

Bristol Festival of Ideas /

In association with

TheObserver



BRISTOL
2015 EUROPEAN
GREEN CAPITAL

www.ideasfestival.co.uk

www.bristol2015.co.uk

Bristol 2015 Arts Programme



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Bristol Cultural Development Partnership

Foreword by George Ferguson/

When we bid for European Green Capital I was determined to achieve many things: first – a widespread recognition that Bristol has already made great steps forward as a city in developing and leading green initiatives; secondly, I wanted to celebrate these achievements in the city, the UK and internationally; thirdly, I wanted to see the year lead to significant behaviour change by us all; and, fourthly, I wanted us to do all this with a smile.

I'm delighted that we have such a significant arts programme in Bristol 2015 backed by Arts Council England. Artists certainly provide that sense of fun, but most of all they challenge us to think in new ways. We need challenges if we are to make the changes needed as individuals and as a city.

I've been determined to ensure that our arts programme embraces all the city. Bristol 2015 is supporting neighbourhood commissions as well as city centre work. I'm grateful especially to Arts Council England for all their support and especially for the Exceptional Award. To all involved I much look forward to seeing the results, participating in the debates, and being challenged, enthused and stimulated.

George Ferguson
Mayor of Bristol



Introduction by Phil Gibby, Arts Council England/

Every so often, an opportunity comes along to create an arts and cultural programme of such ambition and with such national and international impact that it is something we can truly say is exceptional. Bristol 2015 gives us that opportunity and that is why Arts Council England has made an Exceptional Award of £744,564 – our largest ever – to support this exciting year-long series of events and activities that puts arts and culture right at the heart of Bristol's reign as European Green Capital.

The programme we are supporting will place the green agenda on a more creative and contemporary platform that really engages everyone – artists, audiences and particularly children and young people – in celebrating sustainability and future ways of living.

Artists have always been inspired by the natural world, the changing landscape, and their work can shock us, delight us, challenge us, amuse us and show us alternative ways of thinking and living, sometimes all at the same time.

Throughout this year, there will be some amazing, beautiful, surprising, controversial and inspirational works for us to engage with, debate and enjoy. Luke Jerram's

eerie flotilla of abandoned fishing boats in Leigh Woods will raise questions about the weather, the oceans and climate change. The Bristol Whales will make us look at how we treat our oceans and consider the effects of plastic waste. An exhibition of work by one of Britain's best known landscape artists, Richard Long, will connect us with our environment in new ways and using fresh eyes. Chicago's award-winning installation artist Theaster Gates will breathe new life into discarded materials and forgotten places in his first UK public project. And the Festival of the Future City will bring together thinkers, writers, artists, think tanks, governments and the public in the largest-ever debate about future-thinking.

Meanwhile, there will be lots of neighbourhood arts projects, provocative lectures and some other big surprises to look forward to.

It's an outstanding – and yes, exceptional! – opportunity to connect with great art that encourages us all to think about the way we live and we're delighted to be supporting it.

Phil Gibby
Area Director, South West,
Arts Council England

Arts, Science and Climate Change

by Rich Pancost/

During Bristol 2015 the Cabot Institute is excited to work with a fantastic variety of artists, including many from our culturally vibrant city.

Many of these pieces, from the exotic beauty of Fujiko Nakaya's Fog Bridge to the playfulness of Alex Lucas' street art to the haunted mystery of Luke Jerram's Withdrawn, cause us to reconsider our lifestyles, our city and immediate surroundings, our national beauty and the wider world. Others, like the Coleridge Lectures with Festival of Ideas, serve as a platform for debating diverse contentious issues, from environmental ethics to animal rights, in new contexts.

The Cabot Institute has worked with many artists. We do so because of their ability to transcend exhausted narratives and stimulate new dialogue. The discussion over how we 'Bridge the Gap' to a sustainable and low carbon future is too often mired in a debate between academics or environmentalists against 'pragmatic' economic considerations. That is a false dichotomy that must be shattered, but it will not be shattered by the current participants. It requires the intervention of new voices and new perspectives, a role that is particularly well suited for artists.

One of the most powerful ways that artists change the conversation is by causing us to slow down, to consider, to stop debating and to start contemplating.

With a few notable examples, art is not direct in its message, which can be elusive or enigmatic. In our world of 15 minutes of fame and 140 character conversations, there is great power in an intellectual stimulus that eludes simple definition. It was fascinating watching people stop at the foot of Pero's Bridge, stare at the billowing clouds of fog and ponder what it meant. Sustainably living on our planet requires lateral thinking and vibrant discussion but also contemplation.

Via these more sustained and elusive interactions, art makes us examine ourselves and our surroundings differently, and in doing so causes us to reach unexpected conclusions. These can lead to the new ideas needed to live in an increasingly uncertain world. During my conversations with the In Between Time organisers and participants at the launch of the Fog Bridge, we were continually drawn to its peaceful character and its invitation to collaborate with weather – it was not exactly a metaphor for the catastrophic and dangerous types of extreme weather that climate change is likely to cause. I agree with the scientific and political consensus that the best and most fair policies, for our planet and our society, are those that avoid rapid and extreme climate change. But if we do fall short, the Fog Bridge reminds us

that there are more nuanced solutions than simply fighting the changing climate by building higher flood defences.

If the Bristol 2015 arts programme is to achieve this potential, then it must be inclusive and enduring. Can we create art that will linger for years – either physically or in the imagination? Can we ensure that the art is not only internationally respected but that it resonates and connects with the citizens of Bristol? And most importantly, can we ensure that it brings beauty and value to the entirety of our city, thereby serving as a gateway for inclusion and empowerment? That is what makes the diverse and city-scale projects described here so exciting. They are quirky, thoughtful, stimulating, and most importantly, embedded via the Neighbourhood Arts Programme in every part of the city.

I used to think that artists could help facilitate the conversation. That is true. But I now believe that their true value is in *changing* the conversation.

Rich Pancost

Director of the Cabot Institute
Advisor to Bristol 2015 European Green Capital



Fog Bridge

The world is getting warmer – but how will this change our weather? And how might a changing climate disrupt our lives?

In February 2015, In Between Time invited a conjurer of unusual weather, artist Fujiko Nakaya, to the city. Over 40 years, Nakaya has used fog as a sculptural medium. Collaborating with the elements, Nakaya's clouds are created by water pumped at high pressure through many micro-fine nozzles. Nakaya's long career has seen partnerships with a host of renowned artists and architects including Robert Rauschenberg, Trisha Brown, Bill Viola and Diller Scofidio + Renfro.

