

PILLARS OF CLIMATE

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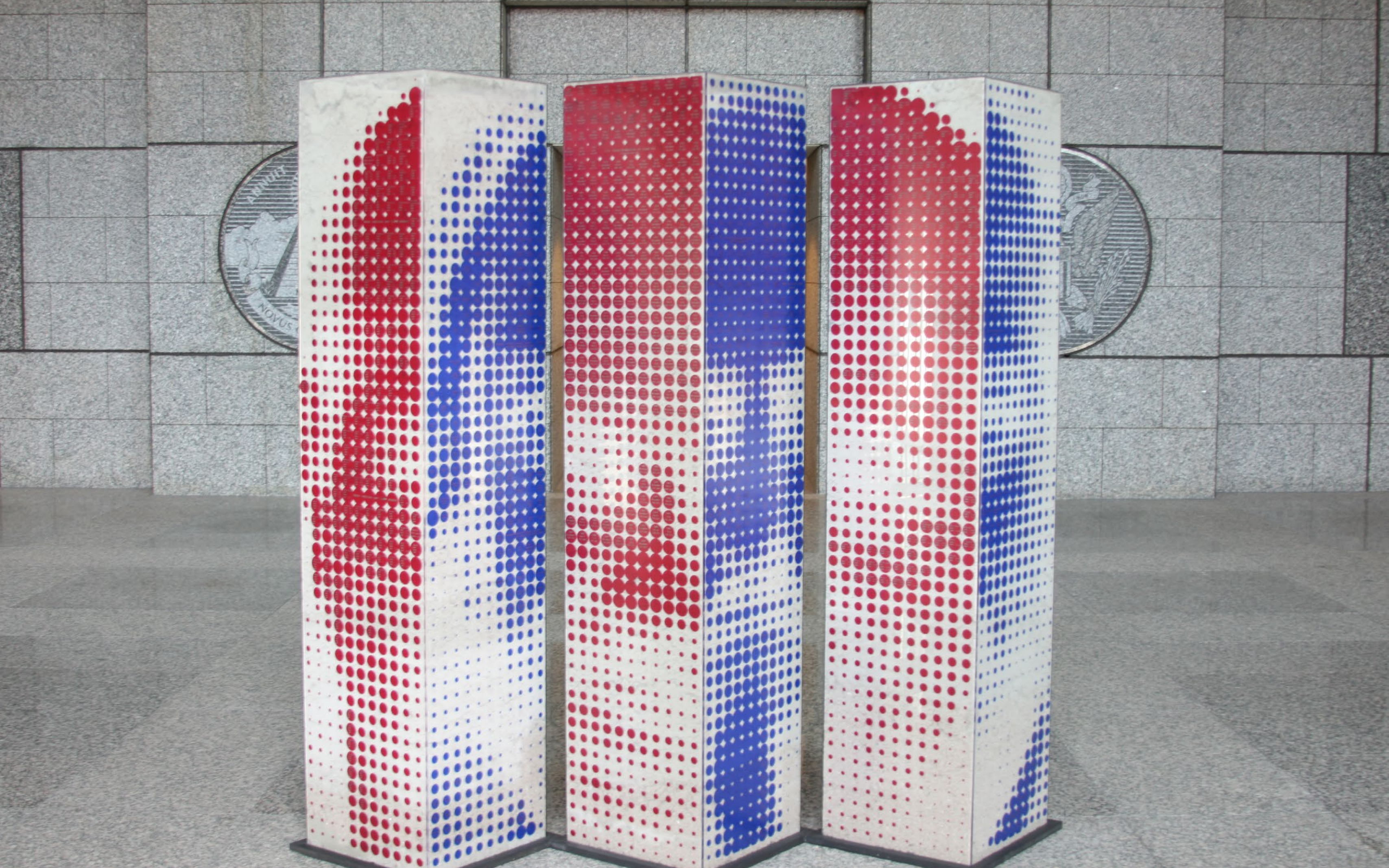
Pillars of Climate is an installation that investigates the issues of perception and dissemination of data regarding Climate Change. The sculpture invites the audience to go beyond face-value and inspect more closely the core: the integration of humanity, nature and fossil fuels. The work commemorates the efforts of Shiva Vandana, Michael E. Mann, R.K. Pachauri, and Wangari Maathai.

Sean Aguirre Buckley received an award from NOAA meteorologist Marjorie McGuirk and the David and Marjorie McGuirk Fund to produce *Pillars of Climate*. The installation was debuted at the American Meteorological Society Conference in Asheville, NC in 2011 attended by national and international scientists, engineers, and military personnel. The installation was also exhibited during meteorologist Michael E. Mann's lecture in University of North Carolina at Asheville, and in the group exhibition *Wolf in Sheep's Clothing* in Flood Gallery, Asheville, NC, curated by Kyle Sherard in 2012.

