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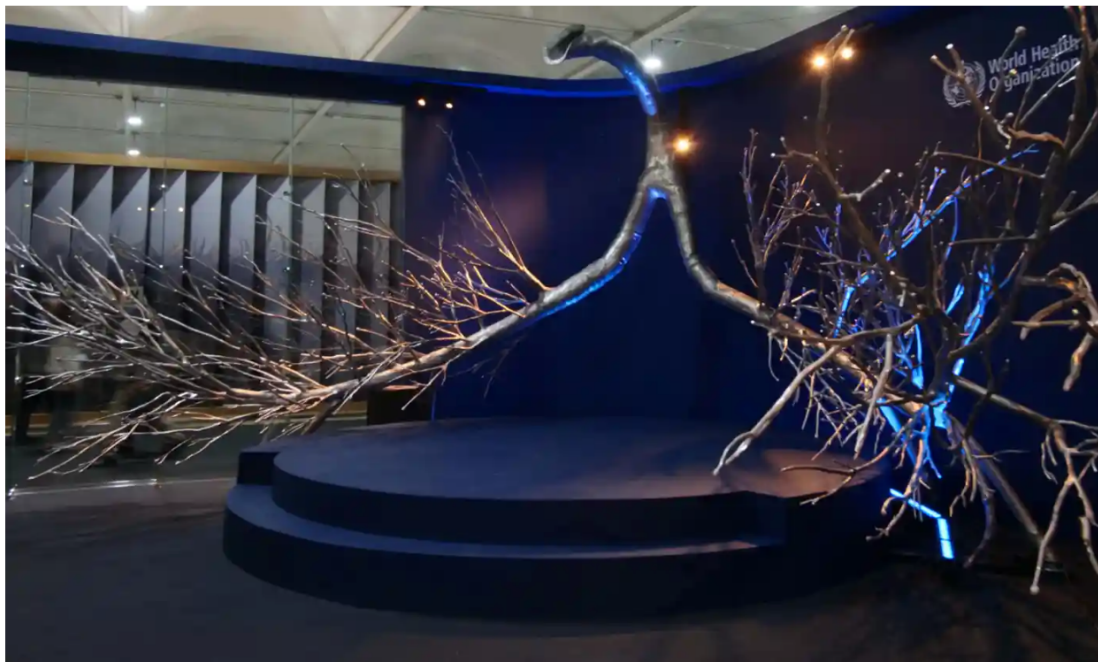


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Damian Carrington

My colleague and Environment editor, [Damian Carrington](#), has been speaking to the creator of this remarkable sculpture at Cop27:



View of main stage at Cop27's Health Pavilion, hosted by the World Health Organization. Featuring in the image: central sculpture Bodies Joined by a Molecule of Air (2022) by Invisible Flock and Jon Bausor, 2022. Photograph: Invisible Flock

“We are the environment and the environment is us - we can't be separated,” says artist **Victoria Pratt, part of the Invisible Flock collective**, who made a striking sculpture for the World Health Organization's health pavilion at [Cop27](#).

“The sculpture is both a lung and a tree,” she says. It was made by casting fallen branches in metal, and then inverting them to resemble a giant lung. The parallel between the bronchioles of the lung and the branches of the tree

is fractal growth patterns, which are shared by humans, plants and animals.

“We wanted something that was both scientific and metaphorical,” Pratt said. The sculpture, titled *Bodies Joined by a Molecule of Air* and cast in Lebanon, also pulsates to the touch, like a human body.

Other artworks at the WHO pavilion include tiny bottles of tears in which algae from the North Sea grows, along with notes from the **artist Kasia Molga** on why she cried at the time each tiny glass bottle was filled. “Can environmental health be an indicator of our own health?” she asks.



📷 Kasia Molga's *How To Make An Ocean* (2019), one of the artworks on display at the WHO Health Pavilion at Cop27, curated by Invisible Flock. Photograph: Invisible Flock

In another piece, a [podcast weaves bees buzzing](#) in the high-swinging hives of Mau Forest, Kenya, with the singing and speech of the Ogiek indigenous community for whom honey is an intrinsic part of their culture.

Dr Maria Neira, WHO director of public health and environment, says the climate crisis and health are intimately connected: “The price of not taking decisions to fight climate change is paid by our lungs, when you breathe polluted air, and [many other organs](#). I think health will be the final motivation that has been missing from the 26 previous Cops. I don’t see what else can be.”

Rosamund Kissi-Debrah, a WHO clean air advocate, also spoke at the event. Her daughter Ella was the first person to have [air pollution cited as a cause of death](#), when she died in London aged nine in 2013. “Ella would want you to think about all those we could save in the future,” Kiss-Debrah says. “Every minute, a child dies from air pollution, but they don’t have a voice. I hope Ella is a voice for them.” The pavilion features a film about Ella, currently being shown at the Wellcome Collection in London, UK.

Omnia El Omrani is the youth envoy for the Cop27 president and a doctor in Cairo and says she sees her patients suffering from air pollution and increasing heat: “We see first-hand that climate change is not just an environmental problem, but a health problem.”

Neira’s message to those at COP27 is simple:

▲▲ If they take the right decisions, our health will gain. If they take the wrong decisions, our health will lose.

An international report published in October said the [health of the world’s people](#) is at the mercy of a global addiction to fossil fuels and found an increase in heat deaths, hunger and infectious disease as the climate crisis intensifies.

