Photo: Getty Images

Every breath you take: Pollution Pods

In November last year, a smog so thick and toxic enveloped Delhi that one official likened the city to a "gas chamber". Air pollution is indeed deadly; in Beijing it is estimated to shorten life expectancy by four years. While the dangers of pollution are evident, it is difficult to understand exactly how it affects the air we breathe. To demonstrate the stark contrasts in air quality around the world, Michael Pinsky, a British artist, created "Pollution Pods", an installation of five geodesic domes which approximate the climate, smells and air-pollution levels of different global locations. On show at Somerset House in London from next Wednesday, the domes begin in Tautra, a Norwegian island where the air is pure (and deliciously pine-scented). Mr Pinsky then takes visitors on a tour of four world cities, including London, with its invisible dose of nitrogen dioxide, and Delhi's pea-souper fogs. You might want to hold your breath.

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More background from *The Economist*

- South Asians gasp for breath: pollution (Nov 2017) (https://www.economist.com/news/asia/21731422-authoritarian-china-has-been-more-heedful-its-peoples-needs-south-asians-gasp-breath)

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