

“Enviro-mental”: Climate Chaos and Pollution: Air, Water, Fire and Earth

By [Caoimhghin Ó Croidheáin](#)

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Theme: [Environment](#), [History](#)

Oil on Canvas Painting by *Caoimhghin Ó Croidheáin*, a prominent Irish artist.

Visit his website at <http://gaelart.blogspot.ie/>.

This series of paintings entitled ‘Environ-mental: Climate Chaos and Pollution’ is based on a combination of the classical Greek idea of the four elements (Air, Water, Fire and Earth) with modern aspects of climate chaos that we are going through currently.

‘Environ-mental’ refers to the ‘mental’ or crazy aspect of the modern economy which proceeds regardless of the effects of modern industrialisation on the global climate.

As we move from ‘Global Warming’ through ‘Climate Change’ to ‘Climate Chaos’ and Instability, we can see the terminology describing the effects of human activity on the climate changing yet the underlying causes seem to stay the same (or get worse) without any significant sincere international effort to counter this problem.

‘Part 1: Air’ looks at the effect of increased car ownership around the world is having on air quality creating smog locally, and the effect of greenhouse gas emissions on global warming from cars globally.

Often disregarded by environmentalists, whose focus has centered on Carbon dioxide CO₂, motor vehicles also emit Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, which is among the most serious forms of toxic air pollution in large urban areas. In the U.S. 60% of carbon monoxide emissions are caused by motor vehicles.



Environ-mental: Climate chaos and pollution

Part 1 : Air

Oil on canvas

60cm x 60cm / 23.6 in x 23.6 in

'Part 2: Water' notes the increased frequency of hurricanes which cause flooding locally while at the same time the increasing levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere causes warming and more water to be evaporated from the ocean, which will lead, it has been estimated, to ever more frequent and even more intense hurricanes over the next century.



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Part 2 : Water

Oil on canvas

60cm x 60cm / 23.6 in x 23.6 in

'Part 3: Fire' looks at the increasing frequency of wildfires globally as warming intensifies areas with long hot summers in hot and dry climates causing extensive damage to huge forested areas (and thereby decreasing the tree-covered areas that act as carbon dioxide sinks), while at the same time causing untold damage to property and human life.



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Part 3 : Fire

Oil on canvas

60cm x 60cm / 23.6 in x 23.6 in

'Part 4: Earth' shows the devastating effects of pollution, a by-product of carbon-based industrialisation (both in terms of oil and oil-based products such as plastics) have on planet earth and its wildlife especially in worst case scenarios such as major oil spills, accidental or intentional. However, this painting also shows the concern of people who are willing to volunteer to clean up such environmental disasters despite risking health problems, such as pulmonary, cardiovascular, and chromosomal diseases.



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Part 4 : Earth

Oil on canvas

60cm x 60cm / 23.6 in x 23.6 in

Caoimhghin Ó Croidheáin is a prominent Irish artist who has exhibited widely around Ireland. His work consists of paintings based on cityscapes of Dublin, Irish history and geopolitical themes (<http://gaelart.net/>). His blog of critical writing based on cinema, art and politics along with research on a database of Realist and Social Realist art from around the world can be viewed country by country at <http://gaelart.blogspot.ie/>.

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