New publication interrogating how artists can challenge the immense complexities of our time released

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) has collaborated with Yorkshire based interactive arts studio Invisible Flock to produce the UK’s first Green Guide, 8th in the series of Creative Responses to Sustainability.

Creative Responses to Sustainability: UK Green Guide uniquely presents a patchwork of stories asking how creative practices can challenge dominant discourse on the climate crisis.

The publication is part of a series published by ASEF’s arts website culture360.asef.org since 2015. Previous iterations focused on Spain, Portugal, Indonesia, Korea, Australia and Singapore. This new version brings together creative responses, articles and a series of over 30 conversations with artists, collectives and organisations from across the UK.

All of those featured have artistic practices grounded in sustainable, ecological, environmental and/or climate-based understandings.

The publication speaks to Amitav Ghosh’s quote from The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable where he suggested that “When future generations look back upon the Great Derangement they will certainly blame the leaders and politicians of this time for their failure to address the climate crisis. But they may well hold artists and writers to be equally culpable – for the imagining of possibilities is not after all, the job of politicians and bureaucrats.”

In the role of both researcher and designer Invisible Flock have focussed on unravelling a breadth of approaches to explore the challenges we all face, guided by their own environmentally focussed practice.

Victoria Pratt, Creative Director of Invisible Flock describes how “The guide is not an A-Z of everyone making this type of work in the UK, a solution or a report but is instead a snapshot, a collection of stories and practices across a wide geographical area of the UK, within a moment in time.

We hope this is just the beginning of these conversations, that the publication can provoke ongoing discussion and a shared collection of ideas that can be taken in many new directions.”
The publication looks to foreground artistic voices and provides an insight into practices across a range of disciplines while searching for ways in which criticality can support collective action and equitable frameworks.

The publication features multidisciplinary artists whose work range through speculative fiction, poetry, film making, photography and animation through to performance, sculpture and creative technology.

Valentina Riccardi, Associate Director at ASEF and Editor of the series says: “Invisible Flock’s knowledge and dedication contributed greatly in giving voice to diverse arts practices, and thought-provoking approaches across the United Kingdom. What emerges through this publication is the instrumental role that artists play in inspiring, raising awareness and advocating for a better and more sustainable connection between people and their natural environment.”

About the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF)

More Information
www.ASEF.org

WHAT
ASEF is an intergovernmental, not-for-profit organisation that strengthens Asia-Europe relations through its various projects spanning 7 key thematic areas of work: Culture, Economy, Education, Governance, Media, Sustainable Development and Public Health. Acting as an interface between civil society and government, ASEF complements the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and works as a platform for Asia-Europe dialogue to stimulate permanent networks that reinforce bi-regional relations.

WHO
ASEF was founded by Partners of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) - an informal, political dialogue process comprising of 51 countries in Asia and Europe, the European Union, and the ASEAN Secretariat. ASEF remains to this day the only established institution of ASEM.

WHERE
ASEF is based in Singapore, but its activities expand to all ASEM Partner countries.

WHEN
Since its creation in March 1997, ASEF has brought together more than 40,000 people from Asia and Europe.

WHY
ASEF’s Mission is to complement the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Process through opportunities for Asians and Europeans to exchange ideas and collaborate, to achieve innovative and sustainable solutions for common global challenges.
About ASEF culture360

culture360.asef.org is a website initiated by the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) and managed by the Culture Department at the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) since 2008. ASEF culture360 aims to stimulate the cultural engagement between Asia and Europe and enhance greater understanding between the two regions. Created for and fuelled by artists, cultural practitioners and policy makers, ASEF culture360 is your platform to inform, exchange ideas, interact and collaborate with the arts and cultural communities across Asia and Europe. As a reference tool, and a place for dialogue, this exciting portal will take cultural cooperation between Asia and Europe to a whole new level. culture360.asef.org

ASEF’s contribution was made possible by support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

About Invisible Flock

Invisible Flock are an artist-led, award-winning interactive arts studio based at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, UK, operating at the intersection of art and technology. Their studio is a sustainable laboratory space hosting their practice, collaborators and a rolling residency programme. They create highly sensory installations and environments that ask us to renegotiate our emotional relationship to the natural world. Their work explores the environmental crisis in all its forms, from ecosystem decline, biodiversity loss, climate justice and psychoterratic grief. They infiltrate many sectors aiming to have a creative impact on ecology, politics, health and society and to expose wherever possible that everything is fluid and can be rebuilt and reconfigured to be better. Invisibleflock.com