

*MAPPING
STOFLAND,
HEX RIVER
VALLEY*

*A Climate Collective Legacy Activity,
Contributed by Erica Lüttich, South
Africa*



ABOUT

The ITAC Climate Collective is a group of Teaching Artists from all over the world who have gathered monthly online to exchange ideas, practice and advocacy opportunities in the Arts and Climate space. The group was developed after an unprecedented response to our ITAC IMPACT: Climate open call - we received more than 100 applications in just 2 weeks. It became clear that there was a hunger within our network for a platform dedicated to Arts and Climate where Teaching Artists can connect and share. The group seeks to connect and amplify the visibility and impact of Teaching Artists' powerful responses to the climate crisis.

PURPOSE

The Climate Collective fosters connectedness, visibility, and impact for Teaching Artists' contributions to the climate crisis response. That distinctive contribution is the capacity to creatively engage directly in communities, schools and institutions to change beliefs and behaviors about the climate, and to document the impact of the work.

VISION

The Climate Collective envisions a vigorous, positive global response to the climate crisis in which the skills of creative engagement are widely recognized and tapped.

MISSION

The Mission of the Climate Collective is to use international demonstration projects, model projects, an online curriculum, and an activist group of Teaching Artist leaders to advocate, educate, and activate the impact that teaching artists can bring to climate crisis response, and to leverage the effectiveness and impact of member projects into increased funding and engagement opportunities as member projects.

Each month the group alternates between Professional Development meetings with guest speakers and knowledge exchange and Climate Cafes which are primarily art making and practice sharing focused.

The Climate Collective came to an end in December 2023 and, as a legacy project, the group shared their favourite arts and climate activities. We have the pleasure of outlining the following and hope it will inspire other Teaching Artists to engage in similar work in their own communities.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Teaching Artists: Erica Lüttich

Country: De Doorns, South Africa

Climate Collective Session you were inspired by?: Raz Salvarita | 30.09.22 | Activism

Length: two hours

Participants: Women between 18 and 67 years old.

Environmental Focus: Urban Waste.

Art Forms: Textile art created by us collaborating with embroidery and applique

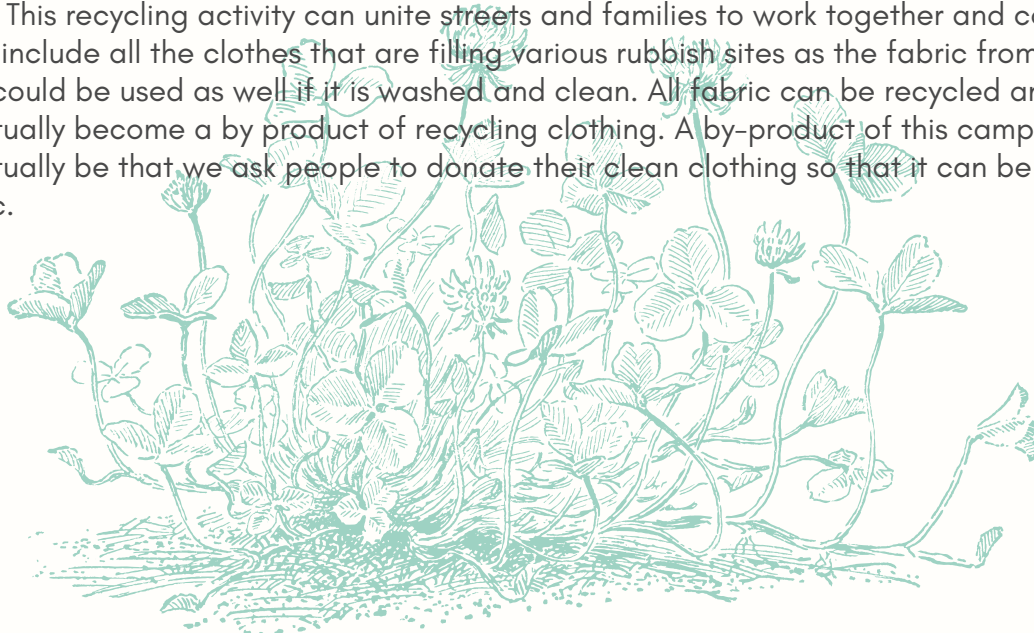
Materials Needed:

- Recycled cleaned paper bags of various products; Paper glue to ensure that the folded-over top is secure; Various cotton threads and all odds and ends can be assembled to use to add colour; Sewing machine; Sewing machine needles; Various off cuts of fabric approximately a finger thick and 12 cm in length; A piece of string to tie either the same sizes of bags together or in 3 different sizes with a tag to share our logo and contact details with.

