



PERFORMANCE SPACE NEW YORK
150 1ST AVENUE, 4TH FLOOR

Climate Ring

*Presented by Swissnex on the occasion of
Climate Week NYC 2024, September 25 - 27*

For Immediate Release - New York, NY, September 13, 2024 - Swissnex presents the Climate Ring, a pop-up boxing arena for the fight of the century: the one for planet Earth. Climate Ring will take place from September 25 - 27th at Performance Space New York, a leading venue for experimental performing arts in New York City's East Village. Swissnex will transform the venue into a boxing arena and will hold 12 events over the course of the three days. Inspired by the 12 rounds of a boxing match these 12 activations will feature an eclectic mix of discussions, exhibitions, and performances featuring rising stars and heavyweights from science, innovation, and the arts. From renowned ecologist Thomas Crowther of ETH Zurich to New York nightlife impresaria Susanne Bartsch, the Climate Ring showcases fresh perspectives on our planetary moment from Switzerland, the US, and beyond.

Climate Ring is an official event program of Climate Week NYC 2024, the world's largest and most bustling climate festival. Referred to by The New York Times as a "Burning Man for climate geeks," this annual rendez-vous for climate culture features over 600 events, from tech mixers and VIP dinners to concerts and Earth-inspired drag shows, taking place across New York in parallel with the UN General Assembly High-Level Week. It brings together climate leaders from government, business, technology, arts, creative industries, academia, and civil society.

CLIMATE RING PARTNERS

Climate Ring is an initiative of Swissnex in Boston and New York organized in partnership with Performance Space NY, Climeworks, ETH Zurich, Greater Zurich Area, ZHdK - Zurich University of the Arts, HEAD - Geneva, The New School Parsons, Institut auf dem Rosenberg, Studio 697 THz, Overthrow, Innosuisse - Swiss Innovation Agency, Climate Collider, the German Accelerator, Open Planet, the Villars Institute, Climate Words, SI - Swiss Institute, Storefront for Art and Architecture, Giroux Impact, Choke Hole, Vitra, Vitra Circle Store, Foodhack, GGBa - Invest Western Switzerland, Switzerland Innovation, travel Switzerland, SBB CFF FFS, Swiss Business Hub USA, the Consulate General of Switzerland in New York, and Presence Switzerland.

ABOUT THE THREE CLIMATE RING EXHIBITIONS

Alongside the twelve rounds of the Climate Ring, Swissnex presents three exhibits of student artwork addressing the climate crisis in collaboration with the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD – Genève), Institut auf dem Rosenberg, and Studio 697 THz.

In partnership with ZHdK – Zurich University of the Arts, HEAD – Geneva, Institut auf dem Rosenberg and Studio 697 THz

Punch Prize

Presented by ZHdK - Zurich University of the Arts

The Punch Prize, a collaboration between Swissnex and the ZHdK Department of Design, recognizes outstanding climate-focused thesis projects by ZHdK design students. The exhibit features three works, *Corallum* by Emilia Lendi in collaboration with rreefs, *In Full Bloom* by Charisse Ann De Leon & Lisa Bach, and *More Moor* by Riva Pinto.

Endless Wear: a New Take on Upcycling

Presented by HEAD - Geneva

Endless Wear: A New Take on Upcycling is an exhibition showcasing 15 looks and 26 accessories created by first-year fashion design students at Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD – Genève). This new generation of designers demonstrates how incorporating sustainability in the processes of fashion design from A to Z not only responds to these preoccupations but also fuels the exploration of new possibilities for creation, conception, and realization of works that appeal to the senses of a contemporary citizen of the world.

SolarSunflowers

Presented by Institut auf dem Rosenberg and Studio 697 THz

The Blue Nomad Community is an art initiative by the students of Institut auf dem Rosenberg in collaboration with Studio 697 THz. This immersive digital experience invites contemplation on urgent global issues — such as ocean sustainability, climatology and resilient community models. In this digital realm, *SolarSunflowers* power the Blue Nomad community with clean energy. At the Climate Ring, visitors are invited to immerse themselves in an interactive experience via an augmented reality app, enabling them to plant their own *SolarSunflower* outside of Performance Space New York. Each *SolarSunflower* not only enriches a growing virtual landscape that will gradually blanket the intersection of 1st Avenue and E 9th Street, but also triggers a real-world donation. As the field blossoms, visitors can witness the unfolding impact of their contributions, celebrating the powerful fusion of creative vision and activism while highlighting the vital role of communities in confronting the climate crisis.

