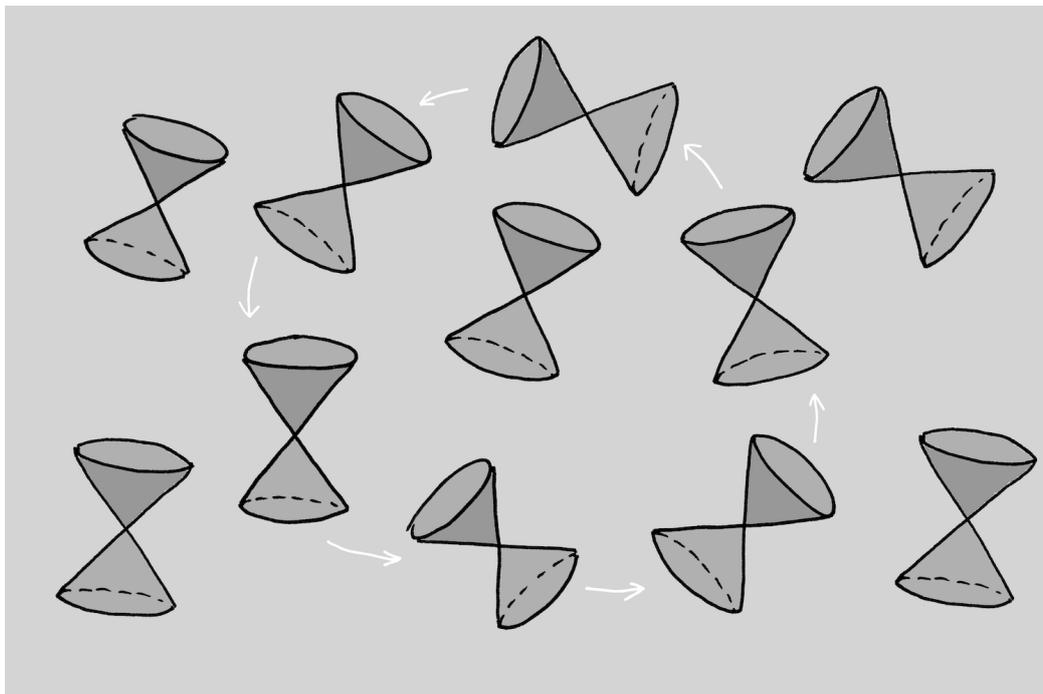


PRESS RELEASE

The Alternative School of Economics **The End of the Present**

Arts Catalyst announces a residency and public programme examining linear time and its relationship with economic and environmental crises.



Advancing always towards the future, one can return to the same point in spacetime; drawing by Ruth Beale, inspired by illustrations in The Order of Time by Carlo Rovelli; courtesy the artists

When does a crisis begin and end? Is it cumulative, concurrent, ongoing or finite? How can we challenge the rhythm of growth and crisis, abundance and scarcity – and the way this influences our collective experience of time? What if in order to do that, we had to question the very idea of time itself?

Arts Catalyst is delighted to announce a new residency and public programme with artist duo The Alternative School of Economics (Ruth Beale and Amy Feneck). Taking place online between July and December 2020, *The End of the Present* critically engages with the financial boom and bust

model of crisis. Learning from the accumulative crisis of environmental change, it explores ways to re-frame crises as a colliding of multiple narratives and connections.

Playing with historical timelines, the artists are undertaking parallel research into the entanglements of economics and environmental change over the last 200 years. In the 20th century alone there are over 25 identifiable financial crashes, such as the Great Depression of the 1930s or the Latin American Debt Crisis of the 1980s. Reimagining these plotted reference points of historical crises into a chaotic series of events, the artists are interested in how their global reverberations continue to affect the world politically, socially and ecologically.

The project's title is drawn from the physicist Carlo Rovelli's book *The Order of Time* in which Rovelli's quantum theories crumble the idea of past, present and future, and reveal the world as being made, not of things, but as a series of events. Taking inspiration from these ideas and descriptions of spacetime, the artists want to collapse the linearity and homogeneity of timelines as inherently associated with an anthropocentric worldview.

The residency will be punctuated by events, through which members of the public will be invited to contribute to the project. The first event on Friday 31 July from 1 – 5pm, will be a workshop titled *Time(un)line: Mapping Crises*, an online workshop experimenting with co-research processes. Asking 'where does a crisis begin and end?', the workshop will begin to collectively remap events which contribute to the 'long crises' of capitalism and the environment. For more information, [click here](#).

The End of the Present forms part of Arts Catalyst's research inquiry *Extractable Matters*.

For further information / images contact Poppy Cockburn, Communications and Creative Digital Strategist via poppy.cockburn@artscatalyst.org.

LISTINGS INFORMATION

Workshop | Time(un)line: Mapping Crises, led by The Alternative School of Economics

Friday 31 July, 1 – 5pm

Free, booking essential via Tickets Unite

Join Arts Catalyst and The Alternative School of Economics for a special online workshop experimenting with co-research processes as a way of exploring global financial and ecological crises. The workshop will include time for individual research and breakout groups, as well as mapping onto an accessible, online platform. During the workshop we will be joined by researchers who will share their field of expertise, with time for questions and discussions throughout. No prior experience necessary!

Link: <https://bit.ly/3iUwhWW>

Notes to Editors:

Ruth Beale & Amy Feneck have been collaborating as The Alternative School of Economics since 2012. As an 'alternative school', they link artists' practice with self education as a way to study economics and economies. They are interested in reciprocal modes of learning and making, and their projects with communities create a framework for investigating political, social and cultural issues. They use diverse and creative methodologies, and collaborate with experts from a variety of disciplines, from sociologists to writers, to produce film, graphics, photography, texts and clothing, as forms of activation, dissemination and reflection. Current and upcoming projects include *True Currency: About Feminist Economics*, a podcast series produced as part of a residency at Gasworks, London, and a tour of Rabbits Road Institute Library, a community collection of books to be based in

Barking, London. Past projects include *Speaking to the City*, billboard commission with Phytology, London, and *The Britishness Project* with Firstsite, Colchester. Visit their [website](#) to find out more.

Arts Catalyst works across art, science and technology to produce ambitious new projects that critically engage with our changing world. It programmes exhibitions, events, residencies, performances and publications, often working in collaboration with national and international partner organisations from the fields of art, science and academia. Public programming is intrinsic to the organisation's work, creating space for conversation, debate and fresh thinking. Since 1994, Arts Catalyst has commissioned more than 170 artists' projects, including major new works by the Otolith Group, Agnes Meyer Brandis, Tomás Saraceno, Aleksandra Mir, Larry Achiampong and David Blandy, and Susan Schuppli. In late 2020 Arts Catalyst is relocating to Sheffield where it will continue its national programme and research strands.

* The Alternative School of Economics were originally invited to present a physical exhibition at Arts Catalyst's London Centre which would have been the final installation in that space prior to Arts Catalyst's [relocation](#) to Sheffield later this year. In light of the Covid19 pandemic, the project has now evolved and manifests as a participatory, online project.

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