For 10 days, Pero's Bridge in Bristol Harbourside disappeared behind a changing veil of fog to invite visitors to consider the changing climate and how it might disrupt our lives. It was a chance to pause for a moment, and take a small step into the unknown.

www.inbetweentime.co.uk

Arts, Sciences and Ideas at the Heart of Bristol 2015

by Zoë Steadman-Milne,
Bristol Festival of Ideas/

Bristol 2015 Major Arts and Cultural Commissions/

Six Bristol 2015 arts commissions supported by Arts Council England and developed through Bristol Cultural Development Partnership with Bristol 2015.



www.artscouncil.org.uk

Bristol Cultural Development Partnership (BCDP) and Bristol Festival of Ideas have always taken a wide view of culture. We're about arts and sciences generally; about ideas, debates about ideas and providing a profile for people with interesting things to say; and about putting the arts central to all projects. In the past we've embraced engineering with Brunel 200 (2006), Darwin 200 in 2009 and the Bristol Aeroplane Company with BAC100 (2010).

There can be no more important issue facing us today than the impact of climate change. We've always been interested in this as an issue: out of the 2000 events we have run since 2005, many have been devoted to climate change and sustainability. Bristol 2015 – and the Bristol 2015 arts programme – allows our partners and BCDP to take this work to a new level. We've already run this year our Romantic poets project, a nature summit, and the

first year of the Coleridge Lectures – our new annual series inspired by the lectures Coleridge gave in the city in 1795.

We're also running – with partners – the Arts Council England Exceptional Awards programme which has six major arts commissions.

The culmination of our work – and one of the Exceptional Awards projects – is the Festival of the Future City. Cities and their future are important to our work. We need to get cities right if we are to create a sustainable future for all of us. Throughout the year we're running many conferences and summits on leadership, active cities, living cities. The Festival of the Future City will bring all this together and add more about the future of cities and Bristol.

We invite you to join the debate in imagining a future city for all.

Luke Jerram: Withdrawn 18 April-6 September 2015, Leigh Woods

Withdrawn is a new artwork by Luke Jerram exploring ideas connected to the sustainability of our natural world, commissioned by the National Trust, working in partnership with Forestry Commission England. In the depths of Leigh Woods, a beautiful and diverse ancient broadleaf woodland, set against the breath-taking backdrop of the Avon Gorge and Brunel's world famous Clifton Suspension Bridge, visitors will discover a flotilla of fishing boats resting in a tranquil glade. The quiet discord of the scene immediately prompts questions – how did the boats arrive here and what previous adventures had they been on? What environmental changes could lead to this scenario?

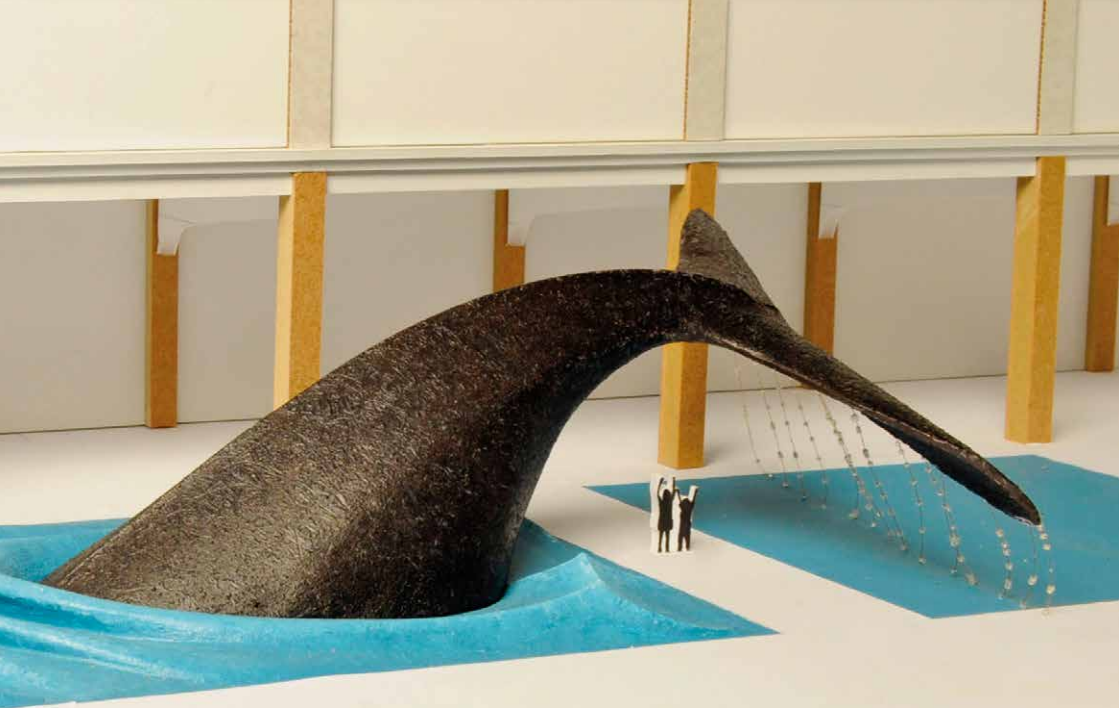
Withdrawn asks us to reflect upon the impact humanity is having on our seas and how our oceans and climate are changing. Whether it is through commercial exploitation by overfishing, or climate change and pollution, the future of this complex environment is uncertain and there are many challenges ahead.

Over the summer of 2015 the boats will become host to an exciting programme of events: David Odgen conducts Bristol Youth Choir (25 April) and Exultate Singers (28 June); two-wheeled drive-in style movie night (3-4 July); an invitation to families to cycle to the boats for a picnic and nautical themed storytelling (26 July). Withdrawn will also provide a backdrop for performances of *The Tempest*, staged by the Butterfly Theatre as part of Bristol Shakespeare Festival (11-17 July), and Mayfest will host a series of Nightwalks with Tom Bailey (starts 14 May). The programme will culminate with a talk by the Cabot Institute, University of Bristol, which will explore the challenges of environmental change (23 August).

The installation is open daily 9am-5pm. Please travel to Leigh Woods by public transport, walk or cycle. For more information visit – www.nationaltrust.org.uk/leigh-woods or www.trustnewartbristol.org

www.lukejerram.com





The Bristol Whales
Opens 17 July 2015, Millennium Square



Designed and built by Bristol-based Cod Steaks, and initiated by Artists Project Earth and Bristol 2015, The Bristol Whales will see the creation of a temporary art installation on Bristol's Harbourside which will represent the beauty of ocean life and the growing human threats to it. The life-size sculpture will show two whales swimming together through Millennium Square – the emerging tail of one, and the head and blowhole of the other. It will be unveiled to coincide with the Bristol Harbour Festival.

The whales will be created from willow, harvested from Musgrove Willows in Somerset. Willow is a natural, fully sustainable material that biodegrades over time. The whales will be depicted in a

sea of plastic bottles, some of which were collected after the Bath Half Marathon in March. More will come from the Bristol 10K in May and other sources. The bottles will represent the detrimental effect of plastics in the oceans.

