

Final Programme Updated 9.10.14

The programmes is final although some times and locations may still change. See the additional notes below the programme for more detail. Timings, items and locations may evolve. Enquiries judy@ben-network.org.uk

Further information <http://www.ukmaburbanforum.co.uk/aboutus/news/artofnature3.htm>

Besides the delegates, we will be expecting the devotees of the Temple to drop in to see the films, hence the repetition through the 2 days Some places will be reserved for them around particular items of the programme. The working Temple usually have between 500 to 750 devotees on a typical weekend. The temple wishes to build relationships with the participants of the Art of Nature event and to expose the devotees to a range of experiences with the view of developing and inviting artists to work with them for a programme of art within its conference centre and grounds for the future.

Time	25th October			26th October		
10.00-17.00	The role of "spirit", imagination, belief and identity in humankind's relationship with nature – looped ambient video presentation Screen at reception, ground floor of the Main Temple Building					
10.00-17.00	Crosses, circles and crescents - An interactive experience to help us reflect on the meaning and relevance of religious symbols in our lives in the Upper Hall of the Conference Centre					
	Stream A	Stream B	Stream C	Stream A	Stream B	Stream C
10.00	Ceremony of the washing of the deity Balaji Join the devotees in the Main Temple. 10.00-11.15	Ritual through Sound and Movement – small group workshop – Upper Breakout Room 2 10.00-11.00	Project Wild Thing – film – Upper Film Room Conference Centre 10.00-11.30	Shumei – A response to the Tsunami in Japan and Museum in the Mountain – 2 videos and discussion – Main Hall Ground Floor Conference Centre 10.00-11.00 Elephant in the Park – talk and Q&A Main Hall Ground Floor Conference Centre 11.00-11.30	Water Tales – storytelling by the canal, weather permitting or inside in the Upper Breakout Room 2 11.00-11.30	Project Wild Thing – film – Upper Film Room Conference Centre 10.00-11.30
10.30						
11.00	All other items are in the Conference Centre building					

11.30	<i>Tea 11.30-12.00</i>					
12.00	<p>Welcome Dr. Rao 12.00-12.05 representing Balaji Temple Ground Floor Hall Conference Centre In the Main Hall Ground Floor Conference Centre</p> <p>Hinduism and Nature – talk and Q&A Ram Aithal Main Hall Ground Floor Conference Centre 12.05-12.30</p>		<p>Aguna – Dance Film - Upper Film Room Conference Centre 12.00-12.10</p> <p>The Artist – film – Upper Film Room Conference Centre 12.10-12.30</p>	<p>Plant Hunters – talk and Q&A - Main Hall Ground Floor Conference Centre 12.00-12.30</p>	<p>Stories on Belonging and Earth Care – followed by sharing your stories Upper Breakout Room 2 12.00-12.30</p>	<p>Aguna – Dance Film - Upper Film Room Conference Centre 12.00-12.10</p> <p>The Artist – film – Upper Film Room Conference Centre 12.10-12.30</p>
12.30	<p><i>Lunch / networking / share your work / mix with devotees in temple marquee and grounds</i> <i>There are also activities during this long lunch hour that you can join – see items in blue.</i> <i>There will be tables in the upper hall for leaflets/information that artists would like to bring to share their work.</i></p>					
13.00	<p>Water Tales – storytelling by the canal, weather permitting or inside in the Upper Floor Hall 13.15-13.45</p>	<p>One Bowl – small group food sharing and guided reflections – Upstairs Breakout Room 2 12.30-14.00 <i>Note this item starts at 12.30 – food provided in the</i></p>	<p>Do a self-organised activity - Find a symbolic object - share insights and thoughts – work in pairs in the Temple Grounds</p>	<p>Do a self-organised activity - Find a symbolic object - share insights and thoughts – work in pairs in the Temple Grounds</p>	<p>One Bowl – small group food sharing and guided reflections – Upstairs Breakout Room 2 12.30-14.00 <i>Note this item starts at 12.30 –</i></p>	
13.30						

