

Chapters in Time

FROM TOP: BJØRVIA UTVIKLING BY KRISTIN VON HIRSCH; BLAISE ADILON



A forest is growing in Norway. In 99 years, it will be turned into paper for an unusual book.

Far away, in a forest outside Oslo, Norway (see map), 1,000 newly planted trees are growing. Ninety-nine years from now, when the trees are full-size, they will be chopped down

and used to make paper. The paper will be used to make copies of an unusual book. The book will contain 100 stories by 100 authors written over the course of 100 years. Exactly what's inside the book will remain secret until 2114.

This is a Future Library certificate. It shows tree rings.

The forest and the book are part of the Future Library. Scottish artist Katie Paterson began the project last year. "We're asking one writer a year for 100 years to submit a story," Paterson told TFK. Subject, style,

genre, and length are up to the author. However, Paterson has two very important rules. The first is that each author has one year in which to write the story. The second: "They absolutely mustn't publish it in any form," she says.

A Vision for the Future

What's the point of asking authors to write stories that readers alive today will never get to enjoy? For Paterson, the Future Library is about challenging people to think beyond their daily lives. "The project is a lot about the imagination," she says. "It's about thinking about the future and developing an artwork that's not just for now but is for a future generation."

Paterson got the idea for the project while drawing tree rings in a notebook. Each ring in a tree's trunk represents one year of growth. That inspired her to create a project that ties the present with the future. "I made a quick connection between the rings, and paper, chapters, and a book," she says. Paterson says she wondered if she could grow "a kind of future forest that would become a small library of books."

In 99 years, this fir tree will be fully grown. It will be made into paper for a special book.

Future Library stories will be held in a special room at Oslo's new public library, which opens in 2020.

ATELIER OSLO AND LUND HAGEM



Scottish artist Katie Paterson started the Future Library project in 2014.



GEOGRAPHIC POLIZZI

Power Words

Think → Imagine you are writing a story for the Future Library. What would it be about?

anthology *noun*: a collection of writings
archive *noun*: a place where documents are stored

—By Jaime Joyce

