

PEACE CRANES EXHIBITION AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH AUGUST - NOVEMBER 2021

The spectacular Peace Cranes exhibition in St Johns Church on Princes Street, Edinburgh, received more than seven thousand visitors in August specifically to the exhibition and a further 20,800 to the Church from September - November.



"When I visited I made an emerald crane (a bit cack-handed as we say in Ireland) and was thrilled to see so many youngsters learning a new skill in such an important context. They won't forget that. So often it's the side-step that makes an impact."

Anne Connolly

Visitor to the exhibition

'This monumental show is a beautiful spectacle, but hard facts are presented too, including information on the UK's involvement in international arms trade, and recorded stories from Hiroshima survivors.'

Donna Riddington

Art activist and exhibition visitor

PEACE CRANES AUTUMN EVENT SERIES

Curators Heather Kiernan and Iliyana Nedkova also organised a series of events during the *Just Festival* in August and then in the autumn, linked with the themes of the peace cranes exhibition.

These included, as part of the *Just Festival*:

'Never Again: Louder than Bombs' - a discussion with CND Chair Kate Hudson and artists and peace activist Peter Kennard; **'Tackling climate change with the Eurasian Crane'** a conversation with staff from RSPB Scotland and the UK Crane Working Group.

And as part of the Autumn Series of Events:

'Yemen: Promoting Peacebuilding Through Art' with Yemeni artists Shatha Altowei and Saber Bamatraf, and live from Yemen, human rights defender Radhya Al-Mutawakel; **'Stitching for peace and planet'** an online banner-stitching workshop with artist Donna Riddington ahead of COP26; **'Code Red'** photomontage exhibition by Peter Kennard looking at the impact of nuclear weapons and the climate emergency on people and planet in the run up to COP26.

And on the final day of the exhibition, a performance about the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima **'The Mistake'** written and performed by Michael Mears with You-Ri Yamanaka.



Michael Mears 'The Mistake' performed to an audience of 50 on the final day of the peace cranes exhibition

"Very engaging. I often find stories that jump around in time hard to follow, but felt very much in the picture throughout this performance. It brought to life the emotion, ethics and key details of this part of history."

Feedback from audience member at Michael Mears' performance of 'The Mistake'



Peter Kennard's 'Code Red' exhibition at Out of the Drill Hall in Leith as part of the peace cranes programme of events

"Deeply moving and engaging...also educational and instructive. I have not seen anything else about Hiroshima which evoked such a deep understanding and horror within me. Thank you so much."

Feedback from audience members at Michael Mears' performance of 'The Mistake'