

At The Shape of the World:

We believe conversation is a creation.

A conversation starts from nothing, from silence. It builds and can lead to almost anything: an invention, a laugh riot, a love affair. Conversations hatch ideas that change everything.

We believe in lucid thinking:

Cool, rational decisions based on data, facts, analysis and deep thinking; calm assertiveness; respect for others and for process. We believe the best of what it is to be human is represented by that careful pause between action and reaction.

We believe that scientists too rarely are ASKED FOR THE ENTIRETY of themselves and what they know and feel.

Mostly, they are asked by others: "What were the results of this one particular study?" Scientists have special insight into the power of rational thinking and the value of the scientific method. They know the many ways there are to be alive on Earth.

We believe artists have a take on both nature and people that's different from scientists.

Learning what artists see and the way they see it is important to our survival.

We believe in warm living:

Finding sunny spots to sit on cool mornings, sitting on sofas with pets and family members, reading books in bed, birdwatching at dawn, stargazing at night, and expressing love for other people, objects, and experiences pretty much all the time, all day long.

We believe the word coexistence holds power and promise as a path forward.

As an operating principle, coexistence benefits all types of relationships—for couples, for humans and wildlife, for communities, for nations.

We believe in shaping a bright future for many living organisms, not just for ourselves.

When a new building, real estate development, or highway is being considered, we believe it should become part of our culture that developers and the community ask: "How can we compose this structure and its relationship with the land around it so it works well for people and makes splendid habitat for plants and wildlife?"

We believe the shaping of the world that humans will inevitably do in the future begins now.

We are where we are. The carbon load we have in the atmosphere is what we have. The physical conditions of rain forests and biodiversity are what they are. Let's grant psychological amnesty to our grandmas and grandpas and let's forgive ourselves, too, for being what we are: sweet and lovely primates that are incredibly intelligent AND who also mess up and make mistakes. Our ancestors and us have had the power to shape the world so far; we are where we are; and from this moment forward, we continue to have the abilities and temerity to determine the earth's condition. What will it be?