

August 15, 2015

Paris will be burning again this fall.

Only this time, it won't be the flamboyant heat depicted in the cult documentary film about New York City's infamous late 1980s ballroom drag culture.

France's cultural and political scene will be set ablaze from November 30th to December 11<sup>th</sup> when thousands of climate change activists and environmental organizations from around the world gather in Paris for [COP21/CMP11](#), the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, also known as, "Paris 2015."

The aim of the conference is to achieve a new international agreement on the climate to start in 2020, applicable to all countries, with the aim of keeping global warming below 2°C. France will also be leading the international charge to ensure points of view converge and to facilitate consensus by the UN and within the European Union.

The arts community in Paris has already begun to prepare for the conference with the intention of using organized creativity and expression to bridge the link between culture and sustainable development. Several Parisian arts organizations will be mobilizing and encouraging artists and citizens to contribute to the movement in their own artistic ways, by helping to find creative, clean and sustainable approaches to addressing climate change.

COAL and Cape Farewell, two leading European arts associations, have joined together to create [ArtCOP21](#), a city-wide climate festival with curated cultural events to be staged throughout Paris during the COP21 conference. ArtCOP21 encourages organizations from all over the world to use the festival's activities to amplify their own unique artistic climate events to engage public participation in the climate change conversation.

In addition, ArtCOP21 is holding *The Conference of Creative Parties*, a three-day public facing summit bringing together creatives and thought leaders of all kinds to develop a creative, global strategic vision for the planet's future. ArtCOP21 will also exhibit four art installations by international artists commissioned specifically for the climate festival in public spaces throughout Paris.

Events like ArtCOP21 are an example of the international response from creative communities and bodies to the complexity of climate change, and the global collaborative effort to use art and various innovative approaches to find viable solutions.