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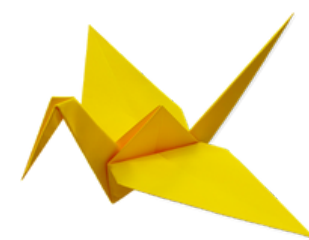


**ICAN**  
PARTNER  
2017 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE



# PEACE CRANES

*Contemporary art exhibition of peace, people and planet by Janis Hart  
curated by Iliyana Nedkova and Heather Kiernan*



Screenshot from 2,000 Peace Cranes. A Memorial of Sadako Sasaki by Jeff Brown

The Peace Cranes exhibition features 140,000 peace cranes, all hand crafted from origami paper by hundreds of adults and children from Scotland to Japan.

## HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI: NEVER AGAIN

The atomic bomb dropped in Hiroshima killed 140,000 people in 1945. The blast levelled huge areas and fire engulfed the city. Many thousands more people died in the following years from radiation sickness and cancers.

## SADAKO SASAKI



Sadako Sasaki, was two years old, and was living in Hiroshima when the bomb was dropped. She later developed leukaemia due to the radiation, and while in hospital heard the legend that anyone who folded 1,000 origami cranes would have their wish granted. Sadako set out to fold one thousand paper cranes but soon died. Since then people all over the world have made origami cranes as a symbol of hope for peace and nuclear disarmament.



Sadako Sasaki Peace Child by Daryl Smith in Seattle Peace Park. Image by Kit Oldham

The Peace Cranes exhibition is an initiative of Peace & Justice [www.peaceandjustice.org.uk](http://www.peaceandjustice.org.uk) delivered in partnership with Just Festival and St. John's Church with the support of







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Portrait of Atsuko Betchaku. Image courtesy of Misao Betchaku

## ATSUKO BETCHAKU

The international wave of folding 140,000 origami cranes was sparked in 2015 by Peace & Justice volunteer Atsuko Betchaku (1960-2017). As a teenager, Atsuko had visited Nagasaki, where the second atomic bomb was dropped. After completing her PhD in History at the University of Edinburgh, in 2015 Atsuko started bringing people together to fold peace cranes. She wanted to make an exhibition of 140,000 origami cranes to commemorate all those who perished from the atomic bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima and to promote nuclear disarmament. Sadly, Atsuko too died in 2017. Her vision has now been realized in this exhibition.



## THE RED-CROWNED CRANE

The Japanese tradition of folding origami cranes that Sadako and Atsuko took up is based on the beautiful red-crowned crane, native to Japan. Today, like so many animals, the red-crowned crane is endangered due to human activity.

## PROMOTING PEACE AND PROTECTING THE PLANET

Peace & Justice promotes a culture of peace in Scotland. We campaigned for a global ban on nuclear weapons which entered into force on 22 January 2021. The Peace Cranes exhibition anticipates COP26 – the UN's 26th Climate Change Conference, Glasgow when key decisions about the future of our planet are in the balance. Peace & Justice believes that to prevent climate disaster and catastrophic loss of biodiversity governments should take bold action to restore habitats, bring net greenhouse gas emissions to zero and support climate justice around the world.



Red-crowned cranes. Image by Francesco Veronesi. CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

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