Schools and young people across Bristol will be invited to take part in workshops, where they will try their hand at willow sculpture, and prepare green messages to go into the bottles. Other messages will come from politicians, musicians, writers, actors and conservationists from around the world. The bottles will be recycled after the sculpture is dismantled.

www.bristol2015.co.uk

Richard Long: Time and Space 31 July-15 November 2015, Arnolfini

Time and Space is a new exhibition and project at Arnolfini by acclaimed artist Richard Long.

Drawing on his personal connection to Bristol and the South West, it will include a selection of Long's different forms of working, together with documentation, a new publication, and a new offsite commission.

Time and Space will feature a number of important early works, which are key to understanding the significance of Bristol and the South West in Long's practice and show how the ideas and language developed through his early career were key in the development of ideas that the artist now realises across the world.

The Downs, Avon Gorge and the surrounding countryside are particularly significant to Long. The roots of his work with the landscape can be seen in his childhood connection to these places, which have remained a personal and enduring



reference point for him. As an offsite commission, he will create a footpath, or a 'desire line', which has been made over many months by the footprints of people walking across the Downs, instinctively following the same route and establishing an unplanned path through the grass. Long will pick out the path with white limestone to create a vibrant and curved line in the landscape. The commission is realised in partnership with Bristol City Council and Simplyhealth.

www.arnolfini.org.uk

ARNOLFINI





Winner of the 2015 Artes Mundi prize, Theaster Gates will stage his first UK public project in Bristol at a very special site in autumn 2015.

Produced by arts producer Situations, in association with MAYK and with groups and individuals across the city, the project is funded by Arts Council England, the Henry Moore Foundation and made possible by English Heritage.

It is exciting for me to have an opportunity to make an important work of art in Bristol. It is my first major commitment in the UK and also represents the conflation of lots of different aspects of my practice. Cities and public space continue to be themes that are important for me to explore. I am thankful to the city of Bristol and Bristol 2015 for their support. **Theaster Gates**

At Situations we believe in the capacity of artists to imagine new visions of the future for our environment and to sustain and enrich our lives. Within the context of Bristol 2015, we're proud to bring Theaster Gates to the city, one of the foremost American artists of his generation renowned for his acts of transformation, such as the re-activation and redemption of abandoned spaces and the redeployment of disused objects and materials. His project for Bristol will transform, repurpose and hear this city through the temporary occupation of a very special space. All will be revealed this autumn. **Claire Doherty**

www.situations.org.uk



SITUATIONS

The Henry Moore
Foundation

MAYK



Fusing positive recycling, environmentally conscious themes, ground-breaking performance and cutting-edge technology, Arcadia – a core part of Bristol's creative community – has dazzled audiences from Glastonbury to Bangkok with their unique shows.

Having built their award-winning giant spider entirely from recycled materials, and following an ethos of reshaping military and industrial machinery into celebratory spaces, they will be setting Bristol alight with a new event in September 2015. The event will bring awe-inspiring art, music, theatre, and uplifting spectacle to the heart of the city while a new performance show explores themes of change and sustainability through extraordinary drama and breathtaking visual effects. The show will use new green technologies with the conversion of the Arcadia Spider's signature flames to biodiesel.

Follow Arcadia and Bristol 2015 for news of the project and for ticket sales.

www.arcadiaspectacular.com www.bristol2015.co.uk

In association with:



brisfest



Bristol Festival of Ideas: The Festival of the Future City

18-19 November 2015 – Main Festival;

20 November 2015 – Future of Bristol Day

The Festival of the Future City and its associated year-long programme will be the largest debate ever about the city and the future – bringing together academics, city planners, artists, writers, filmmakers, games makers, architects, politicians, journalists and commentators, poets, community leaders, businesses, scientists, think tanks and others to debate the future city with the public. Running from early in the morning to late at night over three days, it will include wide-ranging talks and debates, smaller discussions, films and other arts activity, walks, boat tours, breakfast and lunch presentations, and more.

The Festival of the Future City will have a build-up programme of seminars, small conferences, and web work.

The aims of Festival of the Future City are: to inspire wide thinking and debate about the future of cities; to look at examples of good practice in cities that will help promote a better and more resilient, sustainable and prosperous future for all; to examine and debate good examples of city futures from the past and what they can tell us now; to provide models for future city development; to promote debate and discussion about the future city by the widest range of people and organisations.

The Festival of the Future City will look at the future city, not just in sustainable and resilient terms but in all aspects of city life, living, working, educating, playing and developing. This will include: the good city; the smart city; the art city; the creative and media city; higher education and medicine in city economies and life; ideal cities; ageing city populations; cities for all citizens; immigration and the city; city thinkers of the past; the city builders of

the future; fairness and the city; inequality; legibility and cities; playable cities; city philanthropy; financing the future city; technology, privacy and security issues; city devolution; bringing industry back in to city centres; futures of the high street; developing mixed economies for cities; garden cities; and more.

It will bring together and provide a platform for existing programmes of work – such as Foresight – and look at how the work of the City Growth Commission and Centre for Cities, amongst others, is being implemented. It will also look at the Innovate UK demonstrators' work and the work of the Future Cities Catapult.

As it is in Bristol it will look also at non-capital cities and where they do and don't work; examine civic pride and branding; city states and localism; suburbs and their future. The festival will go outside the conference room with city walks and tours; boat trips; and a night walk to show the city in a different way.

www.ideasfestival.co.uk

In partnership with:



Bristol Festival of Ideas
Future City



Bristol 2015 Neighbourhood Arts Programme/

During 2015, arts projects will spring up all over Bristol from the tip of Avonmouth to the toe of Dundry View.

They'll be driven by communities and created with professional artists and makers to inspire Bristol to become a healthier, happier city, looking creatively at energy, resources, transport, food or nature in each area. All are being documented from start to finish; a short film will be produced for each of the 14 projects and an overall film will be made.

The 14 Bristol neighbourhoods are:

- Ashley, Easton and Lawrence Hill
- Greater Fishponds
- Cabot, Clifton and Clifton East
- Greater Bedminster
- Dundry View
- Bishopston, Cotham and Redland
- Avonmouth and Kingsweston
- Greater Brislington
- Filwood, Knowle and Windmill Hill
- Henbury and Southmead
- Horfield and Lockleaze
- Henleaze, Stoke Bishop and Westbury-on-Trym
- St George
- Stockwood, Hengrove and Whitchurch



This has included: talking at neighbourhood partnership and local forum meetings; working closely with Bristol City Council's Neighbourhood and Community Development teams; meeting with community leaders, groups and individuals; holding public consultation meetings.