Pillars of Climate, 2011

UV protected gelatin print on Plexiglas, Sheetrock and concrete dust mixed with recycled newspaper insulation to resemble ash
72 x 80 x 17 in

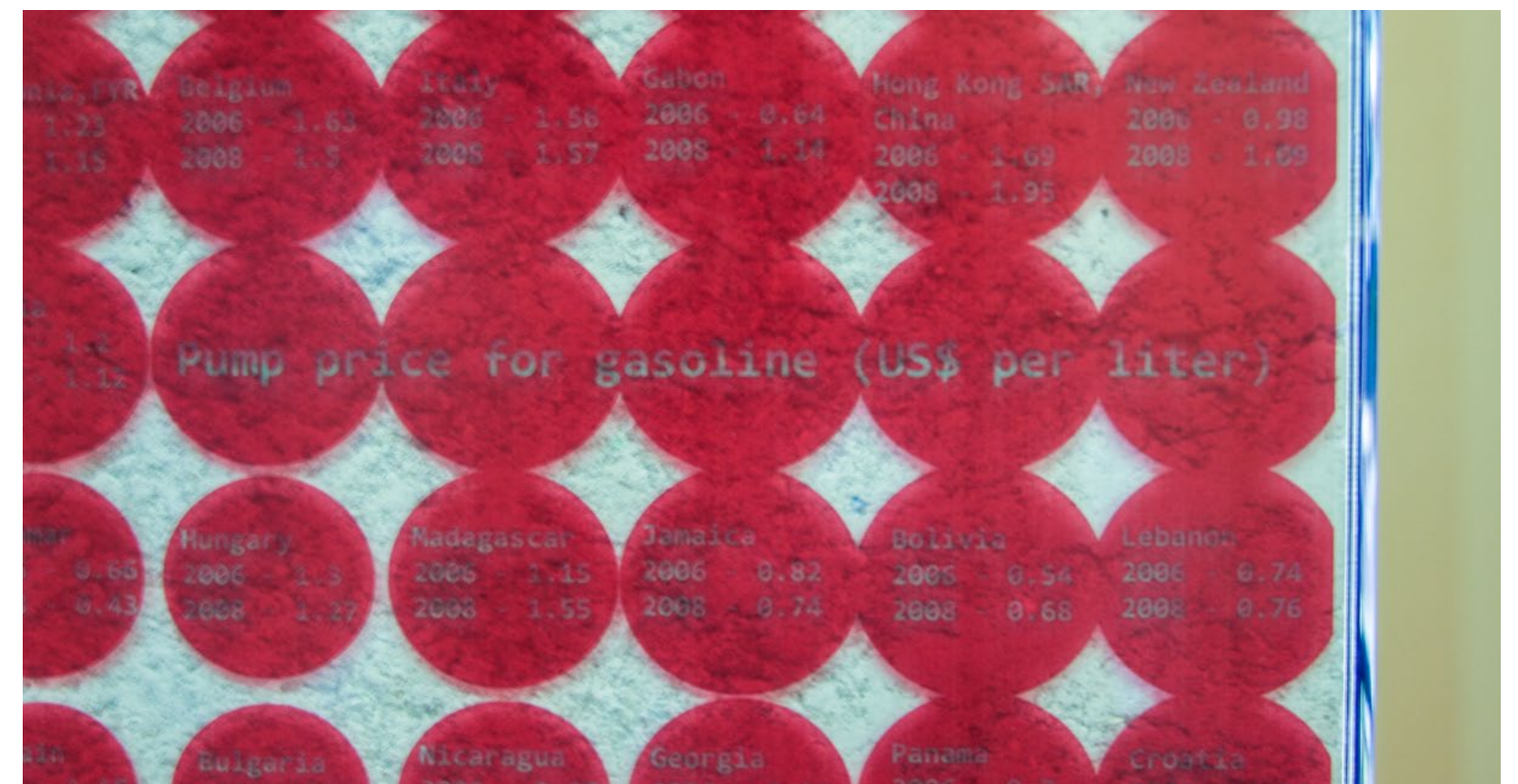






Pillars of Climate ambition is to make an allegorical parallel between the viewer engaging with the installation and that of the viewer's movement/ position in the politics of Climate Change.

