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## In Real Life, Olafur Eliasson Tate

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**Olafur Eliasson's major survey exhibition, *In Real Life*, brought together more than 40 highly engaging installations to stimulate a public debate around climate emergency.**

It followed on from Eliasson's iconic Turbine Hall installation *The weather project* 2003 and his *Ice watch* in 2018. The latter consisted of large boulders of ice from Greenland, left slowly to melt on the North landscape, to make concrete what oftentimes can seem to be rather abstract statistics and news reports about the seriousness of the climate situation.

As much was true for Eliasson's photographic series, *The glaciers melt* 1999/2019 for which the artist documented the shrinking of Icelandic glaciers across the two decades that the images were taken. The exhibition's closing section made explicit the studio's ongoing engagement with climate issues, both on a large scale and in its immediate working.

The climate message extended beyond the exhibition itself including the creation of a special menu for Tate Modern's restaurants based on the organic, vegetarian and locally sourced food served in the artist's Berlin studio. Tate Shop, for the first time, created a circular economy by offering a 20 % discount on exhibition merchandise in return for bringing in any no longer used T-Shirts for recycling.

The opening of the exhibition was preceded by a high-profile debate which formed part of London's Climate Action Week. Aside from Eliasson, speakers included Clare Farrell, designer and activist, Malini Mehra, climate campaigner and Commissioner to the Mayor of London and Mary Robinson, Adjunct Professor of Climate Justice, Trinity College Dublin. The first in a series of events, this was followed shortly after by an artists' breakfast co-hosted with Culture Declares, leading up to Tate joining the declaration of Climate Emergency.



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**Image caption:**  
Olafur Eliasson *Your uncertain shadow (colour)*  
2010 Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary  
Collection, Vienna. Photo: María del Pilar García  
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Eliasson