

## **Insect The Climate Swing by The ItinerAnts UK, Brazil, Italy, Mexico, Malasya, Poland**

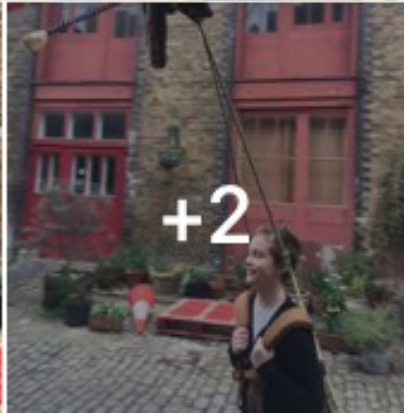
The project was run online with Zoom meetings chaired by the wonderful Cinzia Ciaramiccoli, that involved a diverse group of artists and performers worldwide The ItinerAnts. The director of this project, Isabella Irlandini, shared her vision for *Insects – The Climate Swing* from her studio in Brazil, a project founded on the importance of insects in the intricate web of life on Earth. All participating creatives were invited to respond to the theme with shared research, ideas and plans with the ultimate goal of creating an event for Earth Day 2021 that would run simultaneously in different countries.

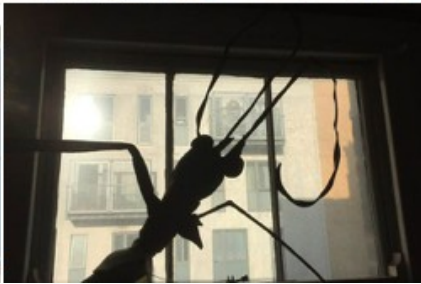
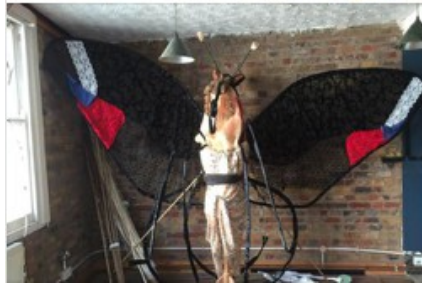


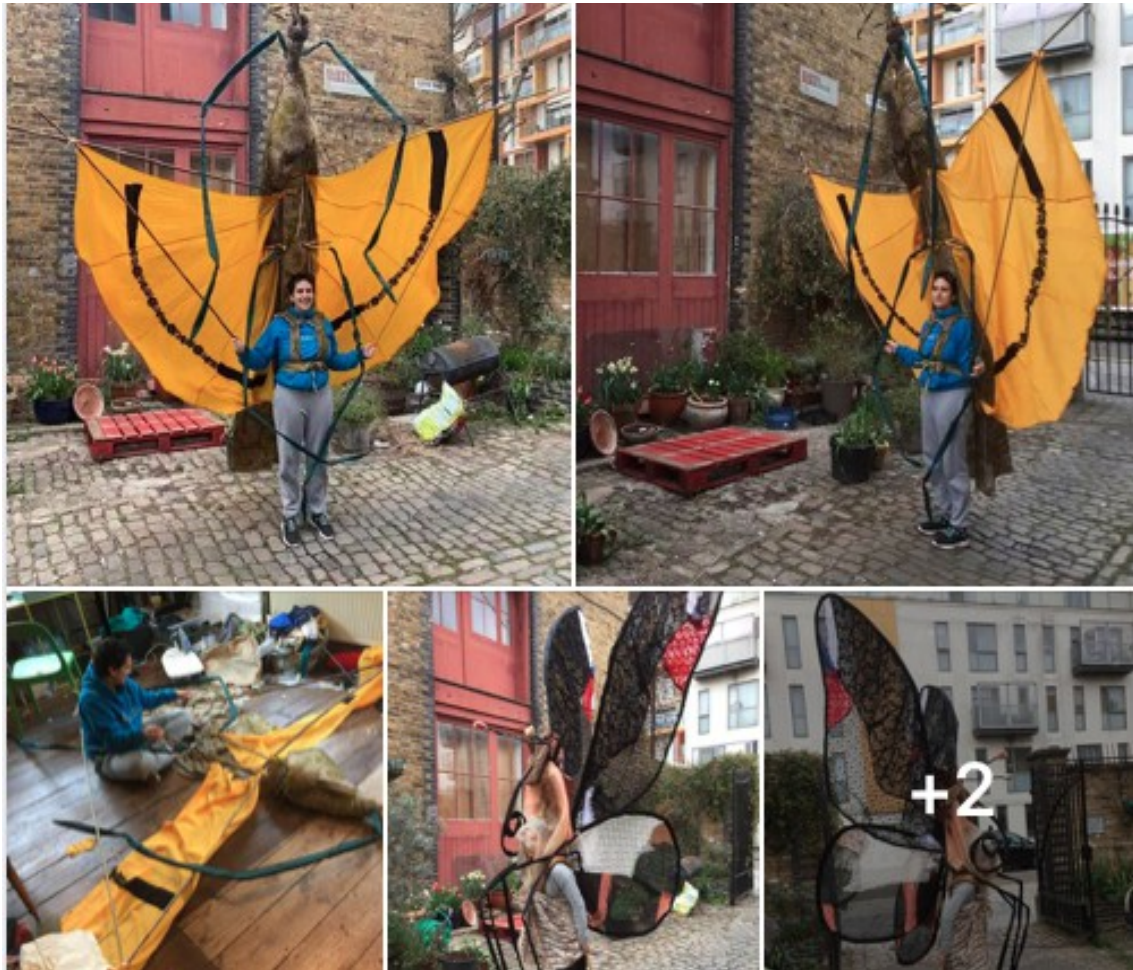
The UK group worked on the creation of large insect puppets building on previous knowledge of making this type of work. We received support-in-kind by local business The Electric Elephant that kindly offered a workshop space for free for 8 weeks during lockdown. We were able to access it as we were a bubble and had exclusive use of it.