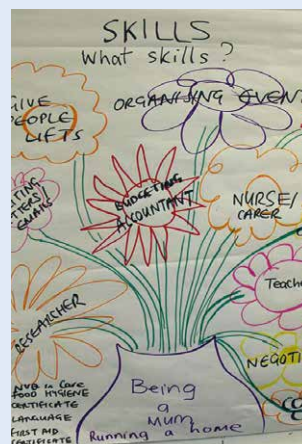
We then identify an issue relating to one of Bristol 2015's main themes of transport, energy, food, resources or nature within a group or a place in each area. Next an artist/maker brief is advertised, and Bristol-based creatives will be chosen to work around that theme or issues.

Finally, we'll launch the projects and celebrate the event!

The commissions for the first six neighbourhood partnership areas were announced in April. The next eight commissions will be out in April, with artists to be selected in June.

A launch or celebration event will take place in each of the communities and a final showcase of all the projects will happen in December 2015.

www.bristol2015.co.uk



Bristol 2015 Strategic Grants Fund Commissions/

The Strategic Grants Fund is one of three grant-funding programmes launched by Bristol 2015 as part of the European Green Capital year.

A total budget of £1.5m was allocated for strategic grants. Applicants were invited to submit bids for strategic projects which:

- Empower organisations and communities across Bristol to celebrate Bristol's year as European Green Capital
- Support organisations making tangible progress against Bristol 2015's outcomes for environmental changes in the city
- Ensure a vibrant set of projects during 2015 which can be shared with other European cities

And demonstrate how their work will contribute to the core Bristol 2015 themes: energy, food, nature, resources and transport.

See the Bristol 2015 website at www.bristol2015.co.uk for the full list of successful applicants. We've included a selection here.

City Ideas Studio 1 May 2015-10 April 2016, The Architecture Centre

For Bristol European Green Capital 2015, the Architecture Centre is becoming a 'City Ideas Studio', its programme based around the key Green Capital themes – food, nature, transport, resources and energy – and presented through a series of 10-week residencies. Working with organisations across the city, including grassroots, charities and businesses, the centre's Harbourside gallery will become a hub of sustainable place-making and a catalyst for green ideas and action.

With exhibitions, events and activities showcasing national and international projects alongside the work of local innovators and special 'pop-up' guests, the City Ideas Studio will ask five key questions to demonstrate how the 'architecture' or 'shape' of a sustainable city is about much more than the buildings we build.



The programme and themes: Food: 1 May to 5 July 2015; Nature: 15 July to 13 September 2015; Resources: 23 September to 8 November 2015; Energy: 18 November 2015 to 31 January 2016; Transport: 10 February to 10 April 2016

Continuing the centre's partnership with the Faculty of Environment and Technology at UWE, academics and students will also respond to the five residency themes. The City Ideas Studio will extend outside of the Architecture Centre including children and young people through the My Green City schools' programme and Shape My City youth project.

The City Ideas Studio is supported by Alec French Architects, BDP, FCB Studios, Ferguson Mann Architects, RISE Structures, Solarsense and West of England Initiative.

www.architecturecentre.co.uk



Bristol 2015: Wild Encounters

Bristol 2015 Wild Encounters is bringing the city's world-leading wildlife film industry to light. Through a variety of clips, each selected and introduced by a prominent natural history presenter, these Wild Encounters will forge a bond between the public and the industry, exposing surprising facts about just how important this industry is both locally and on a global scale.

The project was launched over Easter weekend in the Bristol 2015 Lab, with all of our films being screened across the bank holiday weekend. We've got plenty more planned across the year – screenings on the Millennium Square Big Screen start on April 10 and these will be followed over the year by a variety of screenings in more unusual locations.

The project will also encompass a series of Spectacle events across the year, from the Mini Panda Awards, which celebrates the passion of young filmmakers, to the creation of a Winter Wonderland in Millennium Square for some truly immersive winter screenings!

Wild Encounters is curated by Wildscreen on behalf of the Bristol Natural History Consortium. For more information on the project and upcoming events, please visit: www.bnhc.org.uk



Bristol Natural
History Consortium

The Energy Tree

The Energy Tree is a ground-breaking exhibit, designed to engage the public in energy issues. Delivered by Bristol-based Demand Energy Equality, designed by John Packer and hosted by At-Bristol Science Centre, it is a community-led public art installation and renewable power source that will also provide a number of interactive functions for the public – including phone charging and WiFi. The 15ft-high metal sculpture uses bio-mimicry to imitate a natural tree form. Its leaves are composed of solar photovoltaic panels fabricated by participants from the Bristol Drugs Project during workshops delivered by Demand Energy Equality.

The launch event is on 21 April 2015, 17:30-19:00, Millennium Square.

www.demandenergyequality.org



Bristol Loves Tides

Bristol Loves Tides uses performance and film to explore water flows, tides and systems over, under and around Bristol. It will show the interconnectedness of ecology, biodiversity, energy, and the role of the wilder green spaces of the city.

During the highest spring tides for decades, and in collaboration with 16-25 year olds from different regions of the city, a multi-platform film and performance has been made. Touring in June and July, the event will create a dramatic imperative in schools and regional communities to help with green issues related to water in their city. There will be two performances a day for 10 schools as well as film screenings and site-specific public performances. On September 21 and 22 the Bristol Loves Tides events will be on board the passenger ship the *Balmoral* sailing from Avonmouth out into the Severn Estuary. On September 28 the event will be at venues on and around the Floating Harbour.

Through Bristol Loves Tides, young people will understand Bristol as a city built on rivers and tides; families will be encouraged to participate in greening Bristol; and more young people will

become skilled, engaged and empathetic with the rivers, tides, docks and the nascent marine energy hub in their city.

Led by My Future My Choice and the Bristol Initiative Trust in collaboration with: Desperate Men Theatre Company, Rough Glory Films, NOVA artists, Underfall Yard, MV Balmoral, Bristol Packet Boat Trips, Bristol Port Company and Cabot's Shipwright. It is part of the Arts & Humanities Research Council's 'Towards Hydrocitizenship' project.

I love this project because it understands that science and art have the same starting point or foundation – observation. I believe that its imaginative connection to fundamental ecology through its celebration of the role water plays in the past, present and future of this great city will inspire all who take part to look at their world afresh and, once inspired, launch us on a thousand journeys of our own fuelled by the greatest gift of all – curiosity.
Tim Smit, Founder and Chair of the Eden Project

www.myfuturemychoice.co.uk



91 Ways to Build a Global City – Bringing All Bristol's Communities Together

There are 91 languages spoken in Bristol. Our city is creative, vibrant and fast-growing and is made up of many different communities. It is this diversity that makes Bristol such a unique and exciting place to live.

Language and food are both strong symbols of social identity, yet language can be a barrier between communities while food can help us cross those divides. We know that the choices we make about how we eat have a direct impact on our quality of life and our environment. 91 Ways will allow people to share their stories, personal food journeys, recipes, and passions, to build understanding between communities and create a better quality of life and environment.



