

COMING SOON!

COOL:

WOMEN LEADERS REVERSING CLIMATE CHANGE

Photos & Text by Paola Gianturco and Avery Sangster

powerHouseBooks

Available for Pre-Order on Amazon



"Women and girls all over the world are using intelligence, creativity, energy, and courage to help stop global warming. COOL: Women Leaders Reversing Global Warming documents their inspiring work and invites you to join them."

--Paola Gianturco (from the Introduction)

COOL is the first and only book to document the work of women climate leaders globally. It is also award-winning author-photographer Paola Gianturco's seventh book that tells compelling and uplifting stories about women around the world. For COOL, Paola, and her then-12-year-old granddaughter and co-author Avery Sangster, interviewed and photographed women politicians, corporate executives, scholars, heads of grassroots groups, and presidents of organizations that are all dedicated to combating global warming. These women leaders are based in 10 countries: the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Sweden, Denmark, Tanzania, Australia, Sri Lanka, India, and Hong Kong." In COOL you will meet:

- **Clover Moore**, Lord Mayor of Sydney, Australia, who's vowed to reduce city government emissions by 70% by 2030. Already, she's made Sydney the first Australian city to be declared carbon neutral.
- **Sheila Watt-Cloutier**, Inuit activist, who sees her indigenous people as climate change sentinels for the world, and levers their observations, experience, and knowledge of the Arctic to benefit people everywhere.
- **Fifteen thousand Sri Lankan women** who raise and plant "miracle trees," mangroves, which sequester five times more carbon dioxide than tropical trees in the Amazon Rain Forest.
- **Nelleke van der Puil**, Vice President of Materials at LEGO, who is developing plastic made with plants instead of oil, which is transforming her company's products.

Women are especially effective leaders when it comes to combating global warming. Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac, architects of the 2015 Paris Agreement, report that "Nations with greater female representation in positions of power have smaller climate footprints. Companies with women on their executive boards are more likely to invest in renewable energy and develop products that help solve the climate crisis. Women legislators vote for environmental protections almost twice as frequently as men, and women who lead investment firms are twice as likely to make investment decisions based on how companies treat their employees and the environment."



ANNA BERGSTRÖM

Mall Manager, Refuna Återbruksgalleria



SECONDHAND IN HIGH HEELS

When you walk into the Refuna shopping mall, the first thing you see is a bench that circles a tall "tree." Take a closer look, and you see that the bench is a collection of wooden chair arms, and the tree's leaves are slices of plastic soda bottles. You're looking at a creation so imaginative it could be exhibited in an art museum.

Anna Bergström, Refuna's manager, used to manage a traditional shopping mall and, previously, a museum. She brings both areas of expertise to her work at this trend-setting mall that sells only second-hand merchandise, much of which is refurbished or redesigned.

She says, "In Sweden, we love to shop for new things. We keep something for six months, then consider it old. We might give it to someone, put it in the basement, or just throw it away."

In 2012, an official in Ekshämsna, a city an hour northeast of Stockholm Sweden, suggested that the municipality build a recycling center with a shopping mall next to it that sold recycled merchandise.

"His colleagues agreed that everyone should see waste as an unused resource," Anna remembers. The idea was to sell products residents recycled: everything from bicycles to bookshelves and computers, from suitcases to hockey sticks.

Anna admits, "It was attractive to building a business to save the planet. Could there be a better business model? I don't think so."

When she joined the company in 2015, "I had only the city's business plan and some illustrations a graphic designer had made to show people what the mall might look like."

But to Anna, the mission of the mall was enough: "We in Sweden are responsible for making recycling, sustainability, and environmental actions look so good that everyone will get jealous of us!"

"Everyone should see waste as an unused resource."

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"A small change in one place can

Another scene: dark slides are projected on the walls. The dancers wear raincoats and carry umbrellas, silhouetted as moving shadows.

That rain apparently causes flooding: the dancers strip off their raincoats to reveal black velvet bathing suits, then make sweeping, swirling motions.

For the final scene, the women wriggle in hooded red robes that obscure their faces, parade up and down the dance floor barefoot. One by one, they collapse.

The music stops. The lights come on. The audience is invited to move to an adjacent theater. Heading for the exit in silence, people in the audience step over the red-robed dancers' bodies, an experience I find profoundly disturbing.

In the next theater, the co-director, Stella Adelman, Managing Director of the Dance Mission Theater, comes on stage with an amplified cell phone. She calls the office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, gets an after-hours recorded message, and leads the audience in a chanted vocal: "Yes on the Green New Deal!"

