

Watch a fragment from the RIBOCA2 film:
https://bit.ly/RIBOCALAB_Futures



Kultūras ministrija



AIM: To find out about RIBOCA and artist Tomás Saraceno. To strengthen the understanding of the mutual links between living and non-living things, to discuss the interconnectedness of art and natural sciences, and the opportunities this afford us.

AGE GROUP: 9th–12th grades

LESSON DURATION: 40–60 min

WHAT YOU NEED: paper and pencil, phone with internet connection

INTER-SUBJECT LINKS: biology, English, geometry

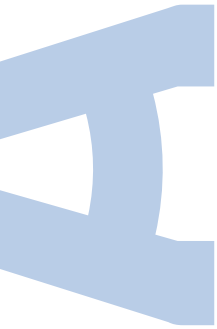
ACTIVITY PLAN

- PART 1:** Introduce students to the Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art (RIBOCA), why it was founded and why a film was made of the second biennial. Afterwards, students read the film text, watch an excerpt of the film, and read the accompanying text about the artist and the artwork shown in the excerpt.
- PART 2:** Once the students have finished reading the text, you can continue the lesson by looking for spider webs. This can be done both indoors (in the classroom) or at home, if the lesson is taking place remotely, but the best way is for students to take their worksheets outside to look for spider webs in nature. This can be done both individually and in pairs. On the worksheet (lab sheet) students sketch the web they have found and try to answer the questions on their own, before discussing the answers together (if the worksheet cannot be printed out, students can take notes and write down their answers immediately).
- PART 3:** Students discuss what signals spiders could broadcast (you can give examples of hunting, attack, mating, etc.). Students download the Arachnomancy app on their phones. This app is for free on Google Play and App Store, and has been created to help prevent the extinction of spiders by forming a map of spider webs around the world. By following the instructions on the app, students upload photos of the webs they have found and receive a fortune from the oracle. At the end of the lesson, you can ask if their view on spiders has changed at all, and talk about the impact of science on art and vice versa.

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#spiders #space #meteorology #ecosystem #vibrations #sound

TOMÁS SARACENO

Arachnomancy, the work created by Tomás Saraceno, is an invitation to attune to our entangled futures and to celebrate the interconnectedness of all things, both living and nonliving. Inspired by spider divination practices like the Nggam in Cameroon, the artist has created the Arachnomancy app that hones in on the spiders' oracular capabilities as a result of its sensory universe. With webs in tune to the astral vibrations and the ability to forecast meteorological events from storms to tsunamis, the spider is a messenger between worlds of perception. By extension, the ecosystems on our planet must be understood as webs of interactions, where each living being evolves together with the others. Although these interactions are the threads along which the complexity of life unfolds, they are only now beginning to be studied.

Tomás Saraceno's practice is elevated by the concepts linking art, life sciences and social sciences. At the junction of these worlds, his floating sculptures, community projects and interactive installations propose and explore new, sustainable ways of inhabiting and sensing the environment. In 2007 Saraceno began projects aimed towards an ethical collaboration with the atmosphere, including Museo Aero Solar. These projects grew into the international, interdisciplinary artistic community Aerocene, with whom Saraceno launched the aerosolar balloon flight Fly with Aerocene Pacha in 2020. Using only the warmth of the sun and the air we breathe, this flight achieved six certified world records for altitude, distance, and duration (in both the general and female categories). Saraceno's profound interest in spiders and their webs has led to the formation of Arachnophilia.net and the Arachnomancy App. Through these platforms Saraceno invites people from around the globe to weave the web of interspecies understanding and take part in the challenge of Mapping Against Extinction.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Tomás Saraceno:**

<https://riboca.digital/en/participants/saraceno-tom%C3%A1s>

- **Arachnomancy:**

<https://riboca.digital/en/artworks/22>

- Material from **RIBOCA Talks** that can be used for an in-depth understanding of the topic:

<https://www.rigabiennial.com/en/education/riboca-talks/event-title-boaventura-de-sousa-santos>

- **Additional questions** taken from the RIBOCA2 public programme to reflect on the topic:

- Can we imagine more liveable futures in the ruins of late capitalism?

- How do practices of attention, invention and experimentation help us develop new sensibilities?

- Can the end of a world make space for new beginnings?

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