		<i>workshop</i>			<i>food provided in the workshop</i>	
14.00	The role of "spirit", imagination, belief and identity in humankind's relationship with nature – Reflections and Discussion 14.00-15.00 Main Hall Ground Floor Conference Centre	Shiatsu Workshop – small group Upper Breakout Room 2 14.00-15.00	Museum in the Mountain – film – Upper Film Room Conference Centre 14.00-15.00	The small white room – story performance. Q&A / discussion Upper Hall 14.00-14.30	Mushroom Sculpture Making – practical workshop using books as material 14.00-15.00 Upstairs Breakout Room 2	
14.30				Freaks ON nature: Disability, discrimination and the myth of deviance in landscape art. Talk 14.30-15.00 Upper Hall		
<i>15.00</i>	<i>Tea 15.00-15.30</i>					
15.30	Sick Amour – film – Main Hall <i>15.30-16.00</i>	Temple Grounds for Nature and Art – short 15 min. presentation Upper Hall film area and walking the grounds / sharing ideas 15.30-16.30 <i>Please note the time. The next item begins before this item finishes and the walk may take longer and perhaps end at 17.00</i>	Aguna – Dance Film - Upper Film Room 1 Conference Centre 15.45 – 15.52 Pumping – film – 15.52-15.58	You are I - Interfaith workshop – faith, communities and nature 15.30-16.30 Upper Hall	Vanishing Voices Talk and workshop - Upper Hall Breakout Room 2 15.30-16.30	

16.00	Working towards publications – working / discussion group – Upstairs Breakout Room 2 Conference Centre 16.00-17.00	Ritual through Sound and Movement – small group workshop – Main Hall 16.00-17.00	3 films The Artist – film – Upper Film Room Conference Centre 16.00 -16.25	Final Gathering and Sharing Rituals – created from the Sound and Movement workshop the day before – Upper Hall 16.30-17.00		
16.30			The Threshold – film - Upper Film Room Conference Centre 16.25-16.50 Pumping – film - Upper Film Room Conference Centre 16.50-17.00			

17.00 *Programme ends /Tea / Networking / Open Space to share music, stories, work / The temple is open till 9pm*

Spirituality, Myth, Culture, Art and Nature – Programme Development

Event at the Balaji Temple Conference Centre and Grounds

2 day event on 25/26 October 2014 from 10am to 5pm

Call for papers, presentations and experiential/performance have now closed

The venue, Balaji Temple Conference Centre, is easily accessible – only 10 minutes by train from the centre of Birmingham to Sandwell Rail Station, with either a 20 minute walk or a 5 minute taxi ride to the temple. Birmingham International Rail Station is 10 minutes on the other side of Birmingham.

The programme timings will be finalised towards the end of September 2014. We have two large halls, breakout rooms and vast grounds. There parallel programmes because of the number of items.

Notes to the items:

- **Watching the washing of the Deity Balaji in the Balaji Temple** itself followed by a talk by Ram Aithal (*to be confirmed*) on **Hinduism and nature** in the Conference Centre. The Balaji Temple will also share aspects of how they have shaped and are still developing the environmental side of the Temple grounds. The Temple is built on 12 acres. They have now acquired another further 12 acres, taking them right to the edge of the canal. In future people will be able to arrive by water. <http://www.venkateswara.org.uk/>
- **The Small White Room** – a true story, set in Hong Kong.. Story performance using poetic prose and music to share culture history and a mystical experience. Sharing responses / questions / discussion. Judy Ling Wong.
- **Shumei and a nature-inspired response to the Tsunami.** Shumei is a Japanese philosophy of a way of being. The principle of respect for Nature is based on the perception that all life processes are guided by innate integrity. Every element has its own characteristic way of being and fulfilling itself. They have also pioneered a unique way of growing - Natural Agriculture aims to support rather than interfere with that integrity.
- **Sick-Amour** – film – Joel Tauber – from USA, about a lonely tree that he adopted in the middle of a giant parking lot. I learn about the tree by filming it and inviting scholars in different fields to talk about it. Knowledge leads to empathy, which turns to love and then activism: watering it, planting seeds to create offspring, constructing giant earrings for the tree, Etc. <http://joeltauber.com>
- **Pumping** - film – Joel Tauber – from USA, ponders the fragility and temporality of LA's foundation, while it imagines a future when water is scarce and oil no longer exists.
- **Vanishing Voices – Aga Tamiola**, from Berlin, has been occupied with representations of the vanishing voices of indigenous people. When language transmission is broken we lose a unique knowledge of how a community perceived the world, and indeed how they perceived themselves. The short talk will be followed by an automatic drawing workshop responding to the stimulus of a language we do not understand along with other stimuli. www.agatamiola.com
- **Plant Hunters** – presentation of a proposal by **Bill Butterworth** of the **Design Charity** for a digital game that is based on the history of plant hunting, to engage children and young people with nature in their visions of a paradise garden. The game will be designed to take them outdoors. Linked to the game is the creation of “Wardian Cubes”, structures that enable plants identified and photographed by children and young people to be uploaded and publicly shared, and where some of the featured plants, real ones, may be seen.
- **Aguna – Dance Film** - Choreography and dancer: **Magdalena Radlowska**. Music: **Alex Judd**. Aguna is a silent scream about unequal human rights. Inspired by Malala Yousafzai, Tamar Epstein and Mother Theresa, Aguna speaks through all languages in the fight against gender discrimination and female persecution.
- **Elephant in the Park: Ganesha Story telling Walk.** Talk and Q&A. **Dr. Chamu Kuppuswamy**. The talk will set out the background and the rationale for a new initiative by rangers in the Peak District National Park, and explain with illustrations the practical elements of the walk and the five stories along with their environmental significance. The idea is to develop new ways of engaging practically and

intellectually in the environment, and to contribute to wider debates on environmentalism, identity and National Parks and the future of National Parks in Britain.