When U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez introduced that bill, Speaker Pelosi designated it as impractical, vague, and expensive. Yet that bill—and Greta Thunberg—catapulted climate change onto the public agenda. Krissy Keefer, Artistic Director of the Dance Mission Theater and the Dance Brigade, choreographed *Butterfly Effect*. She has been creating work about the environment and the climate crisis since 1996.

Her provocative piece demonstrates that, indeed, "a small change in one place can precipitate a huge outcome elsewhere."



precipitate a huge outcome elsewhere."

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STELLA ADELMAN & KRISSEY KEEFER 35



"No one ever designed this kind of high technology application using women who have no formal education as the user interface 'designers'."

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"We aim to leave the planet in the best possible shape for kids."

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MELINDA KRAMER
Founder, Women's Earth Alliance



MELINDA'S DESTINY

Some women start climate initiatives to fulfill destinies that began long ago. Melinda Kramer, founder of the Women's Earth Alliance, is one of them.

Melinda was six months old when she began spending summers camping with her family in Maine. "My mother would see sleeping bags and tents, which my father set up by the lake. We went to sleep surrounded by trees. I came to love nature, and I gained an intuitive understanding of what it means to protect what we love."

"I worked as an environmental lawyer as an undergrad. We focused mostly on a case that involved a small town and a neighboring neighbor. Lead levels in the kid's blood were through the roof. Mothers organized, rallied and, in time, forced the matter to close. I thought, 'This is what happens when women envision, demand and create healthy, just communities for our world.'"

"I delved into the politics of environmental sustainability and understood that you can't separate environmental issues from their cultural contexts. I studied anthropology at the University of Nairobi, where I had an epiphany: when development work centers on women's agency, everything changes."

"In 2004, I shared my vision for uniting women leaders to protect the earth with my colleagues attending the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development. We began to envision a global forum where women could build a power base for environmental sustainability—sharing their solutions, building alliances, and changing the world."

"We figured the best way to begin would be to gather women on the front lines of environmental and climate struggles, to envision together what this organization could look like. Thirty women from 26 countries came to Mexico City for our three-day visioning session. Aunties, uncles, friends and donors helped pay visa fees, plane fares, rooms and board."

"One of my peak life experiences was standing together as a group for the first time. We formed a circle with each of us holding hands. There was a buzz of collective gratitude that you could feel in the room. My epiphany became real. The Women's Earth Alliance was born."

Shortly, Amrita Diamond joined Melinda to expand WEA's programs, build

"This is what happens when women envision, demand and create healthy, just communities for our world."

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The women and girls in COOL share their inspiring stories in their own words and suggest actions that all of us can do to help them on their existential journey; QR codes deliver readers online to discover ways to implement those ideas. An "Action Pack" in the book offers ideas readers can use immediately (e.g., the Climate Museum donated a credit-card-sized Guide to Climate Conversations).

One hundred percent of the author royalties from this book benefit the Women's Earth Alliance, providing seed money for women around the world who are launching business and nonprofit ventures that will help reverse global warming.

The authors will also have a tree planted for every copy of the book that's sold.



Co-Authors Paola Gianturco and Avery Sangster

About the Authors:

Paola Gianturco, author-photographer, has documented women's issues in 62 countries for seven powerHouse Books. *Grandmother Power: A Global Phenomenon* (2012) won four first place literary awards in categories as diverse as multicultural nonfiction and women's studies. *Wonder Girls: Changing Our World* (2017) won seven literary prizes: gold and silver awards in categories as diverse as women's studies, multicultural nonfiction, social change and leadership. *Women Who Light the Dark*, the third book in the triptych (2007) described the work of women activists. Paola's images have been exhibited at the United Nations, UNESCO, The US Senate, The Field Museum/Chicago, The Museum of the African Diaspora/San Francisco, The Norton Simon Museum/Pasadena, The Grand Rapids Public Museum and more. She lectures internationally, presented a TED talk in Dubai, and has been a guest on The Oprah Winfrey Show, CNN, NPR and Voice of America programs among others. Paola serves on the advisory boards of three nonprofits: The WISE Fund (Women Invested to Save Earth), Rise Up Together (which empowers girls to advocate for policy change) and Global Grandmothers (who support children in need internationally). In 2013, Paola was listed among "40 Women to Watch Over 40," and in 2014, Women's e-News named her one of 21 Leaders for the 21st century. In 2017, the YWCA inducted her into the Marin Women's Hall of Fame.

Avery Sangster is Paola's granddaughter and co-author. Avery interviewed and photographed women leaders across the United States and Tanzania. She is used to thinking about global issues; she and her sister created a children's program that they led for seven years at an annual international poverty conference. Avery is passionate about reversing warming. She mobilized her sixth-grade classmates to create an environmental website. Avery's Invitation to Action, the final chapter of this book, is a powerful call for all of us to engage with the issue.

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