



listening to ourselves – listening to the future

EARTH FORUM at OCCUPY DEMOCRACY

Parliament Square, London / 8 May 2015, 2 pm

University of the Trees - in collaboration with Basic Income, UK invites you to participate in an EARTH FORUM process led by Shelley Sacks

*Earth Forum is a 'module' of **University of the Trees: Lab for an Eco-Social Future***

EARTH FORUM is one of *University of the Trees* 'instruments of consciousness' designed to enhance the potential for connective action, commoning and ecological citizenship.

EARTH FORUM is a social sculpture, connective practice involving a direct encounter with the earth, how we live in the world, and with each other. It enables new insights and exchanges on our notion of 'work' and what this does to us and to the world.

EARTH FORUM is a process of 'going out to come in' and 'coming in to go out'. It includes 'imaginal work' and 'active listening'. In this sense it is a 'capacity building' process. Its simple but profound encounters for 'coming to ourselves' and 'coming to our senses' enable participants to gather substance and new insights in relation to our individual actions, projects and agendas, as well as to envisage new collective actions, on local and wider scales.

EARTH FORUM was originally designed to facilitate multi-stakeholder processes around different views of 'progress' and 'sustainable development' in South Africa after the 2002 Sustainable Development Summit and in the run-up to the 2011 Climate Summit. Over the past three years, thousands of citizens in Germany, South Africa, India, England and China, as well as cultural, environmental, change management and activist groups have participated in the Earth Forum process. Over 120 people have been trained to guide the Earth Forum themselves. Anyone can train to become an EARTH FORUM facilitator. This is how the Earth Forum process is scaled out.

EARTH FORUM is a process for 10 to 12 people requiring you to gift 3 to 3.5 hours of your time! Earth Forum on Friday 8 May begins promptly at 14.00

TIME: Friday 8 May 2015 14.00 -17.30 **WHERE:** Occupy Democracy –Parliament Square
For details **WHERE TO MEET** and **CONFIRM A PLACE**, contact **Barb Jacobson:**
contact@basicincome.org.uk



SOCIAL SCULPTURE AND UNIVERSITY OF THE TREES

Social sculpture was a term coined by the artist Joseph Beuys to emphasise the shaping of social forms –like **Basic Income** and **Direct Democracy** - that unlock the potential in human beings and confirm that ‘every human being is an artist’... a creative being called upon to work with others, with invisible materials like speech, discussion and thought, shaping new social forms, structures and ways of living in the world that are ecologically just whilst enabling this creative being to unfold and flourish.

University of the Trees social sculpture practices all have to do with experiential knowing, the relationship between inner and outer work, and what this has to do with becoming creative ‘agents of change’, shaping a humane and ecologically just way of being in the world.

“A tree knows how to be a tree. Unlike trees, human beings can be dangerous. We have freedom and creativity. This means that we do not simply unfold according to plan and function as part of a self-regulating eco-system. And so we have to work with ourselves: to expand our view of the senses, and develop ‘new organs of perception’, as well as the will to never turn away. This is part of the process of commoning, of developing ecological citizenship and of every human being becoming a ‘response-able’, social-ecological artist.”

Shelley Sacks/UOT 2014

www.social-sculpture.org www.universityofthetrees.org

Facebook: Social Sculpture Research Unit

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