the newly established Planetary Arts Committee. A series of related Planetary Arts articles, which explore in-depth a variety of aspects of this initiative, are also being published in Cadmus by members of the Planetary Arts Committee. Additionally, the Manifesto, a summary, short articles, podcasts, webinars, interviews and videos will be regularly posted on the WAAS arts webpage: www.worldacademy.org/arts

10. A Manifesto for the Planetary Arts Movement: X-ART

To articulate the vision and strategic thinking of this new Planetary Arts Movement, the Planetary Arts Committee has developed a Manifesto for the Planetary Arts Movement, and

invites artists, creatives, whether as individuals or organizations, from around the world to endorse and promote the vision, purpose and principles of the X-ART Manifesto to co-create a Flourishing Planet for All.

A Manifesto for the Planetary Arts Movement: X-Art

The Vision

The Planetary Arts Movement, also called ‘X-ART’ (X = Exist), calls upon all the Arts, Artists and Creatives around the World, to act as catalysts to transform global threats for our survival, by bringing forth a flourishing future for All.

We are united by a Vision of Planetary Peace—weaving the Planet and Peace together, through compassion, creativity, and consciousness—to manifest a Flourishing Planet for All.

Art is a method of knowing, perceiving, and transforming reality, and artistic creativity plays a vital role in shaping ethical awareness and collective intelligence.

The Purpose

The Planetary Art Movement X-ART aims to act as a tool for positive global transformation, and to create actively the World We Want—in order to survive and thrive.

The Planetary Art Movement X-ART aims to act as a medium for positive global transformation and conscious evolution, a living field of creativity that seeks not only to reflect the world but also to reimagine it.

Through the transformative power of imagination and the solidarity of spirit, we call forth a new planetary culture—a living synthesis of wisdom, beauty, and action.

Principles of Planetary Art—guiding values and concepts

These guiding principles, values, concepts, serve as the universal framework for co-creating a flourishing civilization through art, science, and shared human purpose; (WECANN):

- **Wisdom** – to support and communicate scientific, interdisciplinary and traditional knowledge; to embody and communicate scientific, philosophical, and ancestral knowledge through artistic expression—transforming information into insight, and insight into action.
- **Ecology** – to promote diversity with nature based and environmental solutions; to promote the sacred interdependence of all life, restoring balance with the natural world through nature-based, regenerative, and aesthetic solutions.

- **Creativity** – to act as catalysts for transformation to envision and create positive planetary change; to activate imagination as the evolutionary power of transformation, envisioning pathways of possibility and create positive planetary change.
- **All-inclusive** – an approach that includes all the arts, embraces everyone as artists, and considers that art is for everyone; to embrace the creative essence in every being.
- **Narrative** – using stories to enhance engagement, meaning and purpose, whilst motivating creativity and collaborative activities; to tell the stories that reconnect us—to each other, to nature, and to meaning. Through artful storytelling, we awaken empathy, deepen purpose, and cultivate collective hope.
- **Networks** – that enable artists to connect and inspire others through positive influence and organic growth; to weave living networks of inspiration—artists, scientists, educators, and communities—who amplify one another through solidarity, collaboration, and shared vision.

Art is the ability to create, based on intuition and capacity to transform materials and knowledge, through inspiration, vision and original thinking. X-ART bridges traditions and innovations, indigenous wisdom and advanced technologies, thus creating a global field of collaboration that honors diversity while cultivating unity in purpose.

Art is a method of knowing, perceiving, and transforming reality, and artistic creativity plays a vital role in shaping ethical awareness and collective intelligence. X-ART supports moral imagination and global empathy through education, collaboration, and participatory artistic practices.

X-ART recognizes empathy as the foundation of a new moral imagination—a force that expands our circle of care to include all beings. From empathy arises solidarity, the lived practice of interconnectedness. Solidarity transforms awareness into embodied cooperation, cultivating global belonging and mutual empowerment.

Through imagination, intuition, and emotional truth, we aim to reveal what data alone cannot—the invisible threads that connect humanity, nature, and spirit. In a fragmented world, the artist’s eye restores wholeness by transforming knowledge into meaning, and empathy into action.

As artists and creatives, we act as translators of complexity and emotion to reveal the human dimension of planetary change. By creating and sharing visions of harmony, justice, and regeneration, we awaken the collective imagination needed to build a culture of peace and a flourishing planet for all.

A Call to Co-Creation

We call upon all artists, scientists, creatives and visionaries worldwide to co-create this new cultural field of Planetary Art.

With Art as the language of meaning, and science as the language of method, together they can nurture the planetary consciousness essential for sustainable development and peace.

As creativity becomes consciousness, art becomes the catalyst for the next step in human evolution.

Through this partnership, we birth a planetary renaissance, where creativity elevates consciousness and consciousness disseminates the seeds of peace.

As artists and scientists around the world, we act as catalysts for positive change by creating a shared vision together—for a culture of peace with a flourishing planet for all.

Further information can be found at the WAAS Website.⁸

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Notes

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2. Joanna Nurse, "Human Security and Existential Threats: A Governance Framework for Planet, Peace, People & Prosperity," *Cadmus Journal* 5, no. 2 (August 1, 2023), <https://www.cadmusjournal.org/article/volume-5-issue-2/hs-existential-threats>.
3. "Strategy X-EXIST: A Plan to Secure the Future of Humanity from Existential Threats," *InterAction Council*, accessed November 30, 2025, <https://www.interactioncouncil.org/publications/strategy-x-exist>.
4. "A Plan for Peace: Promote Planetary Peace to create a flourishing World for all to Thrive," *InterAction Council*, accessed November 30, 2025, <https://www.interactioncouncil.org/publications/plan-peace-promote-planetary-peace-create-flourishing-world-all-thrive>.
5. "Plan for the Planet," *InterAction Council*, April 2025, https://www.interactioncouncil.org/sites/default/files/Plan_for_the_Planet_April_2025.pdf.
6. "Plan for People: Preventing Risks from Existential Threats for Pandemics," *InterAction Council*, accessed November 30, 2025, <https://www.interactioncouncil.org/publications/plan-people-preventing-risks-existential-threats-pandemics>.
7. "Planetary Leadership Plan," *InterAction Council*, April 2025, https://www.interactioncouncil.org/sites/default/files/Planetary_Leadership_Plan_April_2025.pdf.
8. "Arts," World Academy of Art and Science, last modified October 31, 2025, <http://www.worldacademy.org/arts>.