Three stoic pillars with dissected faces of popular figures involved in the discussion of Climate Change encourage the viewer to step to the left or right to encounter the portraits. From a distance the faces are complete, composed of many dots. Stepping closer, the viewer notices most of the dots contain data. Each side of each pillar contains different raw data sets of most countries such as the pump price for gasoline or agricultural methane emissions, all of which were extracted from trusted sources such as the Data World Bank. In between those dots, the viewer finally sees the contents of the pillars, a substance that resembles ash, or expended fossil fuels.

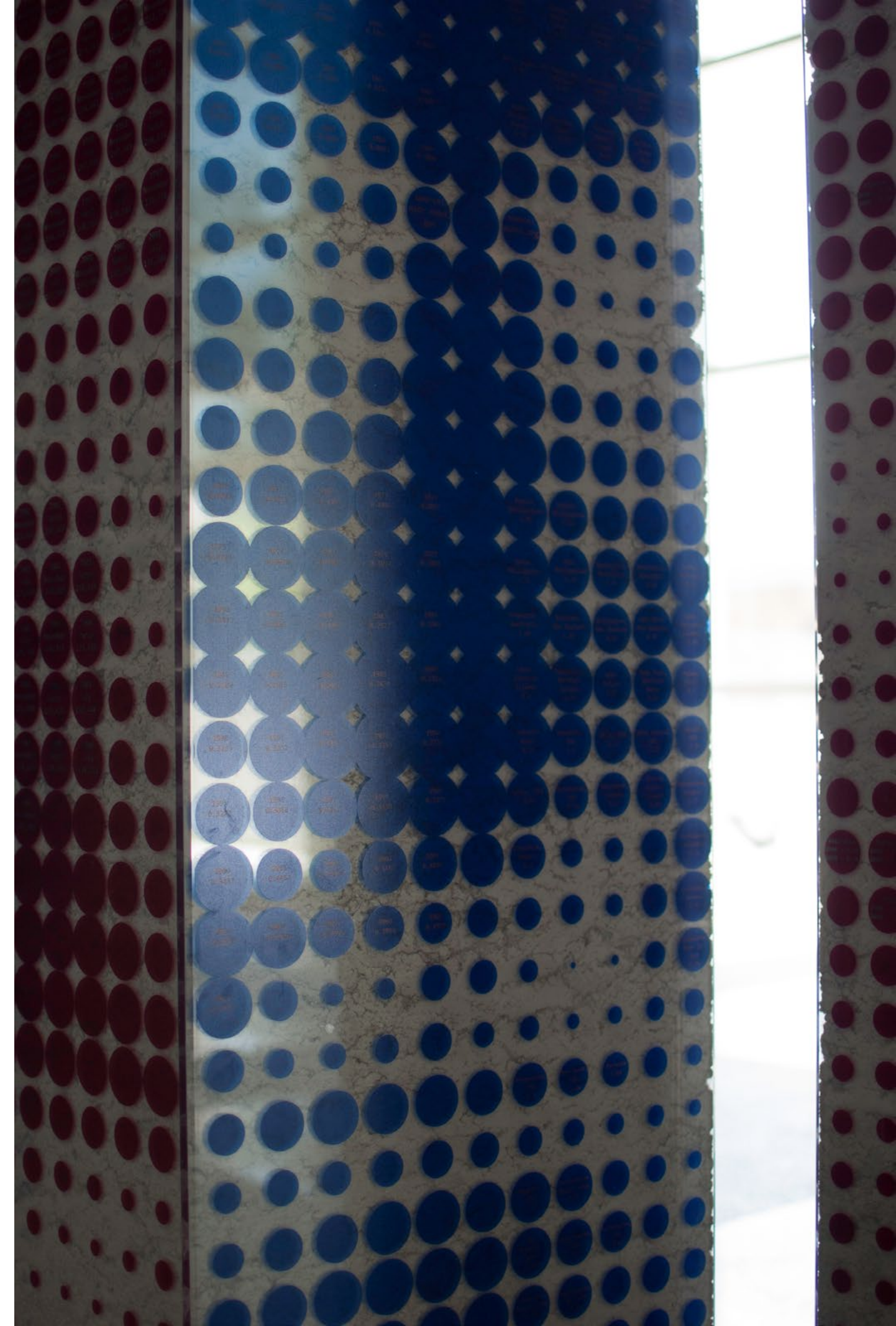


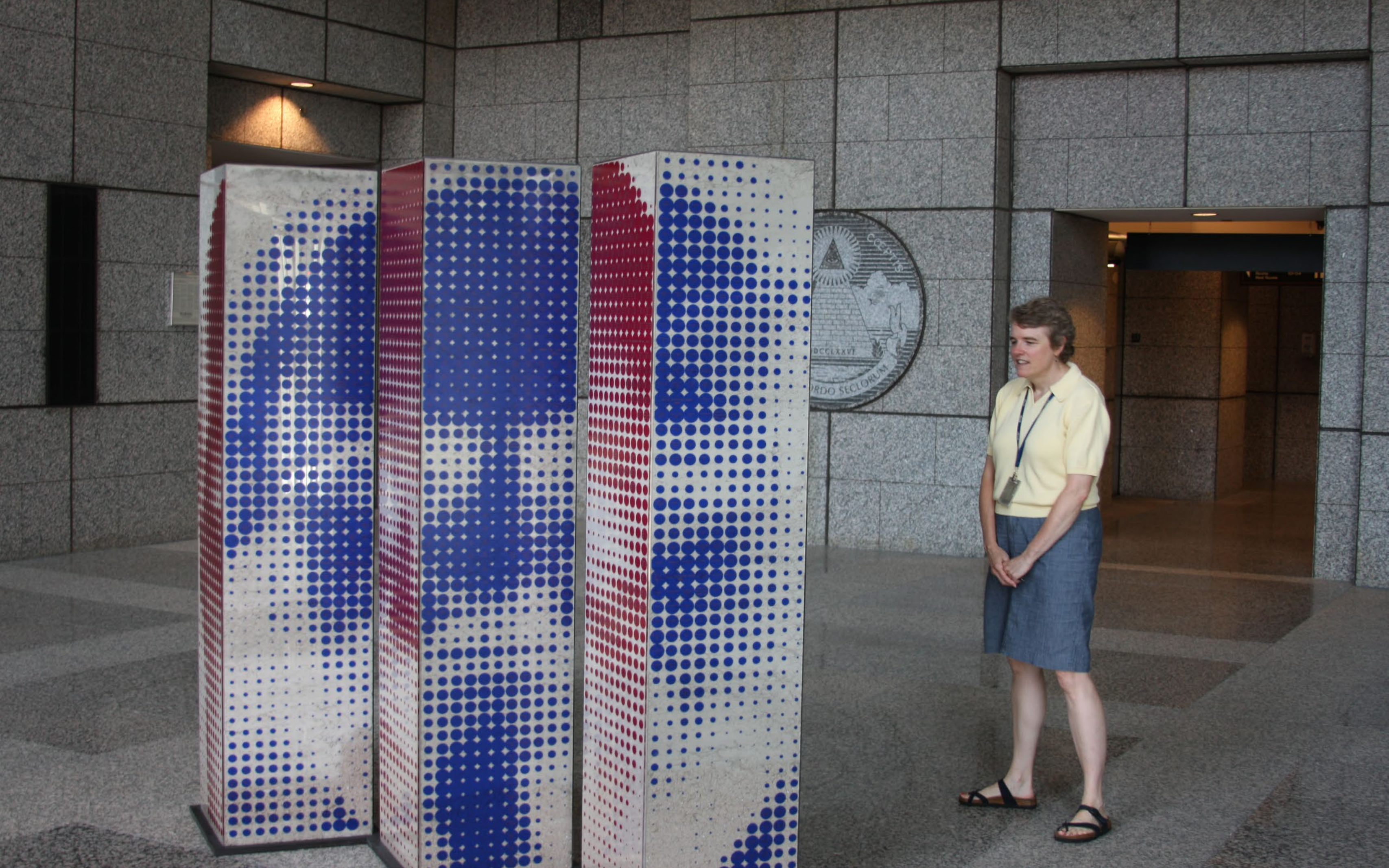


Pillars of Climate intent is not to educate the viewer on matters of Climate Change, but to instigate an internal and external dialog on how individuals and society approach the pressing issue of Climate Change.

The public generally relies on pundits from news sources to interpret narratives from journalists who compose information from scientists. These steps from data to story to emotion are what enable divisive stances for the public. Despite overwhelming evidence that human activity is a direct influence on Climate Change, the issue is still highly contended by political parties and voters. *Pillars of Climate* urges the viewer to be self-aware of their movements while engaging with the installation and the political issues with Climate Change. The objective is to have the viewer overcome the emotional discord popularized through media and to understand for themselves the fundamental factors in Climate Change being: society's dependency of fossil fuels and industrialized consumption. From this position of self-awareness, reinforced with the reflective surfaces of the installation, the viewer can begin to decide their own attachment to the issue and comprehend the implication of Climate Change in their present and future life.

