

Secret Garden Project Film Transcript

0:03 Audio

[Music]

0:13 Sarah Davies

My name is Sarah Davies. I work with UP Projects and I'm the co-curator, with Emma Underhill of the *Secret Garden Project*.

0:23 Emma Underhill

We developed the project as a way to kind of reveal the kind of more secret green spaces that are - there are many across London. We wanted to include a real breadth of artists and also approaches where all of the artists had a brief to think about the environment or raise awareness of ecological themes.

0:47 Francis Thorburn

My name is Francis Thorburn, and I am the minister of alternative transport, I suppose. I've been working on this vehicle, which I'm calling the MPP, which stands for the *Mobile Picnic Pavilion*. It is a sustainable, transportable, edible vehicle. The concept behind it was to look at kind of social space where people come together, share food, discuss and talk about the issues of growing your own import / export what that does to the environment. So obviously, this vehicle is man powered.

1:25 Audio

[Music]

1:36 Cheryl McChesney Jones

They were actually being human bobbins, when they were working backwards towards each other, it was a lace making technique that they were actually doing physically. So it's something that you would have done normally very in the tiny, tiny fashion, they were actually doing physically with their bodies. So it was all coming - all the movement comes from the making, I thought they did really, really well. [Clapping]

1:56 Shane Waltener

We're going to keep with the weaving, but we're going to add many more plants to the structure. So less of the knotting and the stitching to create the structure and more of the weaving of baskets.

2:08 Audience Member

Are we keeping them all together or separate?

2:09 Audience Member

Yeah, we need to keep them together.

2:11 Audience Member

I think that's fantastic. The plants look really, really good.

2:16 Pete Courtie

Actually, what I'm going to do is go home, get some plants and bring them tomorrow. That's kind of what I'm thinking in this moment in time.

2:21 Audience Member

It's getting the public involved really and being maybe outdoors in a different space to a normal gallery, and just getting people who wouldn't normally come across art seeing what it's about what other forms it can take, I suppose, yeah.

2:35 Margot Bannerman

I'm sort of interested in that idea of a kind of quite small-scale intervention, so can quite sort of subtly, in some cases, just altered the way that space is perceived or the way a space is used something just above street level. So that if you went past it on the bus or you happen to be walking down the Holloway Road, you just get this little flash of a meadow, and it's sewn up with nectar-producing flowers which should attract bees. The Persia Supermarket have been fantastic, really, really positive. And just getting to know people in that very particular little locality. It's really been great just having people's responses and the rest of it.

3:22 Audience Member

It really heighten one's awareness of one's environment just coming across something that is very beautiful. The discussion we had here, was this a beehive? Or was it bird's nest? Or was it like the architecture from Sinai? And it fits the tree beautifully. I think it's thrilling.

3:47 Audience Member

It's really the birds coming as well, that's the - that's a bonus anyway.

3:51 Jo Joelson

The artworks called *Spontaneous City in the Tree of Heaven*, which is the name of the tree, it's a Chinese specimen. We have reflected the local architecture. So there are a number of well, hundreds, in fact, nesting boxes for birds.

4:09 Audience Member

I think it's really nice. It's kind of really nice, sort of response to context really.

4:16 Audience Member

As you look at that you start imagining all of these kind of like blue tits living next door to each other and sort of having a little Coronation Street Style soap operas going on between them.

4:23 Sarah Butler

I was just imagining someone living in one of those flats with a balcony that looked over gardens. And I kind of made up this idea of this man who wants to recreate Cremorne Gardens on his balcony. I've been writer in residence for the *Secret Garden Project*. So I've been looking at all of the different projects and writing a blog that that kind of I suppose creatively responds to all of the different commissions, And for Cremorne Gardens, I've written for new texts based on the history but also inspired by London Fieldworks' sculpture.

4:54 Becca Pelly-Fry

I think it works really well in this park - it's really beautiful, and quite intriguing. And I think that's quite important that it's something intriguing and a bit different.

5:00 Sarah Butler

So I'm doing two story walks today, which kind of incorporates those texts and then also answers to fore questions.