Guiding Question(s): What is important in your living space? How does your space look like and feel like? Where is your space that feels like home?

Goals: This workshop aims to activate the following among participants:

This is one way of activating people young and old to become involved in a collective activity that can add to a purpose to clear our rubbish dumps of one item of waste, paper can be recycled. This recycling activity can unite streets and families to work together and could in fact also include all the clothes that are filling various rubbish sites as the fabric from various clothing could be used as well if it is washed and clean. All fabric can be recycled and this might actually become a by-product of recycling clothing. A by-product of this campaign might actually be that we ask people to donate their clean clothing so that it can be used for the fabric.



THE ACTIVITY

Step 1.

- Collect paperbags from local products that are used daily in the household, ie. sugar, flour, self-raising flour etc.

Step 2.

- Ensure that these are really really clean and shaken out well, especially the sugar packets, otherwise, it can become very sticky. It is important that the bags have no holes in nor are to crinkled. Smooth with your hands to ensure and check again for uneven sections.

Step 3.

- Select the products that are locally used by several households, easily collectable and can scour landfill sites or encourage the neighbours to collect these for us. This will add to building community spirit and give a wider selection of products.

Step 4.

- Look through scrap material that has not been used in your stash box and select various bright colours.

Step 5.

- Carefully fold over one centimetre from the top and then use several 12cm length fabric approximately one centimetre in width. Then carefully stitch the fabric to the paperbags. Make sure that they are evenly spaced and not longer on one side than the other side; otherwise the bags will hang funny.

Step 6.

- When we made these samples it became difficult to ensure that the folded paper at the top stayed in position, one can use a little paper glue to keep this in place. Another issue is that the needles will easily become blunt due to the continued usage, so unfortunately this is an added cost the the production line as a blunt needle will tear the paper.

Step 7.

- After completed, cut the threads off and make sure no threads are left hanging on the product.



THE ACTIVITY

Reflection

- One way to reflect is about creating a sense of pride in making a product that most people will just throw into the dustbin. On recycled bag a day is what we need to motivate everyone with. A small start could lead to bigger activations.

How will you measure impact?

- If this activity of recycling can activate the families that eventually could lead to start other recycling activities. Currently every family that is part of the HEXlappies are recycling one item of waste and if we can infect the whole neighbourhood to become part of changing their daily behaviour we could actually collaborate with many people. This is a long term goal and certainly will not happen overnight but we can be the change that will affect our lives and our futures. Every small gesture will activate new behaviours and we are very optimistic that we can change the way people think about waste and our earth, there is no planet B.

THE RESULT



ABOUT THE TEACHING ARTIST

ERICA LÜTTICH



Erica Lüttich born in 1964, Western Cape
Lüttich studied at Ruth Prowse School of Art in 1981-1983, before becoming a film editor. Since 1985, she has worked in the Johannesburg film industry and contributed to several international productions. During 1992, she enrolled at Unisa (BA Fine Arts). This led to a parallel career as Creative Facilitator-Director within the field of Arts & Craft and Social Development in Hillbrow, Soweto, Sharpeville, Diepsloot, Bitou Municipality and Northern Cape.

In 2002, she joined the Boitumelo Project, Hillbrow. Her collaborative work with Boitumelo addressed past histories, developed individual creativity and economic empowerment. In more recent years, Lüttich has worked on various Land Art projects, with artists during the GNAP Stories of Rain 2016, and local communities to tackle issues of diminishing indigenous animal and plant populations. She relocated to the Hex River Valley in 2020, and engaged with a group of women to co-create the HEXlappies based in De Doorns. In addition to her work in the above fields she continues to create art in various mediums, photography, video installations, land art sculpture, textile art and stitching.