



## 20x20 Vision for walking in 2040 from Idit Nathan and Helen Stratford - Transcript

We are **Idit Nathan** and **Helen Stratford**, also known as ***Play anywhere now or never!*** Based in the UK we come from different disciplinary backgrounds. Idit is from theatre design and visual arts and Helen is from architecture and live art. We currently collaborate on projects that explore how different publics interact with complex ideas within challenging as well as familiar spaces in performative and playful ways. Our work shares an engagement with everyday encounters with the built environment, as well as natural landscapes. Many projects include participatory 'walkshops' - a combination of walking, playing and talking. We deploy props, cards and prompts, sometimes even an App, we have designed to offer participants opportunities to discover something new about the spaces they walk through.

We are currently working on an installation of sculptural objects for **Yorkshire Sculpture Park** // Titled '**Further Afield**,' our artwork has been developed during the last couple of years through walking and playing with visitors to YSP. The final artwork will consist of six sculptural pieces that will form a trail around the upper lake of the sculpture park, to be encountered whilst walking. Each piece will invite audiences to a different playful engagement with the park's enchanting landscape.

### Our Vision of the world of walking in 2040

Predicting the future in the midst of a second national lockdown, with the possibility of a third looming on the horizon, is bound to colour our outlook. While we are sad about the temporary, yet necessary, suspension of random encounters so prevalent in our practice, at the same time in the past few months walking and enjoying the outdoors has become much more popular. We have also noticed the emergence of a new social 'spatial etiquette,' as pedestrians now inevitably, and quite subtly, negotiate and accommodate each other in public space. However, it has also become apparent how divided British society is in terms of accessing the natural landscapes some of us take for granted and that paths dedicated to walking are not yet sufficiently integrated into urban infrastructures everywhere. We hope that learning and moving forward from this pandemic, walking will be better served in terms of the planning of urban infrastructures; finding ways to increase access to natural landscapes.