

PI #52 Abstracts

Sustainability and Resilience in Brazilian Puppetry by Mayumi Ilari

The aim of this article is to briefly introduce recent Brazilian puppet performances that address issues related to environmental preservation and sustainability, whether using modern stage puppetry and devices, or inspired by traditional Brazilian folk puppetry, now set in the Amazonian region and context.

Brazilian puppetry; puppetry and sustainability

Striking the Ecological Chord with Puppetry by Dr. Moushumi Bhattacharjee

This article tries to describe the experience of promoting environmental conservation using both traditional and contemporary puppets in Assam. The classic storytelling approach makes the message each story conveys interesting and informative for audiences of all age groups. On the other hand, a worthy mention will also be made on how the rigidity of some traditional troupes, in terms of their selection of raw materials, is slowly pushing these puppeteers towards oblivion.

Puppetry, ecological conservation, sustainability and social change.

Eco-Puppetry: Playful Disruptions for Climate Agency by Sarah Fahmy

Eco-Puppetry: Playful Disruptions for Climate Agency, offers insight to the joy, agency, and liberation that emerge when creating and performing large-scale puppets of butterflies and birds. It demonstrates how eco-puppets playfully disrupt public spaces to educate, protest, or celebrate nature, forging new avenues for creative climate activism.

Climate agency, disruption, nature, women, joy

Interview with Silencio Blanco's Dominga Gutiérrez by Ana Díaz Barriga

Dominga Gutiérrez is co-founder, producer, and puppeteer of Chilean puppetry company Silencio Blanco. In this interview, she addresses aspects of the company's aesthetic philosophy and the process of creation of their piece *Pescador*. Gutiérrez speaks to the ways puppetry can help viewers acquire new perspectives by enhancing their appreciation for the quotidian and rendering homage to professions that are disappearing.

Silencio Blanco, Chilean puppetry, sustainability, Pescador [Fisherman].

Puppets, Rivers and a Vision of the Final Spring by Aja Marneweck

In South Africa, puppetry is being explored in large-scale, site-specific ways to generate new public and cultural imaginings, especially within the minds of young people as they interrogate pressing issues around the environment, climate change, identity and conservation.

Puppetry; climate change; arts activism; awareness; South Africa

The Icelandic Initiative by Greta Clough

At the last UNIMA World Congress, UNIMA Iceland proposed an Arctic & Arctic Periphery Alliance special commission to unite our puppetry communities across this global region. The Arctic is warming four times faster than most of the rest of the world and puppeteers there are finding ways to do their work in a sustainable way, while also becoming the best artists they can be so that their stories of resilience and environmental awareness have the most impact possible.

Puppetry, climate change, Arctic environmentalism, Iceland

Fukaze Dekumawashi: A 350-year-old Japanese Puppetry Tradition's Fate, Tied to the Land by Claudia Orenstein

A little-known and unique puppetry tradition in a small village in Japan is full of lessons. Able to support their beloved art with the earnings from weaving cedar strips, they eventually exhausted the resource. Perhaps a harder lesson was when their village was intentionally flooded in order to create a reservoir for the larger city downstream of them. Now dispersed, how does a younger generation keep the tradition alive?

Japanese puppetry, dekumawashi, environmental refugees

Connecting to Nature through Puppets by Heather Henson with Brenna Ross

Heather Henson (youngest daughter of Muppets creators Jim and Jane Henson) has been obsessed with cranes since her years as a student at the Rhode Island School of Design. After decades of creating work featuring these regal birds (and other endangered species), she looks back at her work and the way it has changed her and her relationship with nature.

Henson, puppetry, cranes, endangered species, nature awareness