



Bloom & Doom
made for these times

BLOOM&DOOM _ *made for these times*

In 2020 I imagined a performance for 50 children who would go along with as many adults on an urban experience, teaching them along the way some skills necessary to survive in our collapsing world. This had to be **BLOOM & DOOM [Poetic Riot]**: a middle ground between a procession, a guided tour, a party and an action of activism. An experience to inspire people to act now for a possible and more sustainable future.

But then 2020 did not happen.

Festivals and cultural institutions have been frozen. The schools, what hurts the most, have been closed. For a long time, children and young people remained at home, invisible, forgotten. Any proximity activity has become impossible. Contact has become impossible. Public space has become impassable. It is not necessary to add more, the experience is common.

BLOOM & DOOM _ *made for these times* was born from this impossibility, from the need for closeness, from the desire to enter domestic spaces, revealing an alternative to the media mainstream: an experiment that enters the homes of chosen ones, boys and girls, by the mail.

A secret direction whispered to everyone suggests exercises of attention, wonder and cooperation, to guide the chosen ones on a journey through the animal world and the plant world and, finally, to get in front of the Master, a model of adaptability, flexibility and strength in the total absence of centers of command: the tree.

The first experimentation of BLOOM & DOOM _ made for these times began in December 2020 with an elementary school in Modena, in the context of the Periferico festival.

With a first shipping I sent the boys and girls an anonymous recruiting message, a vegetable amulet and a special "self-declaration".

In Italy, during the so-called "epidemiological emergency", in some periods it was (and still is) mandatory to carry with you a self-declaration, drawn up according to the model disseminated by the government and to be shown in case of control by the police to justify the reason for the move.

In this special version, aesthetically identical to the original, using a poetic language and not one of a state of war, it is intended to encourage critical thinking and remember some of the rights forgotten during the emergency, especially the rights of the children.

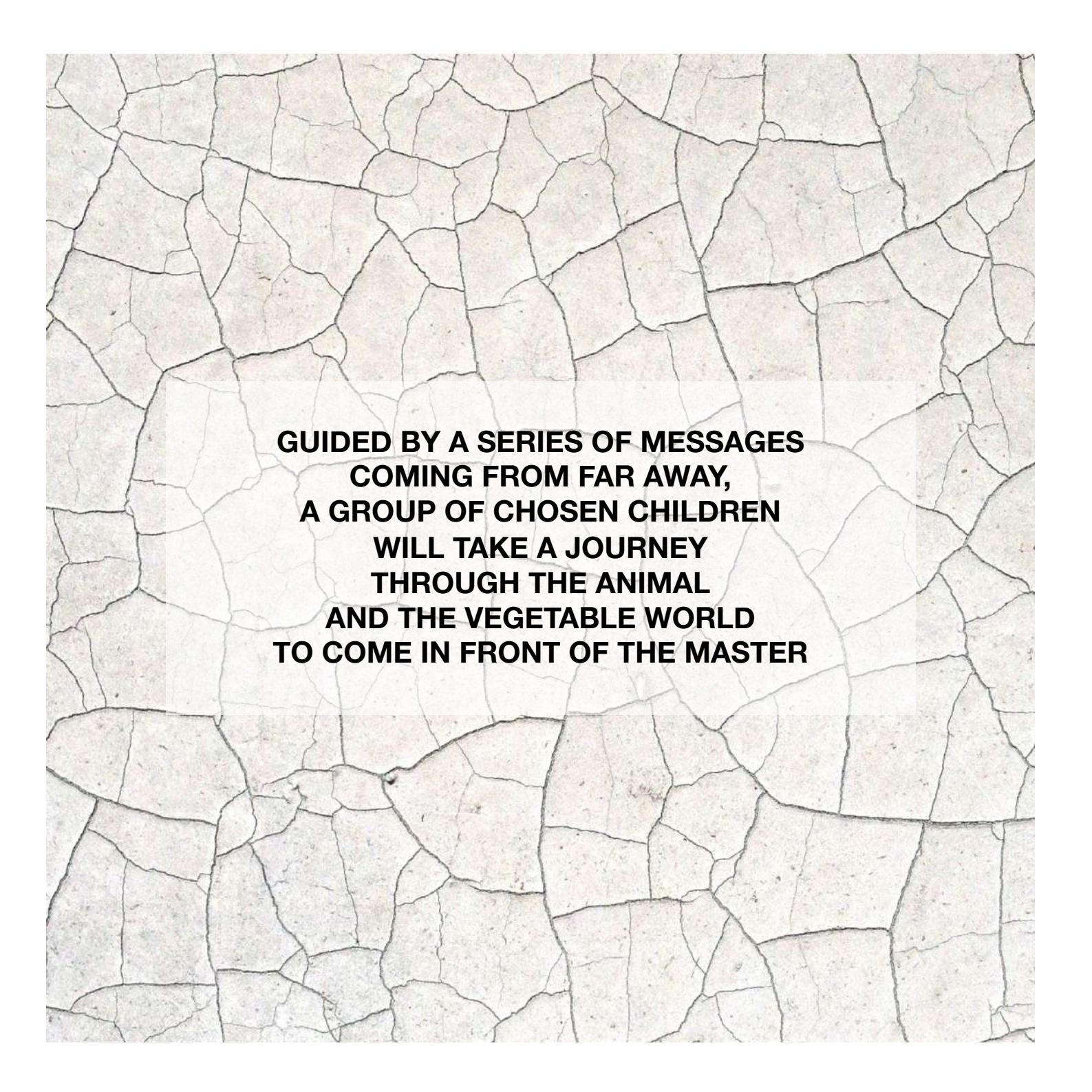
The shipments were sent directly to the homes of the boys and girls. At the same time, teachers had the task of relaunching "the mystery" through small, agreed signals.

