

FUTURE LIBRARY

A forest has been planted, which in 100 years, will become an anthology of books. Written for this explicit place and time by writers all over the world—some of whom are not yet born—the books will be printed on the paper made from the trees after they are fully grown and cut down, only to be read after 2114.

Every year from 2014 to 2114, Katie Paterson and the Future Library Trust, consisting of leading publishers, editors and others, is inviting one exceptional writer to contribute a new text to a growing collection of unpublished, unread manuscripts. The length of the piece is entirely for each writer to decide. The City of Oslo has gifted Future Library a forest in Nordmarka just outside the city, and in May 2014, 1,000 new trees were planted. It will be 100 years before the trees are cut down to provide the paper on which the texts will be printed as an anthology of books in 2114. Visitors to the forest can experience the slow growth of the trees, inch-by-inch, year-by-year.

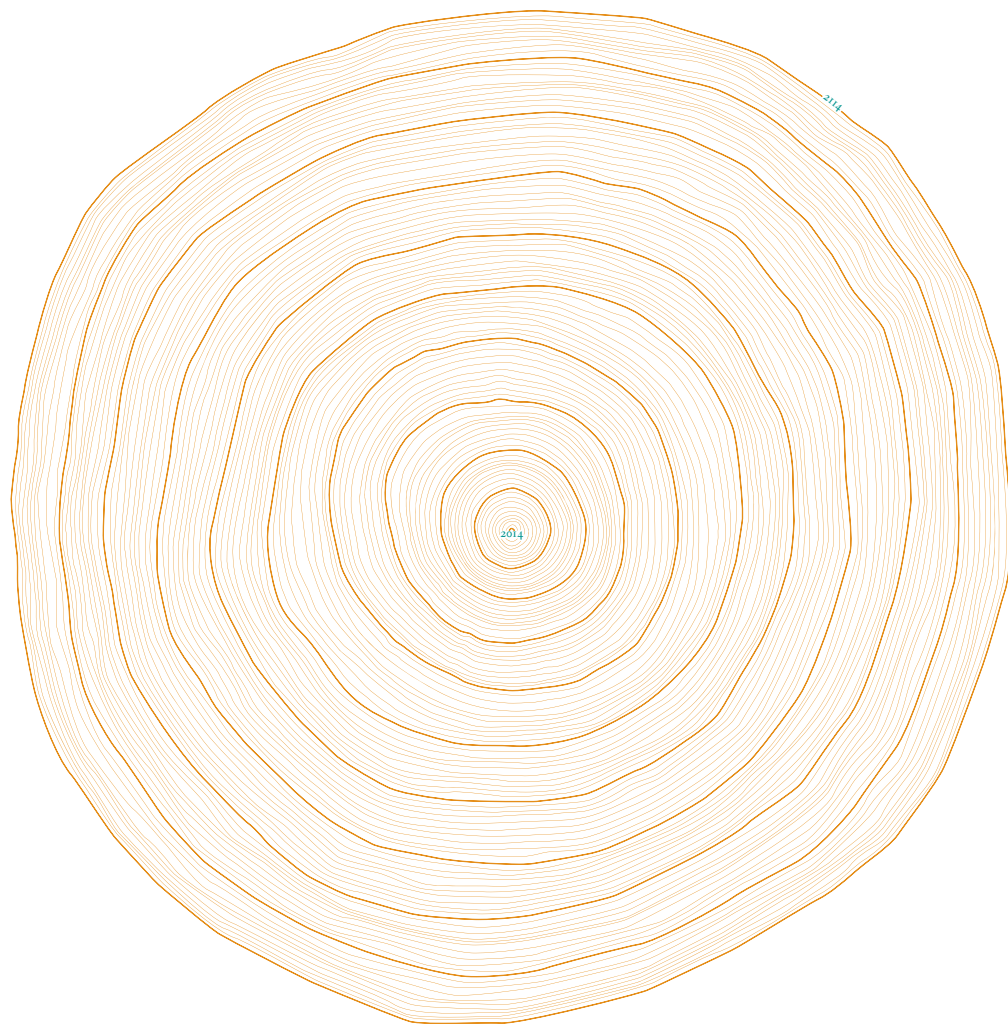
Katie Paterson says:

Future Library is a living, breathing, organic artwork, unfolding over 100 years. It will live and breathe through the material growth of the trees—I imagine the tree rings as chapters in a book. The unwritten words, year by year, activated,

materialized. The visitor's experience of being in the forest, changing over decades, aware of the slow growth of the trees containing the writers' ideas as an unseen energy. Embracing the virtue of slowness, every aspect of crafting Future Library is being given equal and careful consideration. Tending the forest for the 100 year duration will find a conceptual counterpoint in the invitation extended to each writer: to conceive and produce a written work in the hopes of finding a receptive reader in an indefinite future.

In collaboration with the architects of the new library, Katie Paterson is designing a quiet room for the texts which will be sited on the fifth floor of the New City Library, as part of their precious collections. Intended to be a space of contemplation, this room will be lined with wood from the forest. The authors' names and titles of their works will be on display, but none of the manuscripts will be available for reading—until their publication in one century's time.

The prizewinning author, poet, essayist, literary critic and environmentalist, Margaret Atwood (CA) has been named as the first writer to contribute to Future Library.



Katie Paterson, *Future Library*, 2014-2114. Imagen cortesía de la artista.



Katie Paterson, *Future Library*, 2014-2114. Fotografía por Katie Paterson, comisionada por Bjorvika Utvikling. Imagen cortesía de la artista.



Katie Paterson, *Future Library*, 2014-2114. Fotografía por Kristin Von Hirsch, comisionada por Bjorvika Utvikling. Imagen cortesía de la artista.