

Arachnophilia is an interdisciplinary, not-for-profit research project and network that examines spider/webs: their behaviours, ecological relationships and interspecies interdependencies. As the 2020 Covid-19 outbreak has brought into sharp relief, we urgently need research into our more-than-human entanglements - to unravel the threads of both shared precariousities and collective futures in multispecies worlds.

Arachnophilia weaves relations between scientific, philosophical and cultural images and stories that describe the synanthropic and entangled relations that have existed between spiders and humans over thousands of years, including the impact of anthropogenic activity on spiderly lives. Through this research, Arachnophilia aims to shift how people value these relations—how we notice, connect with and care for our arachnid kin. Building on the innovations arising from Saraceno's research into spider/web architectures, biomaterials, biotremology and behaviour, the broad aim of Arachnophilia is to increase visibility and change cultural perceptions of spiders and webs - within the context of the current ecological crisis, what some have named the sixth mass extinction event, in which insects and invertebrates are disappearing at an accelerated pace.

ARACHNOPHILIA

www.arachnophilia.net

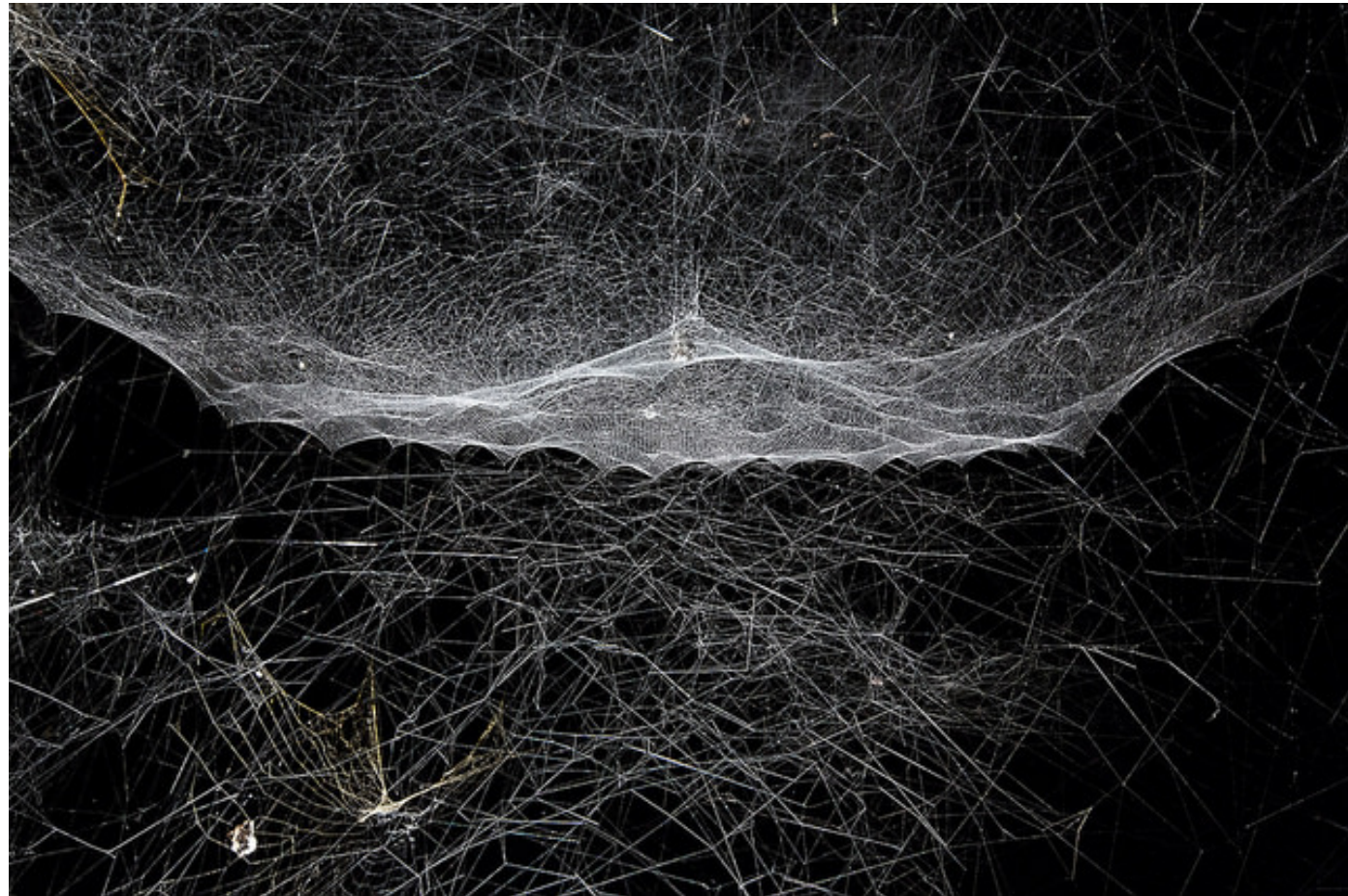
Via funds raised through spider/web art sales and research grants, Arachnophilia is building research archives to help it reach this aim, and to share something of the unique sensory Umwelten of spiders with a broader audience, reaching beyond art into multiple disciplinary fields and bodies of knowledge.

