



God's House Tower

Invasive/Native by april forrest lin 林森

Open Call for Participants

'a space' arts are looking for participants to take part in Invasive/Native, a free creative workshop led by artist april forrest lin 林森 at God's House Tower.

Using Japanese knotweed as a starting point, this hands-on workshop explores ecology, adaptation, migration and belonging through creative making and conversation. Participants will discover the fascinating biology of Japanese knotweed, how it spreads through underground rhizomes, how it arrived in the UK, and why it has become one of Britain's most talked-about plants.

Working with collage, drawing and creative writing, you'll explore historical imagery, advertising, scientific illustrations and archival materials to consider how Japanese knotweed has been represented over time. Together we'll ask how ideas about nature, belonging and difference are created, and what they can tell us about the world we live in today.

The workshop also introduces ecological concepts including ecosystems, resilience, biodiversity, how plants become viewed as invasive vs. native, and human impact on the environment, while encouraging people to connect scientific ideas with their own lived experiences.

Participants will also have the opportunity to taste Japanese knotweed tea and learn about the plant's culinary and medicinal uses.

The workshop will culminate in the creation of a collaborative artwork, which will be exhibited at God's House Tower during the British Science Festival.

When will the workshop take place?

The workshop will take place on Saturday 5th September, 11am - 1pm.

Who is this opportunity for?

This opportunity is only open to people from global majority communities.*

No previous experience in art or science is needed—just curiosity and a willingness to take part in creative activities and discussion.

During the workshop you will:

- Learn about Japanese knotweed and its ecology

- Explore scientific ideas through creative making
- Take part in discussions around adaptation, migration and belonging
- Create collage, drawings and creative writing
- Contribute to a collaborative artwork
- Meet others in a welcoming and supportive environment
- Enjoy Japanese knotweed tea together

Questions we'll explore together

- How can we work *with*, rather than against, the ecological chapter that Japanese knotweed has ushered in?
- What possibilities for engaging with present day contexts of migration can be created by learning about Japanese knotweed's past and present?
- How can ecological adaptation provide a framework for discussing and understanding the need for a diverse social fabric?

Travel & accessibility

Travel bursaries of £10 are available for all participants.

If you have any access requirements, please let us know via the expression of interest form.

Exhibition information

The collaborative artwork created during the workshop will be exhibited at God's House Tower from Thursday 17 September - Monday 21 September as part of the British Science Festival.

Expressions of interest

To register your interest, please complete the form below by **9am on Monday 17th August**

[Expression of Interest - Invasive/Native Workshop at GHT with april forrest lin 林森 - Fill in form](#)

If you have any questions about the workshop or accessibility, please contact 'a space' arts' Curator & Programme Manager, Mia Delve using the info below:

-Email: mia@spacearts.org.uk

-Phone or WhatsApp : 07917850603

***Notes on terminology:**

- We acknowledge language is fluid and evolving and aim to ensure our use of language remains inclusive and inoffensive.

- As an organisation we have joined the movement to reject the acronym BAME as this state-manufactured term flattens and depoliticises global solidarity between people with lived experiences of racism.
- We acknowledge the term 'people of global majority' as it is factually true with over 80% of the world's population making up the global majority of non-white peoples.

About the artist

april forrest lin 林森 (b. Stockholm, 1996; they/them) is a London-based artist, curator, and film programmer.

They traverse artist moving image, writing, installation, and performance, their interdisciplinary practice invoking thematic portals of multispecies epistemologies, the archival and the anti-archival, trans embodiment, and the vernacular of the diasporic. With a background in sociology, they bridge research~speculation, the sciences~the arts, and the fictional~the factual with a commitment to a collective remembering of forgotten pasts, a critical examination of normalised presents, and a building of futurities as imagined from the periphery.

About GHT

God's House Tower (GHT) opened to the public in September 2019 with a dynamic programme of exhibitions, events and activities. Through inventive and imaginative programming GHT shares and celebrates its' own special Southampton story through the permanent exhibition 'stories behind the stones.' Our changing programme of exhibitions and activities create opportunities for artists and audiences, open up conversations and create access for those facing barriers to heritage and culture. For more information about GHT please visit - godshousetower.org.uk

About 'a space' arts

Established in 2000, by artists for artists, 'a space' arts is a visual arts organisation leading on a range of artist development projects including the Arches Studios, God's House Tower and the RIPE programme, along with a bespoke range of Artist Resources. The organisation is a registered charity and an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

For more further information and an overview of our work please visit - aspacearts.org.uk

For project specific information please visit - godshousetower.org.uk and ripesouthampton.org.uk

Anti-racism

To further our mission we are taking proactive steps to becoming an anti-racist organisation. We have pledged to deliver a number of commitments through our Anti-Racism Action Plan over the next two years along with a series of activities to bring immediate benefits to global majority artists. We feel this combination of working towards long-term change and immediate action can make a real difference to Southampton's global majority visual artists and we plan to continue working on this dual approach.

For more information about this work please visit - aspacearts.org.uk/about-us

Access

As an organisation we actively look to reduce barriers for people applying for our opportunities and commissions, and we are committed to being fair, accessible, transparent and inclusive.

We offer a range of access support, including alternative formats for information we release and submissions we receive as well as an artist access fund; please contact us so that we can discuss your individual needs and provide appropriate support for your application or project. Please either email us on enquiries@aspacearts.org.uk or call 07824326005.

For more information about this work please visit - aspacearts.org.uk/about-us

Climate Action

As a cultural organisation it is our responsibility to raise awareness, as well as reducing and mitigating our own environmental impact. The environmental impact of this project will be monitored and steps will be taken to reduce CO2 emissions where appropriate.



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