

COP26 – 9,000Km journey to Glasgow for Indigenous artwork ‘Totem Latamat’

‘Totem Latamat’ – carved by Totonac artist Jun Tiburcio – will have travelled 9,000km from Mexico, stopping at iconic locations across the UK, before arriving at the Indigenous Elders’ COP26 camp around the Sacred Fire in Glasgow’s Hidden Gardens.

As part of Border Crossings’ ORIGINS Festival, ‘Totem Latamat’ is a message from the Totonac people to our communities and world leaders conveying how deeply interwoven our existence is with nature and the need for immediate action to disrupt the damage done by climate change.





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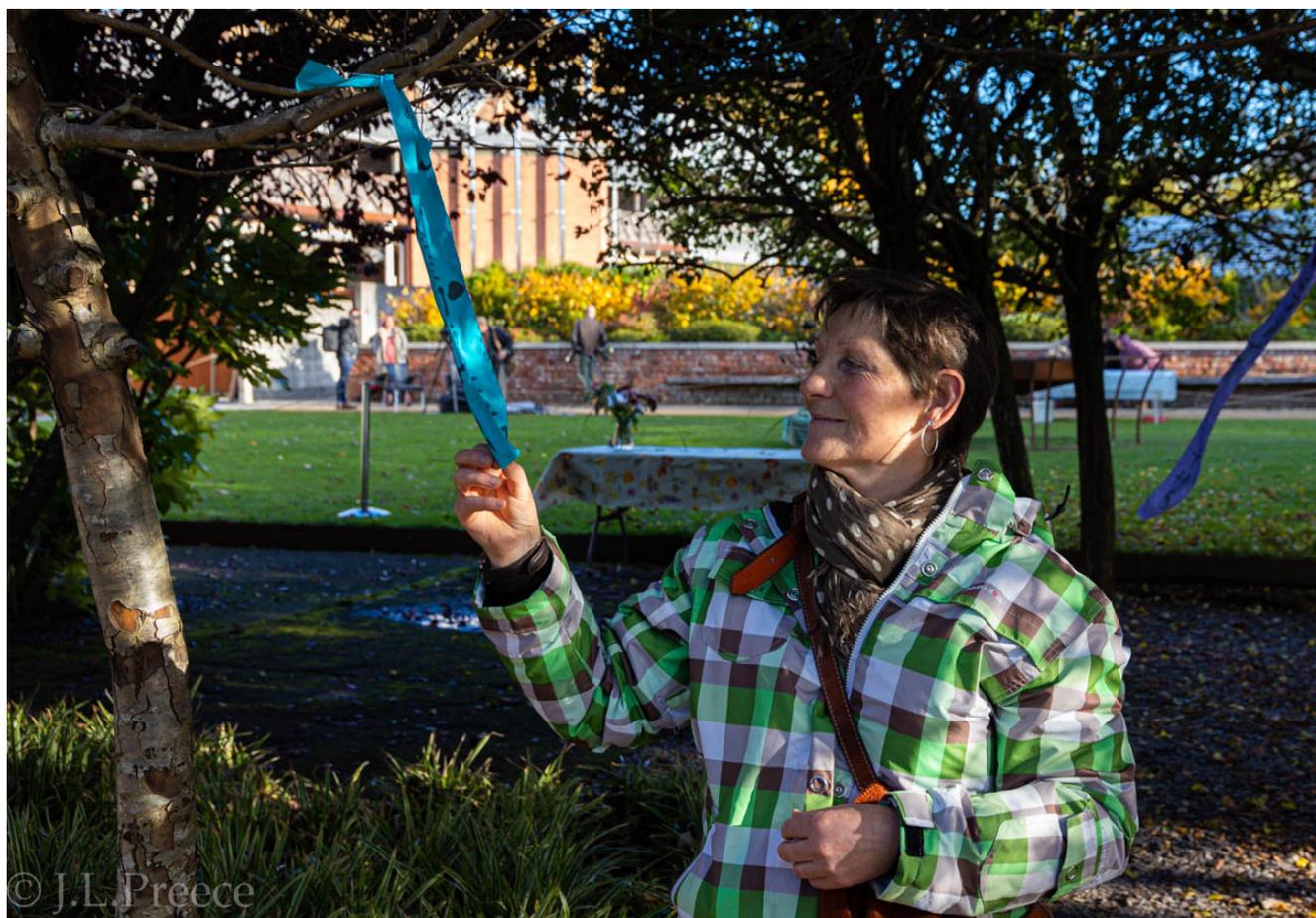


Entertainer and presenter, Des Clarke, speaks to the project's artistic director, Michael Walling

Though colonisation has historically and deliberately obscured

Indigenous voices, COP26 will highlight the crucial role of Indigenous people and local communities in mitigating and adapting to the climate emergency. Cut from a single cedar tree and standing at 4.5m tall, 'Totem Latamat' demands that neither it nor its message be ignored.

It will travel to important cultural hubs across the UK including London, Coventry, Milton Keynes and Manchester drawing powerful links between Indigenous experience and local heritage. Following COP26 it will be ceremonially returned to the Earth, emphasizing the cyclical and transient nature of life and art.