With the second shipping, the individualities and the school finally met. Each little girl and boy received a small object; at the same time, their teachers received indications to guide paths in the classroom using these objects.

Through cooperative and playful activities, boys and girls are encouraged to discuss and reflect on the main world problems, especially on the climate crisis.

The theme of the third shipping was extinction. Each one received the image of an animal that once really existed, but it is now extinct, becoming from that moment on their totem animal. I asked them to imagine spending time together with their totem animal, to understand what characteristics they have in common. Their contributions merged into the "song for extinct animals" which will be used in the final ritual. The boys and girls were also sent suggestions to build a mask of their totem animal using natural and recycled materials. This will also come in handy in the final ritual.

With a final shipping, the fourth, each of the chosen ones received the directions for an appointment and a portion of a map, which can only be understood by joining the pieces with the other companions. In this way the girls and boys will find themselves gathered in the presence of the Master: a tree in the middle of the concrete. In that place the ritual will take place to recall to the mind and to the eyes - every now and then we must - the brotherhood with oaks, worms and stars.



**GUIDED BY A SERIES OF MESSAGES
COMING FROM FAR AWAY,
A GROUP OF CHOSEN CHILDREN
WILL TAKE A JOURNEY
THROUGH THE ANIMAL
AND THE VEGETABLE WORLD
TO COME IN FRONT OF THE MASTER**

SELF-DECLARATION

The undersigned _____,
born on _____ in _____ (_____),
resident in _____ (_____), street _____
being conscious of the criminal and administrative penalties incurred for misrepresentation
even more being conscious that we are made for these times, hereby

DECLARES UNDER ITS OWN RESPONSIBILITY

- **To be aware of the current limitations but also to know that this is an exceptional period: soon and with more force we will embrace, we will hold hands, we will caress, we will whisper in our ears**
- **To be aware of the fact that the future is in our hands but, luckily, trees do exist**

TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY, DECLARES AS WELL

- **To be learning to recognize on the fly the smile of the eyes and that it is beautiful**
- **Not to feel comfortable at the sight of armed people**
- **To recognize and honor the brotherhood with beetles and stars**
- **Today seems to be the perfect day to forgive, to be grateful, to get an idea, listen to the advice of the water flowing and of those who are no longer there**
- Space for further declarations _____

➤ **That the movement is determined by (tick one or more options):**

- reasons for research / exploration
- pure and irrepensible need to move
- unsuitable situation at home
- health reasons: vitamin D production through sun exposure
- other (specify): _____

➤ **With destination (tick an option):**

- secret
- a special person
- the beginning of the rainbow
- unknown (also to the declarant)
- other (specify): _____

Regarding the move, he/she also declares that:

Date, time and place of the control

Signature of the declarant

The Operator

This declaration does not in any way replace the official version but can accompany it. In that case it is suggested to show first this sheet and only then the official self-declaration. It is also suggested to spread this statement as much as possible, even among adults, known and unknown, by photocopying it before writing on it.

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