



Press Release 31 March 2010

## Secret Garden Project

an up projects production

May 2010 – November 2011

up projects are proud to launch **Secret Garden Project** - a new programme of temporary commissions and pop up art events by young and established artists created specially for a trail of London's secret gardens, lesser known green spaces, and urban corners.

This varied programme of sculpture, performance, planting projects, artists' walks and literary works taps into environmental themes; creating new habitats for wildlife, revealing the parks' ecological characteristics, and bringing a touch of green to greyer sites around the capital.

The first event to launch in **Islington** on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May** will be the *Mobile Picnic Pavilion* by **Francis Thorburn** - a mobile vegetable garden that will travel around Islington's streets pulled by a merry band of performing gardeners, providing opportunities for passers-by to explore this portable green-space and even picnic upon it!

Later in the summer, a *Pleasure Garden for Birds* by art and architecture collective **London Fieldworks** will launch simultaneously in Duncan Terrace, Islington and Cremorne Gardens, Chelsea; **Shane Waltener** will create *Garland #22* for Islington's Tibbey Place around the ruins of the former Tibberton Baths; and **Margot Bannerman** will present *Bus Stops for Bees* - three 'green' bus stop roofs around the Archway area, Islington.

Further commissions and events will appear throughout the summer along with literary works developed for the **Secret Garden Project** website by our Writer in Residence, **Sarah Butler**. These writings will provide a literary thread throughout the programme, responding to the various sites, artworks and visitors.

The **Secret Garden Project** is curated by **Emma Underhill** and **Sarah B Davies** and will evolve across different London Boroughs over the next 18 months beginning with the London Borough of Islington as part of their *Greening the Grey Strategy* and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea as part of their *In Transit Festival*.

Further announcements about Secret Garden Project events and commissions will follow soon....

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors**

**The Secret Garden Project** is one in a series of ongoing 'Park Art' projects developed and produced by UP Projects. Building on the success of UP Projects' *Portavilion*, which began in four major Central London parks in 2008 and continues in 2010 ([www.portavilion.com](http://www.portavilion.com)); Secret Garden Project focuses on London's lesser known green spaces including hidden gems such as Cremorne Gardens in the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and Tibbey Place in Islington, with new, artist's commissions and site specific projects of varying scales that respond to the ecological and historical context of the sites and raise awareness of the ecological and social value of green spaces in city life. The Secret Garden Project is curated by Emma Underhill, Founding Director of UP Projects and Sarah B Davies, Assistant Curator UP Projects.

**up projects** believes in challenging perceptions of what public art can be. Operating as if a gallery without walls, they are inspired by the complexities of the public realm to create a programme of artists' commissions, projects, strategies and multi-disciplinary events for a broad public audience. Since their first project in 2002, their work has consistently attracted considerable public attention.

**[www.upprojects.com](http://www.upprojects.com)**

**Francis Thorburn** is a London based emerging artist who has been developing ambitious, sculptural vehicles to form a series of works called the *Alternative Transport Network*. Since graduating from Camberwell in 2008, he has developed work with Hannah Barry Gallery and The House of Fairytales.

**London Fieldworks** is a London-based collective formed in 2000 by artists Bruce Gilchrist and Jo Joelson as an umbrella organisation for creative research and collaboration at the art, science and technology intersection. Typically, their projects engage with the notion of ecology as a complex inter-working of social, natural, and technological worlds. **[www.londonfieldworks.com](http://www.londonfieldworks.com)**

**Shane Waltener** lives and works in London and operates within the crossover between craft and fine art practice. He has exhibited works internationally and developed a broad range of collaborative projects both for gallery contexts and public spaces. **[www.shanewaltener.com](http://www.shanewaltener.com)**

**Margot Bannerman** is a practicing artist and senior lecturer at the Byam Shaw School of Art at the Byam Shaw at Central St Martins (University of the Arts London.) She is currently engaged in research into vertical growing in urban contexts.

**Islington Council's *Greening the Grey* strategy** is a scheme to "blur the boundaries of the park" taking the green into a variety of other spaces. It offers an innovative approach to tackling climate change and creates an interesting contribution to the green spaces debate. **[www.islington.gov.uk](http://www.islington.gov.uk)**

**Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's *In Transit Festival*** is a summer programme of interventions, performances and commissions which will animate streets, parks, neglected and forgotten spaces from 19 to 31 July 2010. Events are suitable for all ages and range from self-led trails and podcast guides through to artist led walks. **[www.rbkc.gov.uk/intransit](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/intransit)**