Look again at the creatures living around us – before they Disappear from the surface of the earth. The spider's web contains instruments, compasses and oracles, They pick up vibrations we simply cannot perceive.

Fragment from the RIBOCA2 film: https://bit.ly/RIBOCALAB\_Futures

Rīga International Biennial of Contemporary Art



## FUTURES

OBJECT: Tomás Saraceno's work *Arachnomancy* is an invitation to get in touch with our intertwined futures and consider the links between all living and non-living things. Inspired by fortune-telling methods using spiders, the artist created an app called *Arachnomancy*, which calls our attention to spiders' skills of perceptions which come from the sensory world. With webs which are attuned to astral vibrations and the ability to predict meteorological events such as hurricanes and tsunamis, the spider is the messenger between the worlds of perception.

CONTEXT: Zooming out, the ecosystems on our planet can be seen as webs of coexistence, where each living thing develops alongside others. Although this coexistence is composed of threads in which we see the complexity of life, they are only now just starting to be researched.

TASK: Find a spider's web nearby. If you are indoors, try and find one in your classroom or at home, but if you can, go outside and look in nature. Once you have done this, look at it carefully. What does this web look like? What lines and geometric shapes is it made of? If you have time, try sketching it. Write down what feelings spiders make you experience. If you are indoors, try and imagine how the spider got in, and based on what you already know, think about what it eats. Why are people afraid of spiders? What is your relationship with spiders and other living creatures? How do you coexist? Try and write down your answers to these questions right now. Afterwards, share your thoughts with your classmates.

Artist Tomás Saraceno does a lot of research on spiders and the webs they create. Using very sensitive microphones, he records the tiny vibrations spiders cause when they move around their webs. The spider's web therefore becomes a musical instrument, where each trail becomes a string. The way a spider moves along a string gives various **signals**. What do you think these signals could be? Based on a web structure, Tomás creates enormous musical instruments using strings. He believes that the planet and everything around us has its own frequency. This work becomes research for exploring both spiders and cosmic vibrations.

Tomás Saraceno made an app called **Arachnomancy**. Download it to your phone, photograph the spider's web you have found, and upload it to the app. The app works as an oracle, using your web to predict the future.

In this work, how does art influence **science**? Have you noticed how artists base their works in science or vice versa?