ABOUT THE TWELVE CLIMATE RING EVENTS “ROUNDS”

CLIMATE RING ROUND 1: WHAT WORDS CAN SAVE THE WORLD?

In collaboration with Climate Words.

In Round 1 of the boxing-themed Climate Ring, we explore how language can inspire climate action. The first thing any good boxer must do is master the fundamentals. The jab, the cross, the hook, the uppercut – without the basics, you don't stand a chance. In language, words are the fundamental carriers of meaning, shaping how we think and act. In order to find the right solutions for climate change, we need to first find the right language to describe it. The words we choose can be the basis for collective solidarity in the struggle for a liveable planet.

For Round 1 of Climate Ring, Swissnex joins forces with Climate Words, a non-profit dedicated to expanding climate literacy, for a conversation on climate language and communication. In this interactive session, activists, authors, researchers, and climate communicators will discuss how they craft language and messages to build coalitions and inspire action in the fight against climate change.

Speakers:

Martina Volpe Donlon – United Nations
Genevieve Guenther – End Climate Silence
Alexandra Climent – Endangered Rainforest Rescue
Tori Tsui – Climate Activist and Author
Zahra Saifee – Climate Words
Géraldine Plieger – University of Geneva

CLIMATE RING ROUND 2: REFASHIONING FASHION

In collaboration with Parsons' School of Art and Design History and Theory

In Round 2 of the boxing-themed Climate Ring, we explore how the fashion industry can reshape itself in response to a changing climate, from sustainable materials to upcycling. Fashion and boxing have long been intertwined, and for good reason: attitude is part of the sport, and hardly any other sport allows its athletes as much freedom to express themselves through their dress. Boxing uniforms are made to meet practical needs – loose shorts for freedom of movement, gloves to protect the fighter's fists, and a robe to keep warm before the match – but they do it with flair, in flashy colors and satin. In the age of climate change, the fashion industry faces urgent questions about sustainability. How can fashion reshape itself to take on these challenges without losing a step in style?

In Round 2 of the Climate Ring, Swissnex and Parsons' School of Art and Design History and Theory join forces to present a discussion on the future of fashion in the face of climate change. In a panel featuring speakers from Parsons School of Design and Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD – Genève), find out how fashion can reshape itself in response to a changing climate, from sustainable materials to upcycling and creative reuse.

Speakers:

Hazel Clark – Parsons School of Design
Diego McElroy – Prettybalads
Carolina Obregón – Parsons School of Design

Raúl Egloff Alcaide – HEAD Genève

CLIMATE RING ROUND 3: YOUTH AGENCY AND STORYTELLING FOR A THRIVING PLANET

In collaboration with Open Planet and Villars Institute.

Wednesday, September 25 / 1:30pm - 3:30pm

In Round 3 of the boxing-themed Climate Ring, learn how youth can channel their voices for the climate fight, and how visual storytelling can give us hope for a thriving planet. In boxing, foresight is essential: a winning fighter visualizes their moves, their punches, their strategy for staying one step ahead. They have already played out the narrative of victory before the first bell. In the climate fight, all of us — but especially youth — need to visualize a better future, to be able to see and tell stories of our planet that turn “eco anxiety” into a winning “eco ambition.”

Round 3 of Climate Ring is dedicated to intergenerational action in the climate fight, and the power of visual storytelling. Although their lives will be shaped by climate change and biodiversity loss, young people are seldom heard when it comes to such global challenges. The Villars Institute will share exclusive insights from this year’s global issues survey, which captures the perceptions of youth on the skills, tools and resources they need to not just survive, but thrive within planetary boundaries. Open Planet will highlight its free library of the most beautifully filmed footage of the natural world, including the changes and challenges our planet is facing and the potential solutions to the climate and nature crises. This visual library can enable everyone — especially youth — the power and control to become positive planetary storytellers.

