

PRESS RELEASE

APRIL 2019

2 DEGREES FESTIVAL RETURNS TO EAST LONDON THIS JUNE

1-9 June 2019, Toynbee Studios (E1 6AB), the City of London and east London

9 days of performance, discussion, workshops and an exhibition exploring art, climate, action and how we can work together for a more sustainable future.



Photo: Tim Spooner, Monuments Of.... Photo by Brendan Buesnel.

Artsadmin's 2 Degrees Festival returns with its sixth edition since 2009 and invites diverse voices, from primary school children to migrant groups to queer artists, to join the conversation around climate.

The 2019 programme offers audiences the chance to explore themes of climate justice, migration, conservation, gender, activism, environmental disaster, the ethics of arts funding and our broken financial system.

London premiere of Curious' new performance, Wild Longings on 1-2 June: a garden tour exploring conservation, gender and migration

In St Dunstan in the East Church Garden in the City of London, encounter enchanting tour-guide Helen Paris and her passionate ode to the transgender Fortingall Yew, get hands-on tips from raconteur gardener Leslie Hill and let chanteuse Claudia Barton beguile you with a fantasia of song inspired by the botanical delights.

**ARTS
ADMIN.**

“The need for us all to educate ourselves about human-caused environmental damage and explore more sustainable futures has never been more urgent. Art has the extraordinary capacity to critique the shortcomings of things as they are while imagining things as they might be. Our aim is to create experiences that are inspiring, engaging and enriching that ultimately encourage global sustainability and survival whilst celebrating local diversity and interconnectivity.”

Helen Paris and Leslie Hill, Curious

Queer perspectives at Toynbee Studios, the festival hub

Queer artists offer new perspectives on the climate conversation during Bodies in the Way, a day-long programme on 8 June featuring several artists including Edythe Woolley, Ania Varez and Ama Josephine Budge. Artists Xavier de Sousa and Andre Neely are in residence during the Festival and share their research into performative action and environmental activism through an in conversation and open studio.

Primary school students transform discarded scraps and fragments into an exhibition of Monuments of Tower Hamlets from 4-9 June

Year 2 students from Canon Barnett Primary School in Aldgate East, Tower Hamlets, collaborate with artist Tim Spooner to create Monuments of Tower Hamlets. Having gathered scraps of discarded material from locations throughout the borough, they have created a mysterious model village of tiny, delicate sculptures which reshape our understanding of the local environment.

UK premiere of Belgian theatre performance about one of Brazil's worst environmental disasters on 4 June

Having grown up in Minas Gerais in Brazil, a few miles from where the disaster occurred, artist Silke Huysmans collaborates with Hannes Dereere, using material gathered through interviews with local people to create Mining Stories, a documentary performance that starts to wrestle with the ecological and socio-economic consequences.

Watch debt explode in Walthamstow on 6 June

Learn how ‘rebel bank’ Bank Job are quite literally exploding debt and trying to fix our broken financial system in a repurposed Co-op bank in Walthamstow.

Sustainability is one of Artsadmin’s core values and we believe that artists and arts organisations have an important role to play in exploring, communicating and taking practical action against issues around climate change and the environment.

[Find out more about Artsadmin and the environment](#)

“The European Commission is proud to once again be supporting 2 Degrees Festival, one of many activities in the Creative Europe-supported project Imagine 2020 (2.0) exploring art and environment. The project continues to engage diverse audiences in

the European debate around socio-ecological challenges and, most importantly, use culture to inspire and challenge audiences to create a more sustainable future.”

Barbara Gessler, European Commission, Directorate General for
Education and Culture

2 Degrees Festival is produced by Artsadmin and supported by Arts Council England and the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union as part of Imagine 2020 (2.0). **Wild Longings** is supported by the City of London Corporation. **Monuments of Tower Hamlets** is supported by Tower Hamlets Council.

