

# The highest form of hope

What is the role of artists in the climate crisis?  
Bidisha asks Olafur Eliasson



Olafur Eliasson is an international artist whose Berlin-based studio, founded in 1995, comprises more than 100 members, including craftspeople, architects and art historians, to realise his works, which span sculpture, painting, photograph, film and installation and intervene in civic space to prompt consideration and conversation. Recently he joined a panel of experts at Tate Modern, London to talk about creativity, sustainability, climate change, environmental emergency and the role of artists in a world that feels like it's at a tipping point. *Resurgence & Ecologist* captured some of his responses to questions from the chair of the discussion, broadcaster Bidisha.

*Bidisha: There's now generally a global consensus on the reality of environmental challenges, but how can individual artists address these changes?*

*Olafur Eliasson:* I think the first question is, what can one do as an individual and what can we do within our field? As an artist, I am interested in addressing this topic through what I make: that is one way. I don't think that being an artist, you have to do it by definition. You can make any art you please. I was always working with natural phenomena, the perception of Nature, the perception of atmosphere and environment, so it was a natural thing for me to get more and more involved with it.

I also think that I – as a private person, a part of