

Loving Earth Project: climate crisis textile art events for COP26

For immediate release

A series of exhibitions of textile art will be on display in a variety of venues in and around Glasgow during COP 26. Made by people and communities in many parts of the world, these depict places, people and things that they love, how environmental breakdown threatens them, and what people are doing about it.



Over 400 small textile panels have so far been made as part of the *Loving Earth Project*, depicting images such as polar bears, bees, flowers, landscapes, sea creatures caught in plastic, and recycled clothing. They are each accompanied by a short text written by the panel-maker. Most can be seen in the project's online gallery <http://lovingearth-project.uk/test-gallery/>.

Gillian McFarland, visual artist and co-founder of the *Harbour* visual arts project said: "This is a beautiful project. Wandering through it has given me such hope and joy. Rich and diverse in their imagery, these panels have a shared concern for the world we love."

"Whatever the outcome of the COP 26 talks, we will all need to make difficult decisions, adapt our lifestyles, and take action to prevent the worst case climate scenarios. The Loving Earth Project uses creative and reflective ways to help people discover what we each can do, without becoming overwhelmed", said Linda Murgatroyd, who started the project with a group of Quakers. "Love is at the root of our anger, fear and sadness about climate breakdown. It can empower us if we engage with it creatively."

Displays for COP 26 include places the Gorbals Parish Church, shop fronts and the Scottish Maritime Museum. The Loving Earth Project will also be holding other events during this period: an international online discussion about some issues raised in the panels will be hosted by Glasgow Quakers on 3rd November, and textile workshops for people to make their own panels are also being held.

The Loving Earth Project exhibitions are supported by the Westhill Endowment, the Edith M. Ellis Trust, the Southall trust and the Quaker Arts Network.

Information for editors:

EXHIBITIONS OF TEXTILE ART for COP 26

Maryhill Burgh Halls, 10-24 Gairbraid Avenue Glasgow G20 8YE until 14th November

Scottish Maritime Museum, Castle St., Dumbarton G82 1QS until 23rd January

Gorbals Parish Church, 1 Errol Gardens, Glasgow. G5 0RA 30th October - 14th November

Quaker Meeting House 38 Elmbank Crescent, G2 Glasgow 31st October till 13th November

Save the Children shop. 165 Byres Rd, Glasgow 1st to 13th November

Save the Children shop 47 Milngavie Rd, Glasgow 1st -13th November

OPENING TIMES OF EXHIBITIONS VARY: PLEASE CHECK

TEXTILE WORKSHOPS - to make your own panel

Gorbals Parish Church 3pm on Saturday 30 October and 2.30 Sunday 7th November (no booking)

Scottish Maritime Museum, Dumbarton: 13th and 27th November (book in advance)

Online poetry - Words for the Earth Monday 25 October 7.30 pm: (with Quaker Arts Network)

Discussion event - Caring for what we love: Wednesday 3 November, 7 pm: invited speakers discuss international and local issues featured in Loving Earth Panels: *Quaker Meeting House/online (book in advance)*

Details and bookings : <http://lovingearth-project.uk/events-2/>

- A 3 minute introducing the Loving Earth Project is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukmiuHWAMIE>
- The project will continue with touring exhibitions and other events through 2022 and 2023.
- Further information about the project, including an online gallery is at <https://lovingearth-project.uk>
- Please contact lovingearthproject@gmail.com or 079 4082 5795 for further information and to arrange interviews or access to photos of panels.
- *Twitter: @Lovingearthpro1*
- *Facebook/instagram @Lovingearthproject*