91 Ways will use the power of food to bring people together. It will

- Inspire people to lead more sustainable lives using the power of food to encourage dialogue, shared learning, education and action
- Help people make better decisions about their food and well-being to improve the health and sustainability of our city
- Create a modern social history of Bristol through food and be instrumental in encouraging a sustainable way of living across the whole city
- Help us all to have a better understanding of how Bristol's communities live and their behaviour, food journeys and how they engage with our city

A celebratory event in June will bring all of Bristol's communities together to share stories and good food, hear from inspiring speakers and find ways for communities to work together to lead more sustainable lives.

Visit the 91 Ways website to find out how to submit your stories, your passions, your favourite recipes and to tell us more about your community.

<http://91ways.org>

91WAYS
TO BUILD A
GLOBAL CITY



Other Strategic Grants Fund commissions include Bristol Festivals, Bristol Food Connections (Bristol Food Network), The Divine Paradox of Human Beings (Gathering Voices with Andy Sheppard) and Bearpit's Visual Arts Programme – for updates see www.bristol2015.co.uk

Bristol 2015 Summits, Debates and Conferences Programme/

The Bristol 2015 summits, debates and conferences programme runs through 2015. The series will include the work of artists, architects, photographers, filmmakers, poets and more.

Bristol Cultural Development Partnership and Festival of Ideas wants to see the widest debate ever about the city in 2015. Covering all aspects of city life and living, it is organising debates, conferences and festivals. It is also working with a wide range of partners running their own events, summits and conferences – as well as bringing others to Bristol in this special year – to make sure that the debates, discussions and conversations are shared widely and the lessons learned feature, among other activity, in the November Festival of the Future City and in the Bristol message in COP21. The programme includes:

- Resilience and cities – through the year
- Nature rich cities – March 2015 and through the year
- Cities, Communities and Devolution first conference – 11 March 2015
- Bristol 2015: Young People – It's Our Future – 20-21 April 2015
- Active Cities Conference – 9 June 2015
- 52 IMCL Conference on Achieving Green, Healthy Cities – 29 June-3 July 2015
- International Fair Trade Towns Conference – 4-5 July 2015
- Education for Sustainable Development Conference – 7-9 September 2015
- Arts Council England No Boundaries Conference – 29-30 September 2015
- Alternative Economics Conference – 12-13 October 2015
- University of Bristol: Uncertain World Forum – 17-21 October 2015
- Fourth annual Economics Festival – 12-14 November 2015
- Bristol 2015: Festival of the Future City – 18-20 November 2015
- Mayor's Lecture and Debate – 20 November 2015
- COP21, Paris – 30 November-14 December 2015

Details of some of these follow.



Bristol 2015: Green Youth Day: It's Our Future

20 April 2015, Colston Hall
Free for under 25s, but booking
required

The Green Youth Day Bristol 2015 summit is focused on young people and environmental issues.

Led by an advisory group of young people, the day will address issues identified by the group as important to them and their friends. Subjects covered include the science of climate change; protecting wildlife and the oceans; human rights; the clothes we wear; equality; how to campaign successfully; and why questioning the establishment is essential.

In addition to passionate and inspirational talks, films and demonstrations from people who have helped campaign and change Bristol and the world, the day will include practical examples of how to make what we own last longer, meet-the-speaker sessions, music, a collaborative art project and the chance for all to contribute to the future of Bristol 2015, Bristol and cities.

Speakers: Marcus Brigstocke (host), Laura Bates, Alice Bell, Laurens de Groot, Max Wakefield, George Ferguson, Georgia Gould, Integrate Bristol, Emmanuel Jal, Owen Jones, Arthur Kay, Michaela Musilova, The Restart Project, Bristol Green Capital Digital Challenge.

www.bristol2015.co.uk

52nd International Conference on Achieving Green, Healthy Cities 29 June-3 July 2015

Achieving green healthy cities requires collaborative efforts and insights from many disciplines. The 52nd International Conference on Achieving Green, Healthy Cities will examine creative strategies, tools and design solutions for how the built and natural environment can be designed and managed to increase social and physical health and well-being, and to foster ecological, social and economic sustainability. Participants include world-renowned experts working at the interface between planning, urban design, public health, landscape architecture, transportation planning, architecture, and social sciences. Through study tours, participants will also learn about Bristol's achievements and about Bristol's current projects to improve health and sustainability. Keynote speakers include:

Suzanne H Crowhurst Lennard, Co-founder and Director, International Making Cities Liveable Conference
George Ferguson, CBE, PRIBA, RWA, Mayor, City of Bristol, UK
Tjaša Ficko, Deputy Mayor, City of Ljubljana, Slovenia
Jan Gehl, Gehl Architects, Copenhagen, Denmark

Richard J Jackson, Professor, Dept. of Environmental Sciences, University of California Los Angeles
Kevin McCloud, MBE, British designer, writer and television presenter
Prathima Manohar, Founder and Editor in Chief, The Urban Vision, Mumbai, India
Dr. Sven von Ungern-Sternberg, former Freiburg Mayor and Governor, State of Süd-Baden, Germany

www.livablecities.org

No Boundaries 29-30 September 2015, Home Manchester and Watershed Bristol

No Boundaries is the industry conference for the arts, museums and libraries, with a focus on presenting questions and challenging new ideas on the role of arts and culture, finding positive approaches to influence change and supporting the sector's growth in a world of unknowns. It's the second time it's been held in Bristol – in partnership with another city.

Delegates can choose to attend No Boundaries at either of the two locations, Manchester or Bristol, with each venue providing a unique experience and a live-link to seamlessly broadcast talks between both spaces and onto the web. There'll be a focus on arts and the environment as part of Bristol 2015.

Last year's conference was a huge success and we look forward to a similar meeting of minds in September – something which will be even more important given that by then we will have had a general election and a spending review so the arts and culture landscape may have changed. The State of the Arts events are great platforms to encourage creative thinking and to stimulate debate. Peter Bazalgette, chairman, Arts Council England

