

PRESS RELEASE

July 2019

ARTIST DUO CURIOUS BRING A NEW PERFORMANCE 'WILD LONGINGS' TO A CITY GARDEN

London premiere of an alternative garden tour exploring migration, gender and conversation through performance, music and poetry

Saturday 14 September – Sunday 15 September 2019

Performances: 11.30am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm daily

Location: St Dunstan in the East Church Garden, City of London, EC3R 5DD

Part of Artsadmin's 2 Degrees Festival about art, climate and action



Wild Longings, Curious. Photo by Hugo Glendinning

Artist duo Curious (Helen Paris and Leslie Hill) present a new performance, Wild Longings, the first work since their return to the UK following 5 years in the USA teaching at Stanford University. This luscious garden tour is sown with stories of transformation, conservation tips and songs to create a multisensory performance that is rooted in a celebration of inclusivity, interconnectivity and survival.

Listen to a passionate ode to the transgender Fortingall Yew by enchanting tour-guide Helen Paris, learn hands-on horticultural tips from raconteur gardener Leslie Hill and allow yourself to be beguiled by

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chanteuse Claudia Barton with a fantasia of song inspired by the botanical delights in St Dunstan in the East Church Garden, London. [Here is a taster of the songs and ode.](#)

St Dunstan in the East is claimed to be the most beautiful public garden in the City. After the Church of St Dunstan was bombed in the Blitz of 1941, the ruins, and the unscathed church tower and steeple designed by Sir Christopher Wren, were turned into an enchanting public garden. Wild Longings at 2 Degrees Festival 2019 is supported by the City of London Corporation.

In a time of huge social and political upheaval and change, Wild Longings transforms this City of London garden for two days, seeding conversation about how we might reconnect to one another and our environment, and how acts of rooting and uprooting might help sustain and nurture the things we hold dear.

“The need for us all to educate ourselves about human-caused environmental damage and explore more sustainable futures has never been more urgent. Art has the extraordinary capacity to critique the shortcomings of things as they are while imagining things as they might be. Our aim is to create experiences that are inspiring, engaging and enriching that ultimately encourage global sustainability and survival whilst celebrating local diversity and interconnectivity.”

Helen Paris and Leslie Hill, Curious

Alongside each performance of Wild Longings, Curious have devised a 3-month paid professional development and mentoring opportunity for an emerging London-based LGBTQIA+ artist interested in the environment. Selected by open call, artist and gardener [Amy Dakin Harris](#) is the mentored artist for London. [Find out more](#)

[Follow #WildLongings on Instagram](#)

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

MEDIA CONTACT

For more information, interviews and other images please contact Katie Haines: katie@artsadmin.co.uk or Alexander Turton: alexander@artsadmin.co.uk / 020 7247 5102

LISTINGS INFORMATION

- Dates: 14 and 15 September
- Times: 11.30am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm
- Location: St Dunstan in the East Church Garden, London, EC3R 5DD
- Duration: 60 minutes
- Price: £10/£8 concessions
- Ages: suitable for 12 and above

LINKS

Promotional images and two songs from the performance can be downloaded from the following Google Drive link:
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=15ygmDFyvKnQ3Q-YvcqWu6W8z0xbNp2RW>

EVENT BOOKING

To book, please use the following link:

<https://www.artsadmin.co.uk/events/4254>

You can also book via telephone on 020 7650 2350. For other booking enquiries, email boxoffice@artsadmin.co.uk

These performances of Wild Longings were originally scheduled to take place on 1 and 2 June 2019, but were postponed due to illness.

ABOUT

Artistic Team

Curious: Leslie Hill & Helen Paris

Associate Artist: Claudia Barton

Mentee Artist for London: Amy Dakin Harris

Production Manager: Jo Palmer

Associate Production Manager (for 2 Degrees): Nao Nagai

Produced by Artsadmin.

Credits

Wild Longings is commissioned by Norfolk and Norwich Festival, funded by the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment and subsidised by an Arts Council England Project Fund. Produced by Artsadmin.

Wild Longings at 2 Degrees Festival 2019 is supported by the City of London Corporation.

Curious

The co-directors and founders of the company Curious, Leslie Hill and Helen Paris, have made a career out of their curiosity. As performance makers and artists they have produced over 40 works investigating questions of digital technologies, place and placelessness, the politics of violence, the sense of smell and gut feelings.

To address these diverse topics, Hill and Paris research and develop work through the interdisciplinary practices of performance and filmmaking, creating evocative work that reaches to the heart of human concerns. Curiosity has led Hill and Paris to develop unique tools and practices within a form of hybrid-style performance.

“Their work as smart as it is seductive.”

– Irish Times

curiousperformance.com

2 Degrees Festival

Established in 2009, this biennial festival has welcomed up to 4,500 visitors each time. 2 Degrees Festival has always received core support from Arts Council England and EU funding through the Imagine 2020 network of arts organisations across Europe exploring art and climate change.

Past Imagine 2020 Artsadmin commissions include [Museum of Water](#) by Amy Sharrocks and [Empathy Museum](#) by Clare Patey.

Artsadmin

Artsadmin is a producing organisation, which enables artists to create without boundaries, connecting bold interdisciplinary work with local, national and international audiences. The advisory service supports artists at every stage of their development with free advice and opportunities. In London's East End, Artsadmin has established at its base Toynbee Studios, a centre for the creation, development and presentation of new work, where, in the rehearsal, performance and meeting spaces, new talent is constantly nurtured. Artsadmin celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2019.

artsadmin.co.uk