

situations

Forthcoming events devised by the artists

HOW TO PROSPER DURING THE COMING BAD YEARS

Saturday 5 September 2009. Free

A lively forum, held in *The Black Cloud*, to explore the future of humanity: preparedness versus conservation. Speakers include science fiction writers, future thinkers and environmental campaigners.

BLACK DOG TIMES

Saturday 5 December 2009. Free

A carnivalesque winter wake which celebrates the last day of *The Black Cloud*.

Other community events in *The Black Cloud*

ART ON THE HILL

3-4 October 2009. Free

www.artonthehill.org.uk

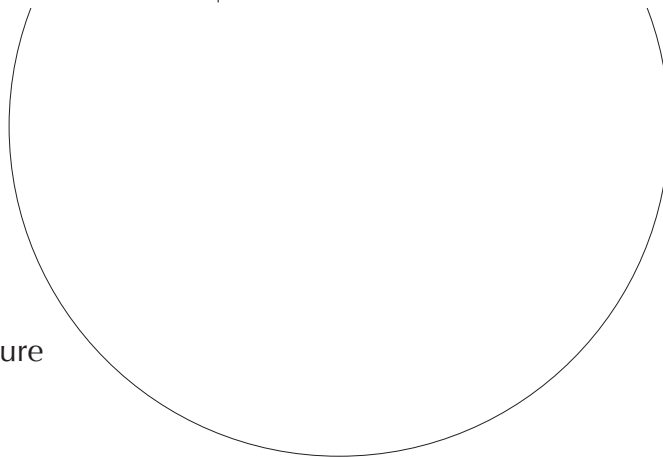
THE BIG DRAW

Saturday 10 October 2009. Free

www.bigdraw.org.uk

To find out more, visit www.situations.org.uk

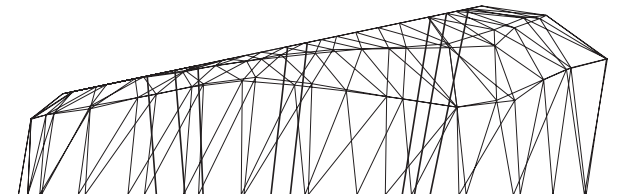
The Black Cloud has been made possible by the enthusiasm and support of Bristol City Council. We would also like to acknowledge the generous support of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the University of the West of England and Spike Island. We would also like to thank all our volunteers without whom the production and raising of *The Black Cloud* would not have been possible.



THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

Saturday 25 July 2009, 8am to 8pm

A day to barn-raise *The Black Cloud*, Victoria Park, Bristol



Commissioned by Situations at the University of the West of England
For further information email blackcloud@situations.org.uk or call 0117 328 1459 or visit www.situations.org.uk



HOW IT BEGAN

In September 2007, artists Heather and Ivan Morison undertook a month-long research visit to Bristol to investigate environmental issues, supported by Situations, a public art commissioning programme at the University of the West of England and the RSA Arts and Ecology programme. On 25 July 2009, the project resulting from this initial research comes to fruition with the raising of *The Black Cloud*, a remarkable pavilion-like structure in Victoria Park, Bedminster. The structure is to be erected through a community barn-raising from early morning to dusk. *The Black Cloud* will act as a public artwork, shelter and meeting point over a four-month period from 25 July to 6 December and is open to all.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The Morisons' art practice involves activities as diverse as gardening, kite flying, science fiction writing, anthropology, sky writing and for the past four years, the development of an arboretum in Wales. For the last two years, they have been creating a series of 'Escape Vehicles'. These are buildings, vehicles and structures, which explore the human desire to escape the modern world along with our interest in imaging future catastrophes, for example in the post-apocalyptic visions of J.G. Ballard's *The Drowned World* (1962) and Poul Anderson's *Planet of No Return* (1954).

The shelter is available for use by anyone in the park, free of charge. If you would like to hold an event in the shelter contact us at blackcloud@situations.org.uk

DESIGNING THE STRUCTURE

The structure has been designed by the artists, in collaboration with architect Sash Reading and engineers Structural Solutions, and was informed by architecture from across the world which responds to climatic scenarios or emergencies, such as the Hallig houses of Northern Germany built to withstand regular flooding.

The artists chose the shabono, a circular structure built by the Yanomamo Amer-Indians from the Amazon, as a starting point for the oval form of *The Black Cloud*. The structure is made up of successive rings of timber triangular frames, bolted together to create a strong curving roof with an open centre, reflecting the communal space of the shabono. The artists have also made use of a geometric, crystalline form used in previous works such as *I Am So Sorry. Goodbye. (Escape Vehicle No. 4)* which can be seen at the Barbican Centre, London until 18 October 2009. Built entirely from timber harvested from the artists' Welsh arboretum, the frame has been prefabricated by a crew of volunteer artists and skilled technicians at Bristol's Spike Island. The timber has been scorched using a Japanese technique, so as to resemble a dark, protective shield.

As with the design of *The Black Cloud*, the barn-raising has been inspired by many influences and this method of communal building reflects that of traditional Welsh One Day House building, the Finnish talkoo and Amish barn-raising, a celebratory event in which everyone offers assistance in whatever form they can manage, from physical labour to food, music and entertainment.

If you have any photos from the day that you would be willing to share, please upload them to Flickr (www.flickr.com) with the tag 'Black Cloud Bristol'