

An arts-based intervention by **an idea...** for a Seed Session at
The Nature of the City: radical imagination with nature and all people

Flight of Fancy

departure from reality

One night during the last lockdown, Manchester International Airport disappeared.

Where is the airport?

I'm sure there was an airport here, no?

How did it happen?

What is there now?

Presented by the multinational, creative thought collective, **an idea...**, the provocative Seed Session, *Flight of Fancy*, considers the paradox of Manchester International Airport being sustainable. How will the mangetouts from Lima, Peru, get to my supermarket in Manchester? What will this place be used for in future and who will inhabit it? Where will all the people go when they arrive by train, bus, tram and car?

Once a main hub of the EU Trade Route E20 and the place of departure for millions of holidaymakers, Manchester International Airport ubiquitously pervaded the city, the region and thousands of destinations around the world.

This interactive, Zoom, dialogue will engage participants in an icon of city living that was, for some, at odds with nature. Having had their preconceptions disrupted, people will have an opportunity to re-imagine the airport as an opportunity for nature to thrive. As we know, 'nature abhors a vacuum', so what will fill the void that yields to our collective imagination?

Conducted in English, with a little Spanish and Italian, this 90minute Seed Session will start with **an idea...** (Valeria, Paolina and David) presenting a 5minute, provocation that Manchester International Airport has vanished. Participants will then be invited to question and consider this absurd situation. Supported by research and visual material, **an idea...** will further facilitate the conversation as a nonlinear, psychogeographic 'dérive', on Zoom.

Due to the exploratory nature of this session the outputs can't be fully predicted. However, towards the end of the session the participants will be invited to translate the outcomes of their Seed Session into a folding poem. The whole session will contribute to Dr Paolina Ferrulli's on-going research into sustainable airports and the general practice of **an idea...**

Intent precedes action, thought precedes intent. **an idea...** precedes transformation. Physically based in Rawtenstall (UK), Florence (Italy) and Walney Island (UK), **an idea...** works with ecological artists, natural and social scientists, educators, urban and aviation planners in Colombia, Ecuador, Spain, Italy, China, UK and USA to engage with communities in their emancipation to become self-determined, ecologically resilient and systemically networked. Nature (other than humans) are integral to the whole process of seeking such transdisciplinarity. Currently, **an idea...** are: Valeria Vargas, Paolina Ferrulli and David Haley.