



Image by Warran & Tilm Productions, Courtesy of Just Festival

# PEACE CRANES

EXHIBITION AND EVENTS OF  
PEACE, PEOPLE AND PLANET  
**JANIS HART**

CURATED BY  
ILIYANA NEDKOVA AND HEATHER KIERNAN

Image by Laila Sherikah, Courtesy of Just Festival



We are grateful to all Peace Cranes exhibition partners, supporters and volunteers, including Akiko Haga, Kath McDonald, Jill Sanderson, Shoji Masuzawa, Margaret Ferguson Burns, Danuta (Dee) Orłowska and Julia Fowler. Join our team of volunteer exhibition guides at St. John's Church. All you need is a few hours or days anytime until 13 November 2021. Just scan the QR code, visit [peaceandjustice.org.uk/what-we-do/peacecranes](https://peaceandjustice.org.uk/what-we-do/peacecranes) or email us at [origamicranes@peaceandjustice.org.uk](mailto:origamicranes@peaceandjustice.org.uk) to sign up.

**6 AUG – 13 NOV 2021**

**ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**  
Princes Street Edinburgh EH2 4BJ

**FREE ADMISSION. ALL WELCOME  
FOR OPENING TIMES PLEASE SEE:**

[PEACEANDJUSTICE.ORG.UK/WHAT-WE-DO/PEACECRANES](https://peaceandjustice.org.uk/what-we-do/peacecranes)



# #PEACECRANES

"Such a beautiful and powerful way to deliver an important message" Jim Mackintosh

"So moving to be looking up from the chancel into the parasol vaults with all those tiny peace cranes, reflecting on the life each one symbolises" Lesley Orr



Image by John Sutherland, Courtesy of Just Festival

## INTRODUCING PEACE CRANES



Iliyana Nedkova and Heather Kiernan

Peace Cranes is a monumental exhibition by artist Janis Hart transforming the heritage space of St. John's Church into a bird sanctuary for peace, people and planet. It features 140,000 fledgling peace cranes, all hand crafted from origami paper by hundreds of adults and children from Scotland to Japan. It is accompanied by free drop-in peace crane folding workshops and a public programme of in-person and online exhibition events and resources.

By harnessing the dual power of contemporary public art and the peace movement, we aim to explore the twin existential threats of nuclear weapons and the climate and ecological emergencies. We hope that the Peace Cranes exhibition will take you on a journey of hope, wonder and reflection on the 140,000 victims of the 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima and the great acceleration of species extinction through the origami symbol of the red-crowned crane, now endangered by human activity.

Let's act and revitalise this icon of peace into a plea for addressing the climate crisis and protecting biodiversity.

### DID YOU KNOW THAT THE PEACE CRANES EXHIBITION IS...

initiated by Peace & Justice – an independent charity, building a culture of peace across Scotland since 1980 and one of the organisations that campaigned for a global ban on nuclear weapons which entered into force on 22 January 2021

inspired by The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) of which Peace & Justice is a partner. ICAN won the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize

delivered in partnership with Just Festival and St. John's Church

preceded by artists' talks, films and theatre commemorating Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 2020 – all free to watch at [peaceandjustice.org.uk/what-we-do/peacecranes](https://peaceandjustice.org.uk/what-we-do/peacecranes)



Red-crowned cranes by Janis Hart, Courtesy of Just Festival

## FREE EXHIBITION EVENTS

Sign up at  
[origamicranes@peaceandjustice.org.uk](mailto:origamicranes@peaceandjustice.org.uk)  
for our public programme updates

Our public programme of free online and in-person events about peace, climate and ecological emergencies is curated in the context of COP26 – UN's Climate Change Conference and 2021 – UN's International Year of Peace and Trust. It features artists and activists, including Shatha Altowai, Saber Bamatraf, Radhya Al-mutawakel, Jim Mackintosh, Anne Connolly, Peter Kennard, Pam Skelton, Dawn Cole, Madelon Hooykaas, Keiko Sato and Mare Tralla. Join also our free in-person peace crane folding workshops during the exhibition opening times.

## DONATE AND SUPPORT

Donate by scanning the QR code or via  
[chuffed.org/project/peace-cranes](https://chuffed.org/project/peace-cranes)

Donate to our crowdfunding campaign and enable us to reach 140,000 exhibition visitors in-person and online with our free public engagement programme about peace, people and planet. Gratitude to all our donors so far!



Image of Atsuko Betchaku, Courtesy of Just Festival

The Peace Cranes exhibition is dedicated to Atsuko Betchaku (1960-2017) – a Japanese-born Edinburgh-based historian and a Peace & Justice volunteer who sparked the international wave of folding 140,000 origami cranes – one for each Hiroshima victim in 1945. Atsuko was inspired by the life-affirming act of folding origami cranes of Sadako Sasaki (1943-1955). Sadako was 12 years old when she died from leukaemia caused by radiation from the first atomic bomb that devastated her home city of Hiroshima. Since then the origami cranes have become symbols of love, hope and 'never again'. Sadly, Atsuko didn't live to see her vision for an exhibition take flight but we believe she would approve of the Peace Cranes installation we have erected in her honour, expressing our hopes for peace, disarmament and an ecologically sustainable future.