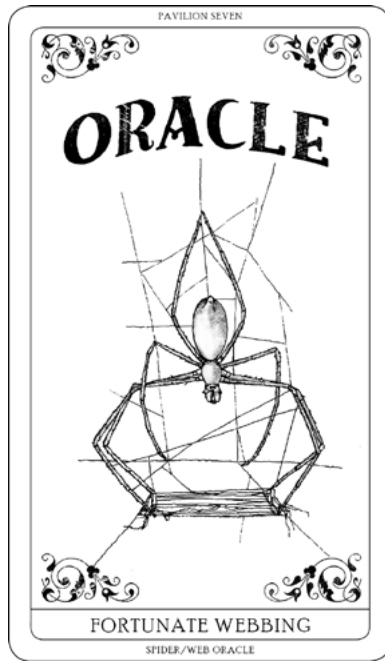
These include:

An ARCHIVE OF SPIDER/WEB TYPOLOGIES in physical, 2-D and 3-D digital formats. The digital archive is made possible via the Spider Web Scan - a unique, laser-supported tomographic method pioneered by Tomás Saraceno that allows for the generation of precise 3-D models of complex spider webs

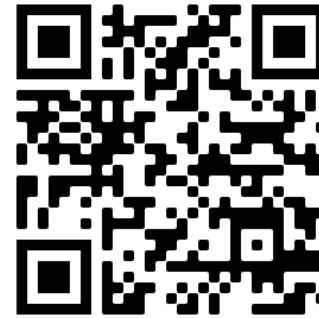
A BIOTREMOLOGICAL ARCHIVE of spider signals recorded on different web types, building upon the biotremological innovations in spider/web recording and sonification devices developed by Studio Tomás Saraceno;

A dynamic ARCHIVE OF GLOBAL SPIDER/WEB ECOLOGIES, that make visible the ways in which spider and human habitats are intertwined, in sites across the globe.





The Arachnophilia project also continues to support the development and functionality of the Arachnomancy App: a mobile field tool for charting spider/web ecologies globally, contributing critical research data on spider/web population diversity in a collective exercise of 'mapping against extinction'. Each image of a spider/web submitted by users through this app is classified according to species and web type by an Arachnophilia team member, in-studio. The Arachnomancy App is also a technical provocation to rethink analogue modes of interaction with the nonhuman world, encouraging users to cultivate "arts of noticing" their arachnid kin. To build, populate and maintain these archives - including through active research collaborations with external scientists - Arachnophilia employs a dedicated team of research staff with knowledge and experience across the fields of biotremology, arachnology, science and technology studies and the environmental humanities.



By sharing the content of these archives, as well as the tools with which to collaboratively build and enrich them, Arachnophliia aims to empower a broader audience to contribute to an understanding of our relationships with our arachnid kin, and therefore, we hope, to have a renewed perspective on our responsibilities toward the nonhuman creatures with whom we share our environments.

Not-for-profit outreach and advocacy work undertaken by Arachnophilia has included educational workshops in Paris (Palais de Tokyo, 2018) and Madrid (Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum, 2019), as well as instructional site visits by schools students - resulting in, for instance, a KinderKünsteZentrum art exhibition in Berlin in February 2020, generously sponsored by Arachnophilia. This research project has also donated spider/web artworks to public museums such as the Senckenberg Natural History Museum in Frankfurt am Main, as a way of fostering affective relations between humans and spiders