Speakers:

Emily Renshaw-Smith - Open Planet

Emma Benameur - Villars Institute

CLIMATE RING ROUND 4: THE FIGHT OF THE CENTURY

Wednesday, September 25 / 5:30pm - 8pm

In Round 4 of the boxing-themed Climate Ring, discover what boxing can teach us about the fight for the planet. How can boxing inspire us in the fight against climate change? Boxing epitomizes perseverance, disciplined practice, and continuous refinement of strategy, qualities essential in the struggle for a livable planet. A good boxer possesses not just the power to land a blow, but the foresight to land it at the right time and place, a finesse we also must apply to solve the climate crisis.

At the same time, boxing evokes human and bodily vulnerability – evoking the perils faced by communities and ecosystems enduring the strongest impacts of climate change. Persistence and resilience in the face of such adversity are essential qualities in both arenas. Finally, there is solidarity in stepping into the ring, communal joy in the struggle, and elation in victory. The Climate Ring embraces this optimism in the fight for our planet.

Round 4 of Climate Ring celebrates and explores the meaning behind these links. A keynote address by Thomas Crowther of ETH Zurich, and remarks by Adrian Siegrist of carbon removal pioneer Climeworks, will be followed by a panel discussion on the links between boxing and the climate fight.

Speakers:

Thomas Crowther - ETH Zurich
Adrian Seigrist - climeworks
and more

CLIMATE RING ROUND 5: CAN FLYING GET CLEAN?

In collaboration with the Consulate General of Switzerland NYC

Thursday, September 26 / 9:30 - 11:30am

In Round 5 of the boxing-themed Climate Ring, we explore how to reduce the carbon footprint of aviation. Conservation of energy is an established principle in both physics and in the boxing ring. To win the fight, you have to stay mobile while keeping enough fuel left in the tank. Aviation is a core pillar of global mobility, and is unlikely to disappear. But flying needs to become drastically more efficient to keep pace with our climate goals.

In round 5 of Climate Ring, experts will discuss the latest on sustainability in aviation. What are the latest technologies available and how fast can the industry adapt? What are the challenges preventing change? Aurelia Figueroa of Breitling will discuss the evolving landscape and emphasize actionable solutions, while Silke Wobken from Lufthansa Group will address current industry challenges and present Lufthansa's sustainability strategies.

Speakers:

Aurelia Figueroa, Breitling
Silke Wobken, Lufthansa Group

CLIMATE RING ROUND 6: PARTNERING WITH NATURE FOR COASTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, September 26 / 12pm - 2pm

In Round 6 of the boxing-themed Climate Ring, we explore the role that coastal ecosystems play in combating climate change, from coral reefs to mangrove forests. A great boxer has flow. Punches, blocks, and dodges come together in a fluid stream of movement, knowing when to push forward and pull back, when to attack and when to sidestep. In the fight to protect our coasts, we need a similar mindset. Brute force won't win in the fight against rising seas — we need to feel the flow, working with our oceans, rather than against them.

In Round 6 of the Climate Ring, we explore nature-based solutions to the coastal climate crisis, from restoring coral reefs and mangrove forests to harnessing the power of waves to rebuild islands.

Speakers:

Janelle Kellman – Center for Sea Rise Solutions
Ulrike Pfreundt – rreefs

Cameron Dowd – Inverto Earth
Skylar Tibbits – MIT Self-Assembly Lab

CLIMATE RING ROUND 7: DRONES DELIVERING FOR THE PLANET
In collaboration with the Consulate General of Switzerland in NY and Switzerland Innovation

Thursday, September 26 / 3pm - 6pm

In Round 7 of the boxing-themed Climate Ring, we explore the role of drone-driven solutions to climate challenges, from environmental monitoring to emergency response.

Drones give us the ability to see the world from different angles and to reach previously inaccessible areas, making them indispensable tools in the fight against climate change. From habitat restoration and environmental monitoring to disaster response and emergency infrastructure, drones can help us rapidly and flexibly scale climate change solutions around the world.