Pillars of Climate displays the portraits of Shiva Vandana, Michael E. Mann, R.K. Pachauri, and Wangari Maathai, each who have made major contributions in the integration of the debate of Climate Change in the public sphere. The installation commemorates their efforts because they have either instigated further discussion on the dire implications of Climate Change or initiated movements to thwart those potential consequences. *Pillars of Climate* seeks to promote their efforts and instigate further investigation from the viewer.







Pillars of Climate shares data sets from most countries in select years that reflect either an impact on or influence by Climate Change. Each portrait is a monochromatic color that represents an element. For instance, the portrait on the left of R.K. Pachauri is blue, associated with water, and contains data sets of marine protected areas, renewable internal freshwater resources per capita and mean sea level trend of millimeters per year. On the right, the portrait of Wangari Mathaai is light gray, associated with air, shows the data sets of industrial nitrous oxide emissions, carbon dioxide in metric tons per capita and agricultural methane emissions. The portrait of Michael E. Mann is red, associated with combustion, and shows the data sets of motor vehicles per 1,000 people, U.S. field production of crude oil and pump price for gasoline. The portrait of Shiva Vandana is green, associated with earth, and shows the data sets of agricultural land as a percent of total land area, forested area in square kilometers and fertilizer consumption per hectare of arable land.



2005 - 4.1
2006 - 4.4
2007 - 4.6

2005 - 0.8
2006 - 0.8
2007 - 0.8

2005 - 0.9
2006 - 0.9
2007 - 0.9

Poland
2005 - 7.9
2006 - 8.4
2007 - 8.3

Belize
2005 - 1.4
2006 - 1.3
2007 - 1.4

Somalia
2005 - 0.1
2006 - 0.1
2007 - 0.1

Singapore
2005 - 14
2006 - 12.8
2007 - 11.8

Mongolia
2005 - 3.5
2006 - 3.7
2007 - 4

Congo, Dem. Rep.
2005 - 0
2006 - 0
2007 - 0

Netherlands
2005 - 35.6
2006 - 29.4
2007 - 27.4

Iran, Islamic Rep.
2005 - 6.2
2006 - 6.9
2007 - 7

Kyrgyz Republic
2005 - 1.1
2006 - 1.1
2007 - 1.2

Equatorial Guinea
2005 - 7.7
2006 - 7.6
2007 - 7.5

United Arab Emirates
2005 - 28.3
2006 - 28.7
2007 - 31

Maldives
2005 - 2.3
2006 - 2.8
2007 - 3

Guinea-Bissau
2005 - 0.2
2006 - 0.2
2007 - 0.2

Slovak Republic
2005 - 7.3
2006 - 7.2
2007 - 6.8

Russian Federation
2005 - 10.0
2006 - 11
2007 - 10.8

St. Lucia
2005 - 2.1
2006 - 2.1
2007 - 2.1

Trinidad and Tobago
2005 - 21.8
2006 - 26
2007 - 27.9

Colombia
2005 - 1.8
2006 - 1.4
2007 - 1.4

Turkmenistan
2005 - 6.6
2006 - 5
2007 - 5.2

Senegal
2005 - 0
2006 - 0
2007 - 0

Ukraine
2005 - 6.9
2006 - 6.7
2007 - 6.7

2005 - 0.1
2006 - 0.1
2007 - 0.1

Rwanda
2005 - 0.1
2006 - 0.1
2007 - 0.1

Samoa
2005 - 0.9
2006 - 0.9
2007 - 0.8

Hungary
2005 - 5.8
2006 - 5.7
2007 - 5.8

Botswana
2005 - 2.8
2006 - 2.8
2007 - 2.8

Myanmar
2005 - 0.8
2006 - 0.8
2007 - 0.8

Sierra Leone
2005 - 1.0
2006 - 1.4
2007 - 1.5

Fiji
2005 - 19.3
2006 - 12.5
2007 - 13.1

Belgium
2005 - 10.3
2006 - 10.2
2007 - 9.7

Zimbabwe
2005 - 10.3
2006 - 10.2
2007 - 10.2

2005 - 0.2
2006 - 0.2
2007 - 0.2

Lebanon
2005 - 4.3
2006 - 3.6
2007 - 3.2

Afghanistan
2005 - 0
2006 - 0
2007 - 0

Djibouti
2005 - 0
2006 - 0
2007 - 0

Buyana
2005 - 2
2006 - 2
2007 - 2

India
2005 - 2
2006 - 2
2007 - 2

Malta
2005 - 0
2006 - 0
2007 - 0

Mauritania
2005 - 0.6
2006 - 0.5
2007 - 0.6

Ireland
2005 - 10.4
2006 - 10.1
2007 - 10.2

Malta
2005 - 0
2006 - 0
2007 - 0

