



Centre for Alternative Technology
Canolfan y Dechnoleg Amgen

EMERGENCE SUMMIT 2012

Creating the Future

This is your invitation to EMERGENCE SUMMIT 2012: CREATING THE FUTURE.

The Summit is a major international arts and sustainability event presented by VOLCANO and the CENTRE FOR ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY, at CAT's extraordinary and beautiful site in Machynlleth, mid-Wales. It brings CAT's pioneering work on low-carbon infrastructure together with Volcano's work on developing the role of the arts as a crucible of ideas and visions for a sustainable society. The Summit comprises two parts: an international weekend conference of leaders, thinkers and visionaries from all disciplines and none; and a five-day journey on foot through Wales that will culminate at the conference.

EMERGENCE SUMMIT 2012

THE LAND JOURNEY: Saturday 1st September – Thursday 6th September

THE CONFERENCE: Friday 7th – Sunday 9th September, the Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth

The purpose of the Summit is to reach across a gulf. Not a gulf between people, or between disciplines, but the much greater gulf between our objective understanding of the scale of the challenge facing humankind, and our ability to imagine a positive, practical future in which we have risen to that challenge and found new ways of living sustainably – or to put it another way, of sustaining life.

We know that this positive future is *technically* possible. One of the things that CAT brings to the Summit is a body of work and a wealth of resources that describe how we might bring about a zero-carbon future using existing technologies. The biggest challenge we face is not technological, but cultural and political.

If people are unable to imagine a positive future, they won't create it. The role of The Emergence Summit is to create spaces, both real and virtual, where inspiration, optimism and the possibility of change can be nurtured and practical action planned. Emergence is a collaborative project between the arts and those working in different fields for the creation of a more 'life-sustaining' society. Can we, as creative thinkers, help ourselves and others to imagine the world we want and and literally bring it into being?

The Land Journey offers an additional opportunity for deepened dialogue, concentration and reflection, and the chance to connect at length with others and with the particularity of place and landscape. We have chosen to traverse the land in unfamiliar ways rather than simply follow the well-beaten and

mapped tourist trails and landmarks, to reiterate the need to think differently about the things we take for granted.

Attendance at The Emergence Summit 2012 is by invitation – we are aiming to bring together an inspirational mix of solution-focused people from various fields, and have chosen our wish-list of delegates with care. You are receiving this invitation because:

- we think you have something unique and valuable to contribute to our aim of imagining a positive future and acting together to make it happen;
- and because you are connected to other people through networks that can help our Summit to reach, as it must, people beyond the rooms in which it takes place.

The Emergence Summit 2012 is a not-for-profit event, and delegates are asked to pay a fee towards the costs. The event is subsidised by The Arts Council of Wales. The costs to delegates will be as follows:

Land Journey & Conference: £320.00

Conference Only: £140.00

Please let us know before 29th February if you intend to join us at The Emergence Summit 2012, and indicate whether you would like to be part of the Land Journey. After that date we will issue a reminder for you to secure your place with a £50 deposit. If you do not intend to take up this invitation, please let us know ASAP so that we may offer your place to another delegate.

RSVP to emergence.summit@cat.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you!

Paul Allen, Jenny Mackewn, Lucy Neal and Fern Smith
On behalf of The Emergence Summit Team

FAQs

What is included in the delegate fees?

The Land Journey rate includes a qualified mountain leader; group facilitators; support vehicle to carry luggage; all meals; and fees for campsite or bunkhouse Saturday-Thursday inclusive. You will need to provide your own tent and sleeping bag. The Land Journey participants will meet on Saturday evening and begin walking on Sunday. The Conference rate includes all meals and events at the Conference.

Conference accommodation Friday, Saturday and Sunday is not included, but we will provide full information on how to book. There are three levels/rates of accommodation available at CAT: camping; 2-star eco-cabins; and four-star twin ensuite bedrooms in the WISE building.

The Land Journey – am I fit enough?

The journey takes us through the lesser-known parts of the Snowdonia National Park, and will consist of up to 12 miles walking a day, some of which will be in challenging terrain. You will not need to carry your overnight luggage. We are expecting some people to find the walk more difficult than others, and will find a pace that everyone can manage. The support vehicle can rescue anyone in great difficulty or offer them a break.

I can't do the whole Land Journey – can I join you for part of it?

Yes. You may join the Land Journey en route at a rate of £40 per day. We ask that once you join the Journey you commit to the remainder of it.

I want to come but can't afford it. Is there any financial support available?

There will be a limited number of bursaries available to help with the cost, and details of eligibility criteria will be available shortly. We have kept the delegate fees as low as possible. If you can afford to pay more, then please consider supporting a bursary for someone who cannot by making an additional donation when you book.

What is Emergence?

EMERGENCE began as a partnership project between Volcano and Cynnal Cymru-Sustain Wales supported by Arts Council Wales and British Council. It is the name given to a programme of events and initiatives addressing the role and potential of the arts and of artists in the context of the major environmental challenges of our time.

Emergence focuses on two main themes: developing a low-carbon infrastructure, including management and development of venues and developing the role of the arts in envisioning a low-carbon sustainable society.

The Emergence Document, a report from the three Emergence conferences of 2011, is full of arresting ideas, practical advice and useful contacts, is available as a bilingual online resource:

<http://www.volcanotheatre.co.uk/398/news/emergence-the-document.html>.

About Volcano

Volcano is an international touring theatre company based in South Wales. For 25 years the company has been an original, radical voice in theatre, and is committed to working innovatively and to presenting issues, texts or ideas in fresh and arresting ways. Volcano works in partnership with a diverse range of organisations and hosts and enables events at 229 High Street Swansea, a disused shop which the company is developing into a flexible art space. www.volcanotheatre.co.uk

About The Centre for Alternative Technology

CAT is a research, education and visitor centre which demonstrates practical solutions for sustainability. CAT is concerned with the search for globally sustainable, whole and ecologically sound technologies and ways of life.

Within this search the role of CAT is to explore and demonstrate a wide range of alternatives, communicating to other people the options for them to achieve positive change in their own lives.

This communication involves:

- **Inspiring** - instilling the desire to change by practical example
- **Informing** - feeding the desire to change by providing the most appropriate information
- **Enabling** - providing effective and continuing support to put the change into practice.

CAT has a holistic approach to its work, integrating ideas and practice relating to land use, shelter, energy conservation and use, diet and health, waste management and recycling. Through its resident community and work organisation, CAT is also committed to the implementation of co-operative principles and best achievable environmental practices. www.cat.org.uk