In Round 7 of the Climate Ring, Swissnex is teaming up with the Swiss Business Hub USA to explore the many applications of drone technology in climate change adaptation and mitigation. Hear from Swiss and international experts as they discuss cutting-edge drone solutions to pressing climate challenges. The event will kick off with a keynote by Patrick Meier, founder of the Climate Robotics Network, followed by a fireside chat on regulatory, legal, and research aspects of drone technology and a panel discussion on climate applications.

Speakers:

Patrick Meier – Climate Robotics Summit
Tendai Pasipanodya – Drones Doing Good Alliance
Chris McCall – Fotokite
Larissa Haas – Swiss Federal office of Civil aviation (FOCA)
Benton Szejka – Wingtra
Adam Zyckla – UAS Research Engineer, University of Vermont Spatial Analysis Lab & Member, Drones For Earth

CLIMATE RING ROUND 8: STARTUP SPARRING MATCH
In collaboration with German Accelerator and Climate Collider, Innosuisse-Swiss Innovation Agency and Presence Switzerland

Thursday, September 26 / 5:30pm - 8pm

In Round 8 of the boxing-themed Climate Ring, meet innovators creating scalable solutions to climate change. Friendly competition is a part of every sport – it isn't a grudge match every time you step into the ring. Sparring matches are an important opportunity for fighters to test their skills, build experience, and prepare themselves for the real fight.

For Round 8 of the Climate Ring, Swissnex and German Accelerator invite you to an evening of friendly competition amongst an international group of innovators working on global solutions to climate change. During the event, selected climate tech founders will take the stage to pitch

their startups, including the participants in the Swiss-US startup exchange program Climate Collider, powered by Swissnex and Innosuisse, and German Accelerator's U.S. Market Discovery Climate Tech program, a startup growth program run by Start2 Group and financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK).

Speakers:

Siddhartha Garud – Ulteon Solar
Arne Birth – Elementarhy
Aaron Handreke – ContainerGrid
Mat Schubert – XOO (Leon Mobility)
Deborah Learoyd – Freesuns SA
Leonhard Baade – 8inks (eightinks AG)
Constantin Marakhov – KIDEMIS GmbH
Thomas Baumeler – GraphEnergyTech
Cameron Dowd – Inverto Earth
Darius Stulz – BCHAR
Patricia Bubner – Orbillion
SuperSeven
Forward Earth

**CLIMATE RING ROUND 9: HOW WILL WE EAT IN 100 YEARS?
In collaboration with FoodHack**

Friday, September 27 / 10:45am - 12:30pm

In Round 9 of the boxing-themed Climate Ring, Swissnex and FoodHack present visions of our food future. To win a fight, you need to provide your body with the proper fuel. Professional boxers eat a lot – up to 5000 calories per day, twice the recommended amount for an average person. Over the next hundred years, global calorie requirements are set to rise by almost that much, increasing by as much as 80% by the end of the century. Unless we drastically reduce the environmental impact of our food systems, this increase threatens to undo our progress in other areas of climate action.

In Round 9 of the Climate Ring, join Swissnex and FoodHack to discover the future of food. In this event, pioneering food innovators share their visions of how we might eat a century from now, exploring how advanced food technologies – from lab-grown meats to sustainable aquaculture technologies – could transform our diets, agriculture, and food systems. Following the presentations, a panel of experts will discuss what it will take to make these visions a reality, from regulation to industry adaptation to consumer acceptance. Afterwards, join the conversation in the Q&A and network with fellow food enthusiasts.

Speakers:

Pascal Bieri – Planted
Constantin Marakhov – KIDEMIS
Patricia Bubner – Orbillion

**CLIMATE RING ROUND 10: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO FIGHT BACK
In collaboration with with Giroux Impact - Moving Humanity Forward**

Friday, September 27 / 1pm - 3pm

In Round 10 of the boxing-themed Climate Ring, join a workshop on citizen-driven initiatives with climate justice leaders. In boxing, timing and opportunity are everything. A single counterpunch can turn the tide of a match, putting the opponent on defense. In climate change, winning the collective fight means deciding where and when to strike back. In the face of overwhelming global crises, the most effective counterpunch can start at the community level.