We worked on the puppets for 8 weeks collecting reclaimed material where possible. Starting from drawings we created the structures and the various insects.









Unfortunately due to the second lockdown most activities in the community planned in preparation for the event were cancelled apart from a terracotta clay workshop with children. We made miniature clay sculptures of insects that contained wild flower seeds.





During the event Lady Admiral paid a visit :



The children and their families were then invited to the event on Earth Day, when a parade of giant insect walked through the streets of Kennington, meeting the children at Root and Shoots for the planting ceremony and then paying a visit to Brixton People's Kitchen, Kennington.











Once the giant insects arrived the children scattered the clay seed insects in the gardens at Root sand Shoots Kennington. The large insects made a theatrical ceremony.





Once the seed insects were put in the soil the puppets made a little dance for the audience.





The parade continued ... The insects paid a visit to Brixton People's Kitchen who had kindly offered their space for one of the workshops that had been cancelled due to Covid.

It was great to parade the insects and connect these organisation to each other and to the people. It was a fantastic way to raise awareness and involve a public of all ages. Although some of the planned activities didn't happen we managed to bring to fruition a plan that involved many different organisations during lockdown..





On the same day our colleagues in Mexico created this performance :











Other actions were planned but could not happen due to restrictions and Covid related problems . This is only the beginning of this multi-cultural and worldwide project that aims at using creativity to engage communities in environmental action.

Except from our statement of intents:

We chose insects for many reasons; first and foremost, the work that insects do is usually invisible to us, but it is absolutely fundamental for our survival. They are an essential—yet often undervalued—part of our ecosystem. This resonates with the way many feel in our society. Furthermore, the astounding variety of insect species echoes the richness and diversity of our community, sending a message of cohesion and collaboration among us. Additionally, they are a constant reminder of the importance of being resilient given that they have survived five rounds of mass extinctions. However, climate change, poor management of green spaces and urban planning are depleting their habitats, causing many species to disappear at an alarming rate.

This project is a call to appreciate insects and protect their environments, in order to protect our planet and our lives. It is also a powerful metaphor for the importance of protecting and valuing all members of our community. By taking the insects to the streets on Earth Day 2021, in a festive day of celebration, the ItinerAnts aim to send a clear message: we are all essential in the intricate fibre of our society—together we can make a significant change!

We strongly believe that with this project, we can empower people to feel part of the solution to the bigger problem of climate change, even if in small ways. By supporting those who are already dedicating their lives to the pursuit of more sustainable ways of living, we can all take steps in the right direction with attainable ways to make green choices. Moreover, the project will foster a sense of cooperation and connection not only within the community but also worldwide. This is because this event will run in parallel with other similar ones in five different cities around the world, organised and run by other members of the ItinerAnts .

Photos provided by The ItinerAnts.