- **Balaji temple grounds** – a short presentation of environmental plans for the future and a walkabout with Gary Grant, environmental consultant, to see the grounds down to the river. Balaji would like to connect with artists and so this is also a chance to seek out spaces for possible future art projects.
- **The role of "spirit", imagination, belief and identity in humankind's relationship with nature** (to be confirmed) – looped video with quotations from key figures and input from event participants. Collated and produced by **Geoff Dunlop**. www.geoffdunlop-artworks.com
- **The role of "spirit", imagination, belief and identity in humankind's relationship with nature** – Reflections and Discussion – led by **Geoff Dunlop and Judy Ling Wong**.
- Two short films from **The Caretakers Series, South Africa**. **"The Artist"** about a young groundsman in one of the Western Cape national botanical gardens who developed a passion for botanical art. Produced by **George Davis**. **"The Threshold"**, about a group of young men in a Cape Town township who want to escape the traps of poverty and criminality by turning to nature as a spiritual guide. Produced by **George Davis and Laurence Dworkin**.
- **The Life Cairn - Monument for Extinct Species** –has been withdrawn due to unforeseen circumstances. www.thelifecairnproject.org
- **One Bowl** - an experiential item inviting participants to share their food, eating from one bowl with guided reflections inspired by UBUNTU, a Southern African way of seeing and being. **Dianne Regisford-Gueye** <http://openbrookes.net/global/one-bowl/>
- **Stories on Belonging and Earth Care** – followed by sharing your stories and discussion. **Sandhya Dave**. www.tellingourstoriesexeter.org.uk and www.moortrees.org.uk
- **Shiatsu Workshop** – working with pressure points on your body, fully clothed, affecting energy points. Fun and serious workshop. **Sandhya Dave**. www.gandycentre.com
- **Ritual and Sound through Movement - Fourthland** – **Louise Sayerer and Eva Vikstrom** will be creating specific objects, that produce sound and movement, for small groups to experience and investigate aspects of themselves as part of nature. The groups will create rituals to share with delegates. www.fourthland.co.uk
- **Mushroom Sculpture Making** – practical workshop using books as material. **Christina Mitrentse**. <http://www.nadineferont.com/artists/christina-mitrentse>
- **You are I – Interfaith workshop** – faith, communities and nature. **Deepak Naik**. United religious Initiative Europe/Minorities of Europe/Balaji Temple.

- **Water Tales. Gauri Raji.** It is said that water not only brings life forth; it is life. Although landlocked, Birmingham is a city of water and migration. The canals give life to the most congested heart of the city. 'Water Tales' is a homage to the life that water gives to the city and celebrates the significance of water in mythologies around the world. It is a 30 minute collection of stories from around the world on the mythologies around water, interspersed with a biographical tale of coming to Birmingham from a city by the sea on the other side of the world.
- **Crosses, circles and crescents. Christopher Bemrose and Hilly Raphael.** An interactive experience to help us reflect on the meaning and relevance of religious symbols in our lives. Using history, poetry, photographs, and the process of making of symbols we will use our imagination and perception to consider what crosses, circles and crescents have to say to us today.
- **freaks ON nature: Disability, discrimination and the myth of deviance in landscape art. Alicia Grace** works as a dramaturg, writer, performer & mentor, specialising in critical performance practices which are engaged with poetics of *body, place, gender, stigma & social ecologies*. *(to be confirmed)*
- **Working towards publications** – working/discussion group for generating proposals for publications to Springer of New York, which has expressed an initial interest.
- **Project Wild Thing.** The funniest film on the serious subject of getting children outdoors to connect with nature. Producer **Ashley Jones** Director **David Bond**. Green Lions
- **Find an object** - Delegates will be asked to spend time in the Temple Grounds to find an object that represents something unknown about themselves in their relationship to nature, and use that object to stimulate conversation with someone as an exploration.
- **The Temple Grounds Development Masterplan** *(to be confirmed)* may be ready and if so, may be launched as part of this event.
- **Lunch** will be vegetarian Temple food – we will join with devotees in the Temple grounds.