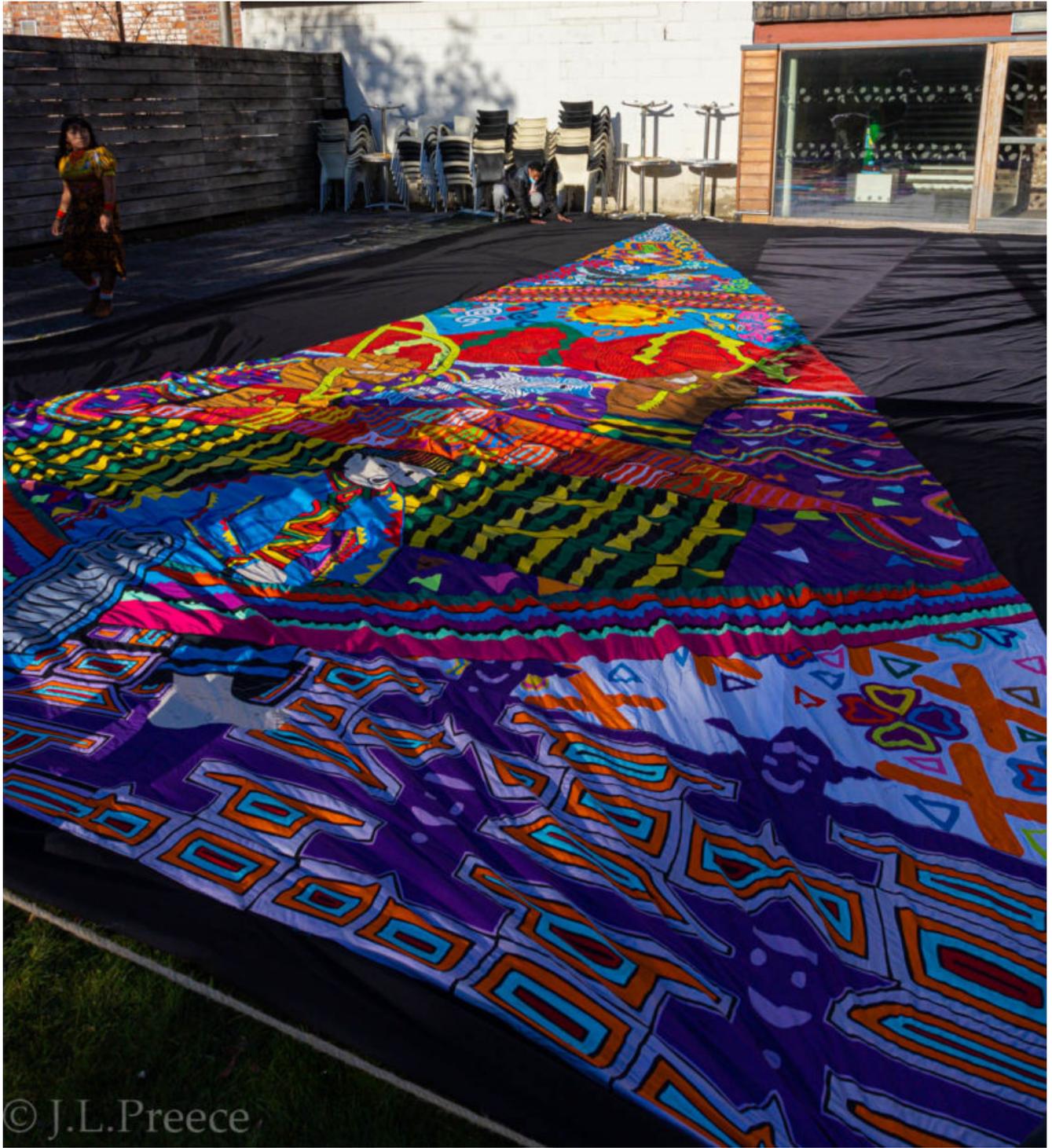




Jun Tiburcio commented, "For the Totonac people, birds are our messengers. In the totem, they tell us that we must take care of all life... At the top of the totem are hummingbirds, representing the aspiration for a new consciousness: they are messengers of peace between humans and nature. The face on the reverse represents the state of emergency in the world.

"We are so close to reaching the peak of this crisis and the raised arms of the Totonac culture represent the balance that we must find in the mind and the heart. We need to act quickly to care for the world through prayers, thoughts, connections, and laws".





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Intercultural theatre company Border Crossings' ORIGINS Festival is a multidisciplinary celebration of Indigenous arts and culture from around the world. The 2021-22 Festival offers an unprecedented and evolving year-long programme, transforming digital and physical spaces into vibrant sites of creative enquiry, intervention and performance by leading Indigenous artists and thinkers.

The festival offers an opportunity to engage with the work of Indigenous artists and activists and ORIGINS' themes of climate, covid and colonialism.

'Totem Latamat' will be on display from 27th Oct – 14th Nov 2021 at The Hidden Gardens in Glasgow.