

PARTICIPATORY TEXTILE UPCYCLING & PERFORMANCE

THREADING ORGANISMS 3.0: CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF BLOOMSBURY FESTIVAL

- **A residency programme based on textile upcycling and performance will take place between the 10th August and 5th September at the Holborn Library.**
- **The residency open to the local community will invite to celebrate the relationships that have shaped Bloomsbury Festival over 2 decades.**

Artist and curator Tere Chad presents 'Threading Organisms 3.0', a participatory textile and performative project developed to mark the 20th anniversary of the Bloomsbury Festival. Hosted at Holborn Library, the project invites local communities to explore and celebrate the symbiotic relationships that shape both natural ecosystems and cultural collaborations across Bloomsbury.

'Threading Organisms' (*Hilando Organismos*) is a socially engaged art initiative that brings together textile upcycling, performance, science and literature to reflect on how living beings coexist through cooperation and interdependence. Participants will take part in a creative residency or upcycling Marathon (10th August – 5th September) combining guided tours, literature review sessions and hands-on workshops led by guest mentors from the sciences and humanities. Through this process, residents will create costumes and artworks from recycled textiles, culminating in a public performance and exhibition during the Bloomsbury Festival.

The third edition focuses on the relationships that have sustained the festival over two decades, celebrating both ecological symbiosis and the collaborative partnerships that have made Bloomsbury Festival possible. By using upcycled textiles as a central medium, the project also foregrounds sustainable practices and collective making as tools for social repair and cultural exchange.

The residency programme will run from June to October 2026 and will include open calls for creatives, textile artists, performers, musicians and community members interested in sustainable practices and collaborative creation. Alongside structured workshops and site visits across Bloomsbury's green spaces, the programme will host drop-in sessions open to families and the wider public, encouraging intergenerational participation and dialogue.

The final outcomes will be presented as a performance and exhibition during the Bloomsbury Festival (date & venue tbc), reflecting on how relationships—whether ecological, social or institutional—can be expressed as cooperative, symbiotic or, at times, parasitic. By bringing together art, science and community engagement, 'Threading Organisms 3.0' proposes a poetic and critical reflection on coexistence in contemporary urban life.

Potential partners include community groups, educational institutions and cultural organisations across Camden, such as gardening and repair workshops, volunteer groups, local studies initiatives and creative learning providers. The project aims to strengthen local networks while fostering sustainable cultural practices rooted in the values of collaboration and care.

Speaking about the project, Tere Chad notes: 'Threading Organisms invites us to observe how life forms are interconnected and how these relationships shape our social fabric. By working collectively with recycled textiles and performance, we celebrate the partnerships that have sustained the Bloomsbury Festival for twenty years while imagining new forms of cooperation for the future.'

The first edition of *Threading Organisms* was presented at Centro Cultural Plaza Fátima in San Pedro Garza García, Nuevo León, Mexico (2024), followed by a second edition developed with the School of Architecture at Tecnológico de Monterrey University (2025). The initial editions were co-developed by Tere Chad and Cordelia Rizzo. The Bloomsbury iteration will be curated by Tere Chad

and situated within Holborn Library, engaging residents, local organisations and festival partners in a shared creative process. Ultimately, *Threading Organisms 3.0* positions artistic collaboration as a living ecosystem, one that evolves through dialogue, mutual support and shared creative action. The project aligns with the Bloomsbury Festival's commitment to community participation, interdisciplinary exchange and cultural sustainability.

Project website: www.terechad.com/hilando-organismos

THREADING ORGANISMS 3.0: PROGRAMME:

Residency Open Call: 15 June – 19 July 2026

Link TBC

Textile Recycling Campaign: 15 June – 10 August 2026

Holborn Library, 32 – 38 Theobalds Road, London, WC1X 8PA

Residency / Upcycling Marathon: 10 August – 5 September 2026

Holborn Library, 32 – 38 Theobalds Road, London, WC1X 8PA

(Only for accepted applicants, review programme at the application link above)

Drop-in sessions: Textile upcycling workshops for families: Saturdays 15 August, 29 August, 5 September, 12 September, 26 September, 3 October

11am – 1pm & 2 – 4:30pm

Holborn Library, 32 – 38 Theobalds Road, London, WC1X 8PA

Forum: Date, venue, speakers tbc (Bloomsbury Festival)

Performance 1: Date, venue tbc (Bloomsbury Festival)

Performance 2: Date, venue tbc (Bloomsbury Festival)

ABOUT TERE CHAD MRSS:

Tere Chad (b. 1990, Chile) is a London-based artist and curator whose practice focuses on collective sustainable processes and the cultural values of the Global South. She holds an MA in Sculpture from the Royal College of Art and an MA in Art and Science from Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts London. Chad has exhibited internationally, curated over twenty exhibitions and delivered participatory projects across Europe and Latin America. She is a trustee of the Royal Society of Sculptors and has She has curated over 20 international exhibitions and exhibited her work in over 60 shows. She has managed public and private funding, including grants and sponsorship from institutions such as the Arts Council England, Memorial da América Latina, CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, Rotary Club Est Palermo (Sicily), Municipio San Pedro Garza García (San Pedro Borough – Mexico), Caruna (Finland), Stora Enso (Finland), Camden Giving, Paladar Restaurant, Fundación Cultural de Providencia (Chile) amongst others.

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