LOVING EARTH PROJECT: Caring for the world we love

The Loving Earth Project aims to help people engage with the issues of climate and ecological breakdown without being overwhelmed.

Climate break-down and species extinctions are happening all over the world. We hope this project will inspire people to make connections and change our habits, to live more sustainably for the sake of love. A travelling exhibition is helping to illustrate what is at risk, and what people are doing about it, and is encouraging further action. We invite you to make one or more panels to join the growing exhibition.

More information about the project and a gallery of panels is at *lovingearth-project.uk*

MAKING A TEXTILE PANEL

Consider these questions:

- Is there something, someone or somewhere that you know and love which is endangered by environmental break-down?
 - This could be a place, a person, a species, etc.
- How does your lifestyle contribute to that threat?

 You may need to do some research to find out more about this. There are some suggestions at http://lovingearth-project.uk/getting-started/
- What could you do, or are you doing, to help reduce that threat?

 What steps have you already taken? What is the most radical thing you could do, whether by yourself or with others? What's the tiniest thing you could do?

Getting Started

You might like to jot down some thoughts on paper. You can add to them later. Now decide on an image that would illustrate your response. For example, it could be an image of what you love, or about something you will do. Sketch out a rough design on paper and play with some ideas. You can make about the right size square from a sheet of A3 paper.

Making

Make it up in the form of a textile square, 30x30 cm plus borders. Any style or technique and textile materials is fine, but it should be robust and flexible enough to be folded (for posting), and to be hung up for display. Repurposed materials or offcuts are ideal, if you have some. A square of woven cloth between 36 and 40cm in size will be a good base in most cases. You could make a picture in appliqué (fabric glue or Wondaweb are useful to hold pieces in place but you'll want a little stitching too). Or you could embroider, or attach knitted or crocheted items. Silk painting, dyeing or fabric pens are also options. Have fun, use what you have, and perhaps try out new techniques on a scrap of fabric first. You can see examples at https://lovingearth-project.uk/gallery/, and in books or on the internet, but your panel will be unique. Take your time to enjoy playing, and also to reflect on the environmental issues, and maybe find out more about them.

Finishing

When you have finished, if you can fold the edges back and stitch them in place that would be lovely. If you can add a lining behind, for protection, better still. But don't worry if it's a problem.

Before you send your square to join the travelling exhibition, please write a few words about what it represents and what you personally are going to do about the issue. Panels will be displayed anonymously, so nobody else will know what you have said unless you tell them, but we please do what you have said; that's what really matters.

Send your panel and writing to:

Loving Earth Project, % FWCC, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.

Please include your name and contact details, in case we want to get in touch. Your panel will not normally be returned to you, but you may see it appear on our website gallery in due course, or at a display. In sending us your panel you are agreeing to this, and that the LovingEarthProject will have copyright (jointly with you as the maker). If you would like to arrange a display locally in due course, please get in touch with us at lovingearthproject@gmail.com.