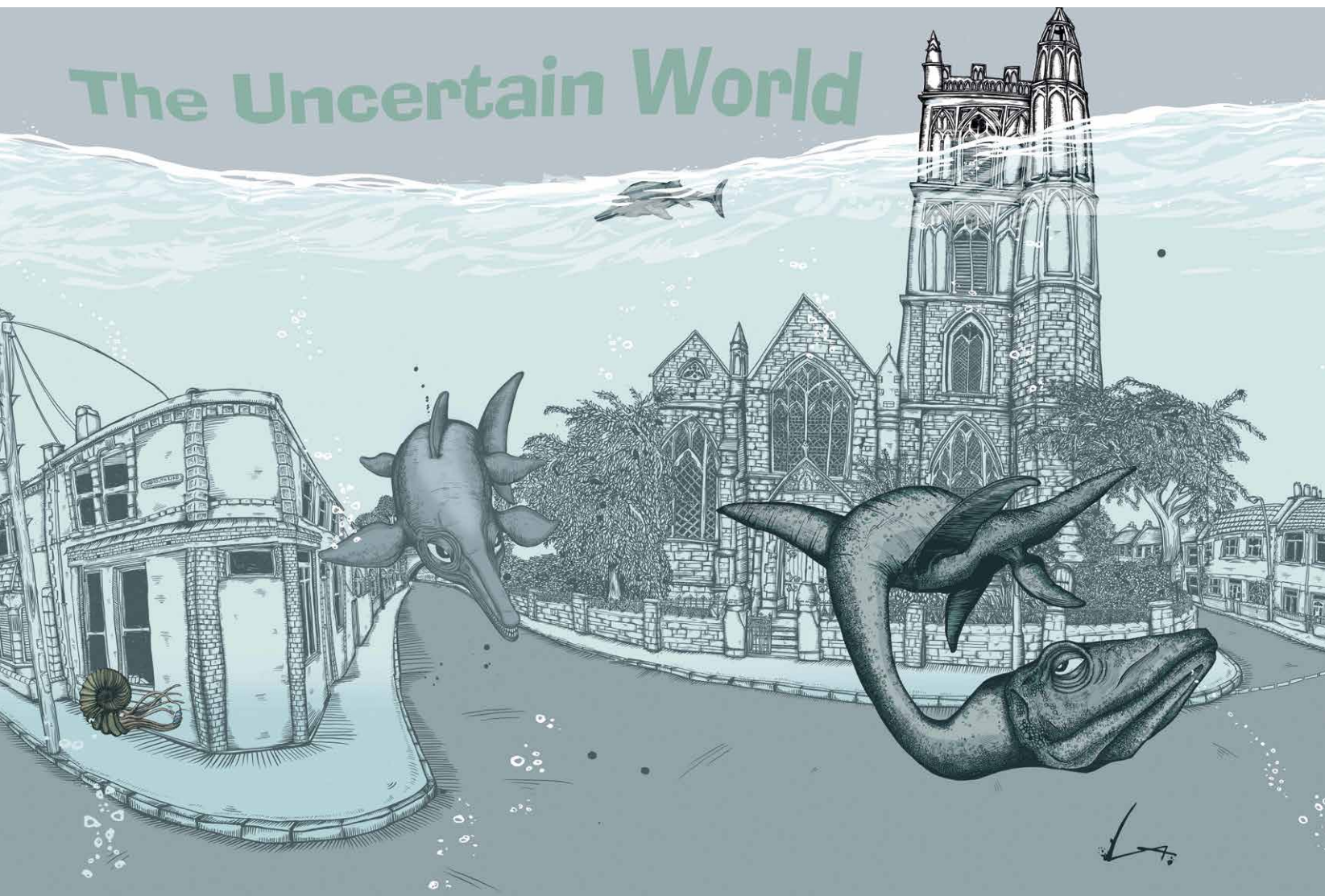
Programme details and contributors will be unveiled over the coming months.

www.nb2015.org

NO BOUNDARIES

No Boundaries is a State of the Arts event supported by Arts Council England and British Council. A partnership project of Watershed, Pilot, Bristol Festival of Ideas, Home.

The Uncertain World



University of Bristol Uncertain World Forum

Cabot Institute, University of Bristol
17-21 October 2015

Uncertainty is the often forgotten but arguably most challenging aspect of our impact on the environment. We live our lives informed by our experiences, long-term datasets and historical records. Now, however, we are changing our environment, such that the lessons of the past have less relevance to the planning of our future. This does not mean that we have no knowledge of what future climates will be like – we have high confidence that temperatures and sea level will rise – but we do have uncertainty of the scale and speed of warming and sea level rise. The consequences of these rapid changes on the wider and complex biological and chemical earth systems, and the people dependent upon them, are even more poorly understood.

During 2015 and culminating in our forum 17-21 October, we will explore this uncertain world. How do lessons from the Earth's past help us better understand potential future scenarios? What are the uncertainties that cause Bristolians and people from across the globe the greatest anxiety? How do these future scenarios inform the decisions we make today? How do we ensure that our responses to unexpected changes are effective and fair?

These findings will feed into other aspects of Bristol 2015 work including issues of leadership and future cities, and your thoughts and reflections will inform our discussions; please contribute to cabot-reflections@bristol.ac.uk

www.bris.ac.uk/cabot

Other Projects, Programmes and Events/

Bristol and Romanticism

Walking Guide by Amy O'Seime



Bristol Festival of Ideas
In association with
The Observer

BRISTOL
2015
Lecture Series

Bristol Festival of Ideas: Romanticism Programme

Bristol celebrates the Romantic poets in 2015 in a project directed by Bristol Cultural Development Partnership as part of the Bristol Festival of Ideas and the Bristol 2015 programme.

Bristol was central to the Romantic Movement with the poets William Wordsworth, Robert Southey and Samuel Taylor Coleridge working in the city and the first edition of *Lyrical Ballads* produced here by a local publisher, Joseph Cottle. The Romantics looked at nature and the emotions, place and the environment. The present-day looming ecological crisis makes a renewed focus and debate on these issues essential.

Inspired by Coleridge's radical lectures in the 1790s in Bristol, the new annual series of Coleridge Lectures launched in February 2015 looked at the theme of Radical Green.



The lecturers included: Kathleen Jamie, writer and poet, on Poetry, the Land and Nature; Anna Coote, New Economics Foundation, on Green and Social Justice; and George Monbiot, journalist, campaigner and writer, on What a Green Government Could do if it Really Tried. The lectures took place at the Wills Memorial Building.

Supported by Arts Council England, 23 poets were commissioned to write poetry for a new *Lyrical Ballads*. The work was presented in a special event at At-Bristol on the evening of 6 March 2015. The following day sessions at Watershed

