NAILING CLIMATE CHANGE
Manicures with a message

Energy Mix
Dr Ajay Gambhir
Imperial College University

#NailClimateChange
Climate change has the potential to impact us profoundly - we’re facing increased flooding, heatwaves, water shortages and declines in the amount of healthy land that we can grow our food on. That’s why there’s such increased focus on how we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions to limit the degree to which the world warms. It’s of central importance that we switch fossil fuels for renewable energy sources such as wind turbines, solar panels, and hydro power."

This nail art design represents the changes to our energy mix that are needed to ensure we achieve our carbon cutting goals.

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Curated by ArtScience collective Visualogical, beauty app Ruuby has collaborated with climate charity Possible to create a limited edition of six manicures inspired by the research of six leading climate scientists. Tackling the climate crisis begins with talking about it, and nail art enables you to have the facts at your fingertips, raising awareness of climate science whilst encouraging more people to take action.
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Antarctic Ice

Professor Tina van De Flierdt
- Imperial College University

#NailClimateChange
When I think about climate change, I often think about the response of the big ice sheets to climate change, particularly Antarctica. It is an enigmatic continent, 60 times the area of the UK and covered by up to four kilometres of ice. The survival of this ice under warming temperatures will largely determine future sea level rise, and hence the face of our planet. My research addresses this question by trying to unravel how Antarctic ice has dealt with warmer temperatures in Earth history, thousands and millions of years ago.”

This nail art design was inspired by photographs taken from Professor Tina van De Flierdt’s expeditions to Antarctica where she researched the effects of global warming on glacial ice sheets.

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Storm
Professor Anson Mackay
University College London
#NailClimateChange
This nail art design was inspired by real time wind patterns around the world.

“As global warming continues, extreme weather events are becoming more frequent, increasing in magnitude and lasting longer. In this visual, the faster the arrows, the deeper the colour, then we start to be looking at storms, hurricanes and cyclones. A hurricane or cyclone is a large rotating storm that forms over tropical or subtropical waters and can be deadly. There are specific ocean and atmospheric conditions required for their formation and although only a few of these occur normally, climate change is causing these conditions to happen simultaneously. This contributes to bigger storms happening very quickly.”

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Smoke Stacks
Dr Heather Graven
- Imperial College University

#NailClimateChange
Emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) to the atmosphere from fossil fuel emissions are the main cause of the climate crisis, but not all of the CO2 we emit stays in the atmosphere. About half of the CO2 emitted has been absorbed into plants and soils on land, or into the ocean. The natural processes giving us this 50% discount on climate change are sensitive to the environmental changes that are occurring and, as a result, may give us less of a discount in the future.

“This nail art design represents the global carbon cycle and its relationship to climate change.”

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Rising Seas

Dr Tamsin Edwards
- King’s College University

#NailClimateChange
This nail art design shows the predictions of how much melting ice from Antarctica will contribute to rising sea levels.

“As the world warms, the ice sheet becomes more likely to lose ice by melting or flowing more quickly into the ocean. Each blue line slopes upwards because it shows the probability of a given amount of sea level rise increasing through time. The darkest band is for the highest amount, half a metre, and the lightest band is for the lowest amount, five centimetres. Either way, rising seas mean we will need more coastal defences to slow the floods.”
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Changing Stripes
Professor Ed Hawkins
University of Reading

#NailClimateChange
Climate change is a complex global issue, requiring simple communication about its effects at the local scale. This set of visualisations highlight how we have witnessed temperatures change across the globe over the past century or more. The colour of each stripe represents the temperature of a single year, ordered from the earliest available data at each location to now. All other superfluous information is removed so that the changes in temperature are seen simply and undeniably.

“This nail art design was inspired by Professor Ed Hawkins’ famous warming stripes. The image shows annual global temperatures from 1850-2017, indicating a substantial rise.

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