This interactive event will showcase powerful stories of citizen-driven and community-led initiatives that address key climate challenges such as air quality, biodiversity, and urban heat islands. How do these climate issues intersect and impact other societal challenges, and how can citizen action lead to impactful climate solutions and resilience? Participants will hear from a diverse group of speakers who have spearheaded innovative projects in their communities and beyond, and will have the opportunity to develop their own community plans for climate action in breakout sessions.

Speakers:

Jennifer Giroux – Giroux Impact

Marie-Claire Graf – Climate Youth Negotiators Programme

Sage Lenier – Sustainable and Just Future

lakowi:he'ne' Melissa Oakes – North American Indigenous Center of New York

Madeline Macdonald - Friends of the High Line

CLIMATE RING ROUND 11: THE KNOCKOUT ART WALK

In collaboration with Swiss Institute (SI), Storefront for Art and Architecture, Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD-Geneva), Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) and Institute auf dem Rosenberg and Studio 697 THz

Friday, September 27 / 3:30pm - 6:15pm

In Round 11 of the boxing-themed Climate Ring, join us on an art walk featuring guided tours of three climate art exhibitions. In Round 11 of the Climate Ring, Swissnex invites you to join a guided walking tour that delves into art and sustainable practices across fashion, design, architecture, and augmented reality. As we stroll through the neighborhood, you'll receive exclusive insights into the climate-focused exhibitions at Performance Space NY, Swiss Institute (SI), and Storefront for Art and Architecture.

The first stop is Performance Space New York, home to the Climate Ring Exhibits. The tour begins outside, where you will experience the SolarSunflowers, an augmented reality installation by the students of Institut auf dem Rosenberg in collaboration with Studio 697 THz. The tour will proceed inside to view Endless Wear: a New Take on Upcycling, a collection of upcycled fashion by students of Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD – Genève), and the Punch Prize, an exhibit of climate-focused work by students of the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK).

The tour will then proceed to Swiss Institute (SI), where you will get an introduction to Energies, a new exhibition addressing ecological affordances and effects, social formations, and political arrangements attached to energy past and present.

The tour will conclude at Storefront for Art and Architecture, where participants will hear about The motion of an alluvial record, an atmospheric installation by artist Gala Porras-Kim that

explores the complex relationships between cultural institutions, the objects they preserve, and the environments from which these objects originate.

At the end of the walk, guests are welcome to return to Performance Space for Round 12 of the Climate Ring.

Please wear comfortable walking shoes. Total distance is approximately 1.1 miles.

CLIMATE RING ROUND 12: GLAM SLAM FOR THE PLANET
Hosted by Susanne Bartsch and Gage Spex with a performance by Choke Hole

Friday, September 27 / 6:30pm - 11pm

In Round 12 of the boxing-themed Climate Ring, join us for a celebration hosted by Swiss-born nightlife impresaria Susanne Bartsch and Gage Spex, featuring a climate-themed performance by Choke Hole. Every boxer faces setbacks, but the true measure of a fighter's greatness is how many times they get back up to keep fighting. The Climate Ring takes inspiration from those who have fought for a better future, from athletes struggling for civil rights to New York's LGBTQ+ communities fighting for acceptance. Our host partner Performance Space New York has been a part of that struggle. Founded in 1980, it has been a haven for queer and radical voices who have been dissolving the borders of performing arts, dance, theater, music, visual art, poetry, prose, ritual, nightlife, food, film, and technology.

In the final round of the Climate Ring, we celebrate the strength, joy, and community that can be found in the fight for a better future. Join us for Glam Slam, a celebration featuring a climate-themed performance by drag wrestling collective Choke Hole, a cocktail reception hosted by Swiss-born NYC nightlife impresaria Susanne Bartsch and by Gage Spex, with music by DJ William Francis

More Information:

<https://swissnex.org/boston/work/climate-ring/>

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