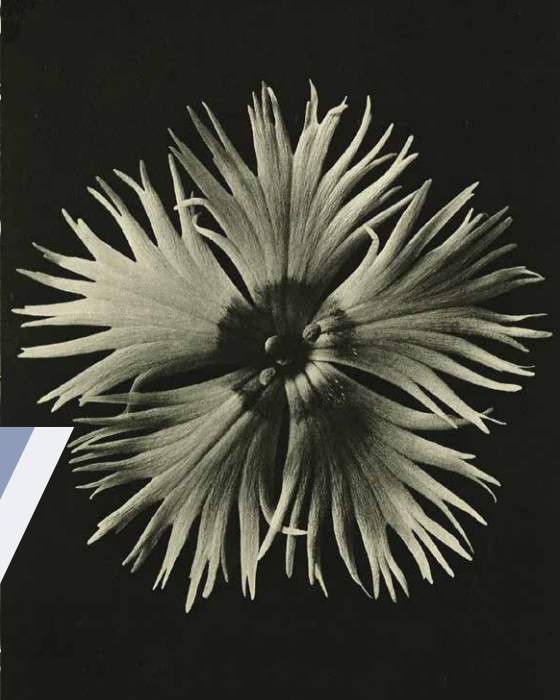
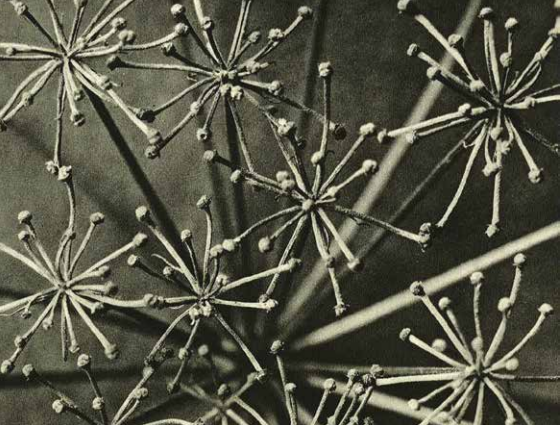


examined how nature has inspired writers of poetry and prose, contributed to personal healing and provided a new approach for environmental campaigns. In addition guided walks have explored Bristol's role in the Romantic Movement: more will be held later this year.

A printed walking guide on Bristol and Romanticism is available free of charge at venues around the city. The new *Lyrical Ballads* will be published later this year.

See the Festival of Ideas website for details, including audio-recordings of the past events: www.ideasfestival.co.uk





Bristol Museum & Art Gallery and M Shed

Bristol Museum & Art Gallery – together with M Shed – will celebrate Bristol 2015 with a new permanent wildlife gallery; exhibitions – including one on the work of the Natural History Unit in Bristol and natural history filmmaking; a look at the remarkable images made by Karl Blossfeldt; a celebration of green change makers in Bristol; and a journey to the centre of the earth with Bristol artists Wood & Harrison.

www.bristolmuseums.org.uk

New Permanent Wildlife Gallery June 2015

In June 2015 a new Wildlife Gallery will open at Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, giving you a chance to see Bristol's amazing wildlife up close. There are over 7,000 species recorded in Bristol, and in the new gallery you'll be able to get up close to specimens as diverse as mini-beasts and large birds. You'll be surprised by what's living on your doorstep.

Art Forms in Nature 4 July-13 September 2015, Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, Free

Look in wonder at 40 exquisite original photogravures from 1932 of Karl Blossfeldt's close-up photographic images of plants and flora.

Blossfeldt is regarded as one of the defining photographers of the twentieth century for his exceptional contribution to the art through his intricate botanical photographs. During his career he developed homemade cameras and lenses which enabled him to magnify his subjects by up to 30 times. In doing so he revealed the underlying structures of nature, which until then remained unexplored.

An exhibition from Hayward Touring.

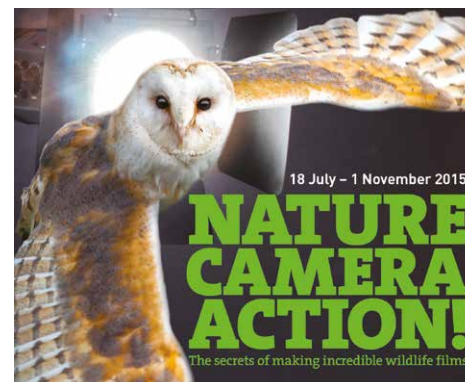
You Make Bristol What It Is.... Green June 2015-February 2016, M Shed, Free

M Shed tells the story of Bristol and its unique place in the world. To celebrate Bristol's status as European Green Capital we are highlighting 10 people and organisations who have contributed to Bristol's green agenda. Having invited nominations from organisations across the city, the display will represent the broad spectrum of green activity in Bristol.

Nature, Camera, Action! The Secrets of Making Incredible Wildlife Films 18 July-1 November 2015, M Shed £5 / £4 concession. Children free (children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult)

The deepest oceans, the coldest continents, the most fearsome animals – wildlife filmmakers have faced it all in pursuit of the perfect shot. Explore the challenges they face and the amazing kit they use, in this exciting exhibition for the whole family.

Through films, objects used 'in the field' and lots of 'hands on' exhibits, *Nature, Camera, Action!* will highlight Bristol's role as a global centre for wildlife filmmaking. Developed by the BBC and the National Media Museum, Bradford.



Ben Garrod Makes a Skeleton Come to Life!

1-2 August 2015, M Shed,
Free

Over two days Ben Garrod, award-winning Bristol based TV presenter, will be bringing to life the skeleton of an orang-utan acquired by the museum in the 1800s. Working with our conservators, Ben will slowly drill into the bones and re-pose the orang-utan for future long-term display. At 11.30 am and 2.30 pm on each day Ben will give a 30-minute talk on his work, orang-utans, and the history of this particular specimen.

Journey to the Centre of the Earth 19 September 2015-3 January 2016, Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, Free

A contemporary commission by Bristol artists Wood & Harrison, which explores human ideas about the history of life on Earth across deep time. Inspired by the museum's geology collections and highlighting the bicentenary of the first geological map of England and Wales, to which Bristol is strongly linked. A New Expressions 3 commission – unlocking the creative potential of museums.

www.bristolmuseums.org.uk



National
Media
Museum

M shed

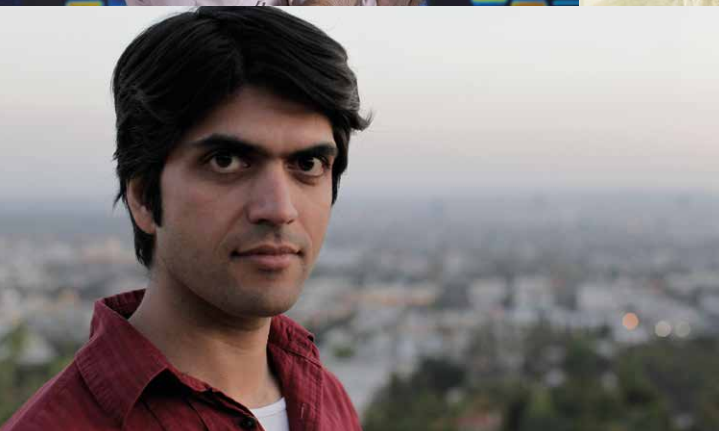
The annual Festival of Ideas programme looks at issues relating to the environment and cities throughout the year. The May programme includes: the launch of a new annual lecture series with Vintage Publishers, starting with Yuval Harari, author of the remarkable book *Sapiens*; walks exploring Bristol, architecture and green issues led by Tim Mowl; Caroline Lucas talking about surviving in parliament as a lone Green MP; Karen Bell on achieving environmental justice; Beth Shapiro, evolutionary biologist and pioneer in ancient DNA research, on the

science of de-extinction, its costs and risks; Alok Jha examining how water connects us to the birth and death of the universe; Ben Stewart telling the dramatic and inspiring story of Greenpeace's Arctic thirty; Dieter Helm offering a set of strategies for establishing a natural capital policy; and McKenzie Wark looking at the Anthropocene.

www.ideasfestival.co.uk

Bristol Festival of Ideas/

Bristol Festival of Ideas: May Programme



Events and Screenings at Watershed

WATERSHED

Watershed will play a full role in Bristol 2015 from presenting new films and discussions through to hosting specialist festivals such as cyclescreen to making their building sustainable – and a model for all cultural organisations.

