

Carmen Lamberti and Beatriz Acevedo

Since these two environmental artists met at Culture Change, they have not only gained confidence in strengthening their artistic practice with improved business skills and elaborated plans, they have most importantly received the extraordinary opportunity to meet equally engaged people open for collaborations and new projects. Carmen and Beatriz have been sharing ideas on eco-art and have recently received the exciting news to be selected for the 'Cambridge Sustainability Residency'.

Carmen Lamberti's start as an artist dates much more back in time, when she decided to move from Costa Rica to the UK and studied contemporary art practice at the University of Bedfordshire and received a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree from Central Saint Martin's School of art. She has been a full-time artist for 10 years and combines it with voluntary work for homeless people. Her artistic practice is deeply concerned with environmental issues and influenced by the genres such as Sustainability Art, Land Art and Earth Art. Carmen has participated in group and solo shows and exhibitions and has built a quite established art network around her. She received the invitation through Wysing Arts Centre in Cambridge, and attended a total of three Culture Change events.

"It was a real learning process and really positive. I gained so much knowledge and also expanded my practice as an artist. Julie's Bicycle has been so generous! They looked at my manifesto, and I am overall really grateful for all the support received."

As for Beatriz, Carmen was amazed by the amount of creative people that followed her own environmental concerns. This showed her that, what she was actually doing, was possible and meaningful. Since then, Carmen has created new artworks and started to consider the sustainability of the production process – making sure that all the materials and products used are sustainable.

"Culture Change has certainly influenced my working process. Now, I am conscious of the materials I use for my artworks, I minimise technology and energy consumption, and try to reduce my carbon footprint."

Carmen has also improved her awareness on business and time management. The programme has also lifted her ambitions to thrive even further - not in profits but as an artist. Her next big plans after the residency is to develop and re-direct her work into communities, building on her experience and dedication as a volunteer for homeless people in her neighbourhood.



It was not until last year that **Beatriz Acevedo** took the important step to define herself as an artist and 'go out and give it a go' with her colourful and quirky flora and fauna inspired-paintings and sketches. Beatriz has a part-time teaching position at the Lord Ashcroft International Business School at Anglia Ruskin University,, where she has been exploring in her academic research and with her students the links between art and sustainability. She couldn't believe the 'spot-on timing' when she received an email and phone call from Culture Change, inviting her for free business support sessions and workshops on exactly those two subjects she was investigating.

Attending Culture Change has been a remarkable and revitalising opportunity for me. Most of all, because I listened to people speaking the same 'language' than I do! Meeting both like-minded and extremely creative people with the same interest and concerns boosted my confidence in what I am doing."

Beatriz keeps teaching part-time at the university and, since receiving free business support sessions at Culture Change, she is refining her business as an artist: she has officially registered as a sole trader, developed a business plan, and is drafting a more coherent design of her website. She is also aiming at meeting all the requirements for an official 'eco-artist', thanks to loads of help and guidance from Julie's Bicycle. Besides her new collaboration with artist Carmen Lamberti, she is also into a second project with Dr. Candice Howard, her colleague from the Global Sustainability Institute at Anglia Ruskin University, aiming to go to the UN Paris 2015 Climate Change Conference to explore the role of art in shaping discussions on climate change policies.



At the time of the interview, Carmen and Beatriz were pondering the next plans and writing the application for the **Cambridge Sustainability Residency**¹. Ultimately, they have been selected to participate at the 2015 residency, where they will together be working on a project called '**Raw Materials/Raw Emotions**'. This will be an interactive work of art where the two artists will discuss with participants the 'raw emotions' conveyed by meaningful "garments" (e.g. wedding dresses, comfort blankets, favourite tops) and the subsequent origins of the textiles, exploring issues on manufacturing, labour, unfair trade and consumerism.

Both of them sound extremely excited and grateful that Culture Change was such a source of inspiration and energy.

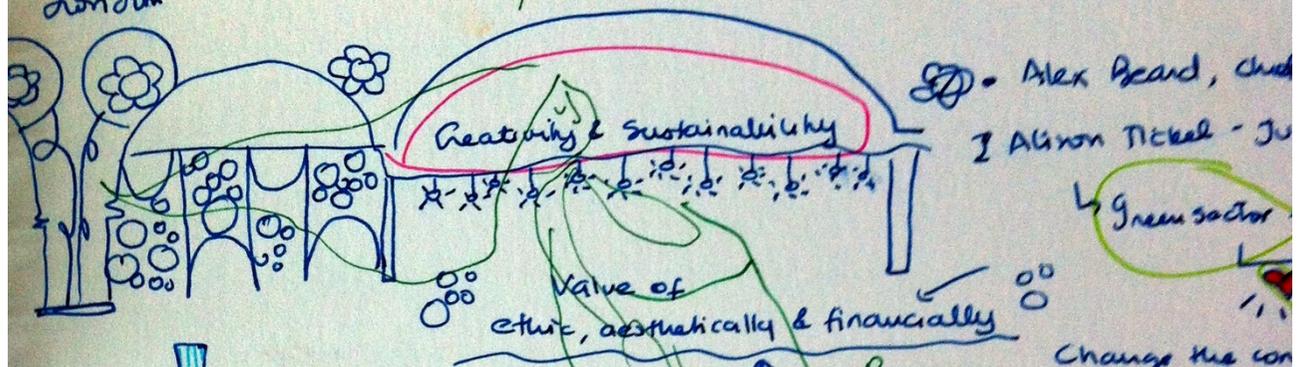
"I would like very much to thank you for putting all the elements together. I do not think that this would have been possible without the context, conversations and positive support that we have gotten from you in linking sustainability and creativity."

¹ <http://cambridgesustainabilityresidency.com/>

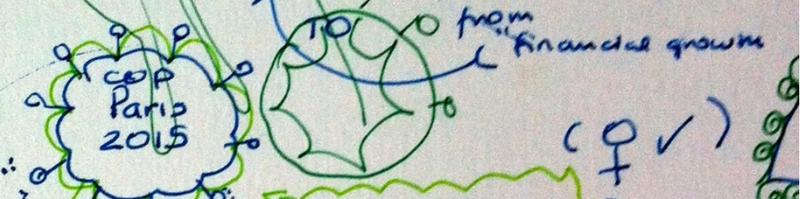
Culture Change & Sustainability

Coyal Opera House
London

with Dawn Jordan



ARTS
capacity to affect how
man beings perceive / experience
ture
CULTURE



PANEL: Andrea Stark
High House Production Park
(Essex)

National College
for creative arts
green
apprentices
skills

Local enterprise partnerships

Colette Bailey
Metal

Local
business??
make working / community
not incubation...

Public events, p. exhibitions, how to
close the gap between Art, & Public
Quilter
[space]

Cook & Eat Together

Table / upcycling
furniture

veganism?

VALUES

Ali Petty: Kinehika

ACME
↓
Carnival as a tool for
change, diverse communities
Brick Lane
Business Model / Sustainability

1 → Kinehika Art Design Studio
↳ Opening ceremony

2 → Mentoring
Walking Transformational
Walk + Talk
Rivers Festival