

Soil Culture at create 4 July - 26th August 2015

Exhibitions, Soil Saturdays and Food Happenings

Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World (CCANW) with
Touchstone collaborations and in partnership with the Biodynamic Association



2015
International
Year of Soils

'Soil Culture at create is a combination of art, sensory experience, eating and a call to action. It is also an unprecedented opportunity to encourage and enlighten Bristol and the UK into taking pioneering action to safeguard its soils from loss and degradation.' Maddy Longhurst of Blue Finger Alliance

Soil Culture at create in Bristol, Europe's Green Capital, marks the beginning of a seven year journey from 2015 UN International Year of Soils to the World Congress of Soil Science to be held in Glasgow in 2022. This summer celebration of soil takes place throughout July and August at the Create centre, Bristol's flagship environmental centre on the Cumberland Basin.

How to respect and protect soils as the source of life? How to nurture a soil movement in the everyday through food and the arts? The two months of Exhibitions, Soil Saturdays and Food Happenings is ground-making in bringing together art and science, local and global, growers and eaters, policy, and practice, young and old. It is already unfolding a legacy that inspires transformative actions that awaken us all to become response-able soil and food citizens, active in calling for policies to protect soils at the local, national and global levels.

Soil Culture at create is a shared commitment to bringing arts as research to communicate the message of soil as the source of life and invite wide-ranging thinking, ever-creative practices and growing confidence to restore and safeguard soils. Through a lively programme of hands-on activities, experiences, information, conversations and ideas, the two months becomes a fertile environment in which we are learning together to evolve good practices around soil.

'Soil is the source of all life. Sadly, many people in the world are losing their connection with the soil. Soil Culture at create is a timely celebration to remind the world that we are all children of the living soil.' Satish Kumar, *Resurgence & Ecologist magazine*. Schumacher College

From Monday to Saturday through July and August, you can discover the exhibition 'Soil Culture: Young Shoots' that shares research findings and work created during 12 residencies across the South West and at the Royal Botanic Gardens. On display will be designs for a roof garden for a new primary school in Bristol as well as 'Dirt Dialogues', a sister exhibition curated by Alexandra Toland of 36 large posters documenting the work international artists who have engaged with soil.

Woven around these Exhibitions are eight Soil Saturdays, each focusing on a particular soil theme through a medley of hands-on activities, talks, films, forums and food sharing. What we have learnt is that across cultures, food is the most direct way to share the soil story and raise awareness around its significance for the health of body and planet. With local farmers and growers from Bristol and its hinterland, Soil Sisters Miche, Flora and

Daphne Lambert are choreographing convivial and nourishing Food Happenings for the eight Soil Saturdays. Each gathering – feasts, picnics, botanical cocktails and summer canapes, thanksgiving food rituals, culinary-skills workshops – will bring a taste of the soil's gift of food into the everyday.

'From one aspect or another, all interests of human life belong to Agriculture.' Rudolf Steiner.

The Biodynamic Association (BDA) has a strong presence throughout Soil Culture at create and will be co-hosting Soil Saturday on **1 August** that explores the theme of 'Growing Soil'. This day shares ways to maintain, restore and safeguard soils. Through wide-ranging conversations and exchanges, it is a day for strengthening alliances with other organisations working to regenerate and protect soils with nature-centred approaches. Offering information on biodynamic training, practical workshops, research resources and publications as well as introducing people to initiatives such as Seed Co-operative and Bee Projects – all these will show how over 90 years, respect and care for the living soil has been at the heart of biodynamic methods of cultivation food and communities. Food from biodynamic farms and gardens will inspire Soil Sisters to create dishes to tempt the taste-buds of those who come to be part of Growing Soil.

'For out of the soil are we fashioned, and by the products of the soil is our earthly existence maintained.' Eve Balfour

Soil Culture at create in Bristol 2015 European Green Capital is a timely opportunity highlight the value of the arts as a profound communication approach to engage diverse ways with the living matter of soil. Come along and join this collaborative initiative for soil guardianship in the everyday. Come and contribute to the momentum and strength of soil, art and food movements dedicated to the present and future of the planet.

SOIL SATURDAYS at create centre

SOIL INTERDEPENDENCE DAY

Saturday 4th July -

Celebrating our interdependence with soil and water.

WHAT IS SOIL?

Saturday 11th July -

Hands-on soil discoveries of the living matter of soil with art and science-making.

SOIL OF BRISTOL

Saturday 18th July -

Walk and Talk for Soil to co-create city-wide Soil Declaration.

LIVING SOIL LIVING FOOD

Saturday 25th July -

Taste how vital soil feeds living foods for body, mind and soul.

GROWING SOIL

Saturday 1st August -

Experiences and skills to care for and restore living soils.

WHOSE SOIL?

Saturday 8th August -

Explore soil and social justice through local and global dialogue.

FALLOW FIELD

Saturday 8th August -

Focus on legacy of Soil Culture at create with reflections and conversations.

ART OF SOIL

Saturday 22nd August -

Symposium on power of art in ecological and cultural diversity.

WHY Without healthy soil there is no life

WHAT A summer celebration of soil to support enduring change for safeguarding our living soils

HOW Soil inspired Exhibitions animated by Soil Saturdays and Food Happenings

WHERE At create centre in Bristol, B Bond, Smeaton Road, BS1 6XN

WHEN 4 July to 26 August 2015

WHO Soil Culture at create is for everyone

Soil Culture at create is a collaborative initiative of CCANW, Falmouth University's Research in Art, Nature and Environment (RANE) and Touchstone collaborations. The Biodynamic Association is closely involved as supporters and partners in this UK celebration of the International Year of Soils.

For more about Soil Culture at create, please contact Soil Sisters Miche Fabre Lewin, Flora Gathorne-Hardy or Daphne Lambert on soil@touchstonecollaborations.com

See also www.touchstonecollaborations.com and CCANW's website www.ccanw.co.uk

Crafting a listening place through food and art to hear the voice of soil



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