Watershed Film Programme

In addition to cyclescreen, Watershed will present a series of films throughout the year on the environment and cities, including latest releases, documentaries and panels and debates.

Watershed's Transformation

Watershed is also involved in a long-term programme to change the building. Working with Arup, Watershed is set to become a model for how old buildings can be made sustainable in energy and water use, building on the work already undertaken on food procurement. Updates on this available through the year with presentation at No Boundaries (see page 23).

www.watershed.co.uk

cyclescreen: bristol bike film festival 2015 20-23 August 2015

cyclescreen, Bristol's first dedicated bike film festival, returns in August with a diverse programme of events showcasing the most distinctive films and engaging speakers from cycling culture, enthusing audiences about the social and environmental benefits that can be derived from this simple machine.

A celebration of Bristol's blossoming bike scene, this four-day programme of events aims to broaden engagement from all sections of society in cycling culture and in turn encourage audiences to increase their bike usage so they may derive the benefits and legacy of a happier and healthier lifestyle and help contribute to reducing car miles and lowering carbon emissions.

The UK and Bristol has a lot to be proud of in the evolution of the bicycle and cycling culture has a rich and diverse history with close ties to the arts. Expect an exciting line-up including authors Herbie Sykes and Nick Hand as well as new films about riders David Millar, Bernard Hinault and Eddy Merckx, plus a special screening celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Sustrans national cycle network.

Cyclescreen



Life Raft 3-5 September 2015, Bristol Old Vic

A new adaptation by Fin Kennedy
Based on the play *The Raft of the Medusa*
by Georg Kaiser

The Raft of the Medusa was German playwright Georg Kaiser's last play before his death in 1945, and reflects his despair as Europe tore itself apart. Inspired by a terrifying true story, this new adaptation by award-winning playwright Fin Kennedy is a parable for our troubled times.

Acclaimed director Melly Still (*Coram Boy*, Bristol Old Vic; *Nation*, National Theatre) directs this world premiere, performed by a cast of 15 combining the young actors of the Bristol Old Vic Young Company and young performers from across the South West.

This extraordinary world premiere is a new adaptation of Georg Kaiser's classic play, itself inspired by Gericault's iconic painting of the survivors of the wreck of the Medusa in 1816. It imagines a dozen children exposed to the most extreme shortages, a powerful metaphor offering a glimpse of a world where resources are dwindling, and fear, superstition and madness begin to take hold. Tom Morris, Artistic Director, Bristol Old Vic

Produced by Bristol Old Vic

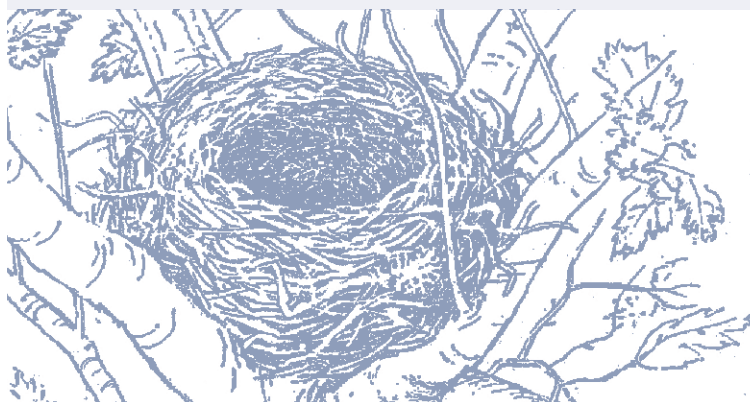
www.bristololdvic.org.uk

Bristol Old Vic

Cunae Autumn 2015 Andy Holden with Peter Holden, commissioned by Spike Island

Ranging from the simple cup-shaped nest of the blackbird to the mud-domes of the ovenbird or the dense woven structures of the weaver birds to the co-operative breeding of the brush-turkey, a father and son conversation exploring an often invisible natural object – the nest – opens onto questions of architecture, landscape, evolution and intelligence, as well as notions of collaboration and parental influence.

Artist Andy Holden and his father, ornithologist Peter Holden, present new work that takes an in-depth look at the ingenuity and diversity of nest building. *Cunae* – a nest for young birds – is concerned with the importance of collaboration; both between art and science but also father and son, looking at how knowledge is transferred and informs the construction of objects and the domestic environment. Through field recordings, film archives and museum collections the Holdens present a study of the structures of birds' nests, examining them through the inseparable categories of morphology, landscape and materials.



Adopting the tone of nature writing, the work is presented as 'ecological thinking'. *Cunae* looks at how the description of landscape and natural objects simultaneously implicates personal biography, aesthetic and social concerns, and politics. The live presentation animates the subject through description and speculation, two voices and sets of interests becoming tangled in the attempt to understand these complex objects.

www.spikeisland.org.uk

Spike Island

£B Artwork Competition

Bristolians were invited to enter the £B Artwork Competition for a chance to see their artwork on the new paper Bristol Pounds (£Bs), which will be issued to the public from Tuesday 30 June 2015. Eight winning artworks were chosen by a panel of judges in March.

Since its launch two years ago, there are now over £B110,000 paper £Bs and £B350,000 electronic £Bs in circulation. The Bristol pound highlights the city's individual and special identity. The UK's only citywide currency has adopted a new look to coincide with four themes: European Green Capital 2015 (£B1 note), Art and Culture (£B5 note), Community and Diversity (£B10 note), and Innovation and Technology (£B20 note).

<http://bristolpound.org>





Circus City

Bristol's contemporary circus festival,
8-31 October 2015, various venues

Circus City is organised by Bristol Circus Forum (local circus companies, producers and performers) who are intent on this being a resilient, home-grown festival in every way.

Circus City will present amazing work for all audiences across the city. It will:

- Provide a high-profile showcase for local work
- Provide residency opportunities in Bristol Circus spaces (Circomedia, Unit 15)
- Support Bristol venues to promote circus
- Promote the health and well-being aspect of circus by working in neighbourhoods with local communities, promoting a fun, easily-accessed form of physical exercise

Acknowledgements/

Bristol Festival of Ideas is an initiative of Bristol Cultural Development Partnership (BCDP):



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