See Notes to Editors for the programme listings announced so far. Check out our website for more events and details:

artsadmin.co.uk/projects/2-degrees-festival-2019

#2DegreesFestival

Images: please find a selection of images for press and promotional use here:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1XIH3c58ZYUdTp0oqzxeH6RUUN1KX3DQN>

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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EVENT LISTINGS

Wild Longings

Curious

Location: St Dunstan in the East Church Garden, St Dunstan's Hill, EC3R 5DD

1-2 June, 11.30am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm, £10/£8 concessions

Sown with stories of transformation, conservation tips and songs, this outdoor performance explores how we might provide succour to each other and the environment. <http://www.artsadmin.co.uk/events/4231>

Monuments of Tower Hamlets

Canon Barnett Primary School and Tim Spooner

Location: Toynbee Studios, E1 6AB

4-9 June, 12-8pm, until 6pm on Thursday and Sunday

Free exhibition

Visitors are invited to explore an abstract model village created in collaboration with local schoolchildren, presenting an alien, yet strangely familiar landscape.

<http://www.artsadmin.co.uk/events/4232>

Mining Stories

Silke Huysmans and Hannes Dereere

Location: Toynbee Studios, E1 6AB

4 June, 8pm, £10/£8 concessions

The UK premiere of a documentary theatre performance exploring memory, politics and storytelling in the aftermath of a mining disaster in Brazil.

<http://www.artsadmin.co.uk/events/4233>

In Conversation

Xavier de Sousa and Andre Neely

Location: Toynbee Studios, E1 6AB

5 June, 7.30pm, free

On residency throughout the festival, Xavier de Sousa and Andre Neely discuss their research into performative action and environmental activism.

<http://www.artsadmin.co.uk/events/4235>

Take the Money and Run? How to Hold onto Your Ethics

Location: Toynbee Studios, E1 6AB

5 June, 3-6pm, free

A workshop for artists exploring how we can interrogate the ethics of funding opportunities and respond to unethical funding scenarios.

<http://www.artsadmin.co.uk/events/4234>

Bankjob

Location: Hoe Street Central Bank, 151-155 Hoe Street, Walthamstow

6 June, 7.30pm, booking details to be announced soon

Visit the site of Bankjob, where they've printed their own banknotes and artwork and sold £40,000 worth of them, using half of the proceeds to fund local projects including a food bank, homeless kitchen and a youth project.

<http://www.artsadmin.co.uk/events/4237>

The Laboratory of Insurrectionary Imagination (Labofii)

Location: Toynbee Studios

7 June, 7.30pm, free

An illustrated talk on the ZAD (zone à défendre), the art of direct action and stopping climate crime through bodies and imagination.

<http://www.artsadmin.co.uk/events/4236>

Bodies in the Way

Location: Toynbee Studios

8 June, 11am-8pm, tickets for Edythe Woolley and Ania Varez: £10/£8 concessions, all other events free

Empower yourself with a day of queer performance action from voices less heard in the climate debate, featuring performances FISHY by Edythe Woolley, Guayabo by Ania Varez and Speculative Fabulations – Resisting Climate Colonialism by Ama Josephine Budge. <http://www.artsadmin.co.uk/events/4238>

For the full 2 Degrees Festival programme visit:

<http://www.artsadmin.co.uk/projects/2-degrees-festival-2019>

EVENT BOOKING

To book for any of the 2 Degrees Festival events please go to artsadmin.co.uk or call the box office on 020 7650 2350. For all events happening at Toynbee Studios, the address is 28 Commercial Street, London, E1 6AB (nearest tube: Aldgate East).

ABOUT 2 DEGREES FESTIVAL

Established in 2009, this biennial festival has welcomed up to 4,500 visitors each time. 2 Degrees Festival has always received core support from Arts Council England and EU funding through the Imagine 2020 network of arts organisations across Europe exploring art and climate change.

Past Imagine 2020 Artsadmin commissions include **Museum of Water** by Amy Sharrocks and **Empathy Museum** by Clare Patey.

ABOUT ARTSADMIN

Artsadmin is a producing organisation, which enables artists to create without boundaries, connecting bold interdisciplinary work with local, national and international audiences. The advisory service supports artists at every stage of their development with free advice and opportunities. In London's East End, Artsadmin has established at its base Toynbee Studios, a centre for the creation, development and presentation of new work, where, in the rehearsal, performance and meeting spaces, new talent is constantly nurtured. Artsadmin celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2019.