

In recent months climate activists have been in a food fight with art museums across Europe. Their protests include throwing tomato soup at a Van Gogh painting in London's National Gallery and smearing cake on the protective glass over the "Mona Lisa." **Aside from some minor damage to a few frames, none of the art has been harmed.**

I used to work as a gallery attendant in a contemporary art museum before COVID hit. My job was twofold: protect the art and answer people's questions. But mostly protect the art. My fellow gallery attendants and I were the only things standing between the art and all the people who came to take selfies with the works.

During one of my first shifts, a coworker told me not to spiral if anything happened under my watch because all of the art was insured. Often, when I was tired and bored out of my mind at work, I would think about how these paintings had better insurance than I did. There is still part of me that flinches whenever I'm visiting a museum and I see someone getting too close to a piece of art. And yet there is **another part of me**, formed in those long hours guarding wealthy people's painting for minimum wage pay, that **was darkly delighted when I saw the food hit those paintings.**

It's the part of me that understands that the only way to make these and other powerful institutions pay attention to you is to get too close — especially to something of great value with a high price tag. A part of me that understands that **this isn't about hurting art — if it were, these activists would pick pieces that aren't behind glass.**

Some of the activists, from a group called Last Generation, have said that these protests are about getting a conversation going about climate change and others, from the group Just Stop Oil, have asked the question "What is worth more, art or life?" Last Generation has two demands on its website, both of which are specific to reducing emissions in practical ways, such as lowering the speed limit on German highways from 130 km to 100 km per hour. **I imagine that these groups are also protesting the institutions, the way they seem to operate as though they are separate from anything happening outside their walls, separate from the lives of average people.**

I waver in thinking whether the act of throwing food at a painting is or isn't insane, on practical and philosophical levels. But I feel strongly that the sentiment behind the act is spot on. I feel insane reading the news most days.

I feel insane throwing my cans into the recycling bin, bringing my totes to the grocery store, wondering if any of it even makes a dent.

Adapted from *The LA Times*, Oct. 31, 2022

Answer the following question in your own words: How far does the author of the article believe smearing food on a work of art is a productive form of climate change protest? (80 words, ± 10%)

Although the author is unsure whether the climate change activists who throw soup or cake at paintings are crazy or not, he or she is convinced that it is an efficient way to raise awareness among the rich and powerful, who only seem to care when highly valuable things might get damaged (even though no painting has actually been harmed), and to call out museums and the art world for being isolated in their ivory towers. The author certainly feels that such action is more meaningful than the small individual deeds people do to reduce their environmental footprints.

(98 words)

Answer the following question in your own words: According to you, what is the most efficient form of climate action? (180 words, ± 10%).

Radical groups have been organising spectacular events to raise awareness about climate change lately, prompting heated debates about the relevance of climate action : how can change be achieved on this issue?

Of course controversy is useful to make people react, and with desperate times come desperate measures: gluing yourself to a busy road, or smashing the windows of banks that fund oil extracion projects, as Extinction Rebellion activists do, may hit the headlines, force people out of their indifference and make them realise the emergency of the climate crisis.

However, the problem is that these actions tend to antagonise and alienate a lot of people who only see the trouble they cause, and consider such activism a nuisance more than anything else. A softer approach, although more incremental, may be more efficient in the long run. Good, old-fashioned intense lobbying towards decision-makers, as Greenpeace and other NGOs are used to doing, is actually more likely to get things done, however maddeningly slow it might seem.

So to have people, states and corporations alter their behaviours and really achieve meaningful change, disrupting is a first step, but slow and steady, painstaking arguing will certainly win the race.

(198 words)

En ces jours où la monarchie revient au-devant de l'actualité, avec le couronnement de Charles III, il est important de parler des rapports du souverain britannique avec le sport. [...] (6)

C'est un secret de Polichinelle que le sport de prédilection du futur roi est le polo, qu'il pratique depuis des décennies. [...] (5)

Le deuxième sport en popularité au Royaume-Uni est sans nul doute le rugby. Il y a quatre équipes au Royaume-Uni. (5) L'équipe anglaise, celles de l'Écosse, de l'Irlande et du pays de Galles. Cette dernière est surnommée le XV du Poireau*. (5)

Charles va pencher pour le légume. Il faut dire qu'il a été le prince de Galles. (5) Son amour pour cette équipe est tel qu'il fera même un voyage éclair, en 2019, à la Coupe du monde, au Japon, pour assister à la demi-finale contre l'Afrique du Sud. (6)

Radio Canada, 5 mai 2023

* le XV du Poireau : the Dragons

These days, when/as the monarchy is back in the spotlight, with the coronation of Charles III, it is important to talk about the British monarch's relationship with sport. [...]

It's no secret/an open secret that the future king's favourite sport is polo, which he has been playing/practicing for decades. [...]

The second most popular sport in the UK is undoubtedly rugby. There are four teams in the UK: the English team, and those of Scotland, Ireland and Wales. The latter is nicknamed the Dragons.

Charles will lean towards the mythical creatures/fire-breathing monsters/giant reptiles. After all, he was once/used to be Prince of Wales. He loves this team so much that he even made a whirlwind trip to the 2019 World Cup in Japan, to watch the semi-final against South Africa.