



Fermynwoods Contemporary Art
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PRESS RELEASE

THE ARCHES & THE ARCHIVE OF THE TREES

Fermynwoods Contemporary Art is expanding their programme to Fineshade Wood



The Arches

Fineshade Wood, Nr Corby, Northants, NN17 3BB

Launch Celebration

Friday 14 September 2018

5-7pm

Celebrating Fermynwoods Contemporary Art's 20th anniversary and the Forestry Commission's 100th, Fermynwoods Contemporary Art is expanding their programme to Fineshade Wood, a natural habitat and ancient mixed broadleaf and conifer woodland, heritage site and leisure facility in Northamptonshire, 13 miles outside of Corby.

The Arches, a Fineshade Wood space renovated by the Forestry Commission, will serve as a project space and artist studio for *The Forest Is the Museum*, Fermynwoods Contemporary Art's programme of artists in residence and associated activity, taking place between 2018 and 2020.

Coinciding with *The Arches* launch, *The Archive of the Trees* is the culmination of the first residency with Edwina FitzPatrick, investigating the forest as a living archive that traces human activity in relation to the landscape.

The Archive of the Trees consists of Archive Tree Banners installed in *The Arches*, a number of Wrapped Tree artworks installed throughout the wood itself, plus an artist's website:

www.archiveofthetrees.co.uk.

In early 2018, Edwina fitzPatrick asked Fineshade Wood visitors, residents and Forestry Commission workers if weather and climate change should be addressed culturally or scientifically. In response to their unanimous answer of “both”, *The Archive of the Trees* combines scientific data with cultural anecdotal information, taking a local approach to a complex global phenomenon.

At the heart of the project are cores collected from mature trees in Fineshade Wood by Swansea University’s UK Oak Project. Collecting these cores – the tree's own individual archive – does not harm the tree and reveals the tree’s age, growing patterns, past weather conditions, stresses such as diseases, as well as its individual reaction to diverse and changing weather conditions dating back several decades. Each artwork features a tree core image, as well as a timeline and excerpts from 60 conversations with diverse people who care about Fineshade Wood. The artworks span topics that affect both trees and humans in similar ways - such as pollution, seasonality, adapting to new environments or healing from wounds - as well as some very human preoccupations.

The Archive of the Trees launches with the opening of *The Arches*, with work available to view until December 2018.

Editors Notes

Edwina fitzPatrick is a UK-based artist whose work explores the living environment, especially in regard to mutability and change. Her practice focuses on how humans have and are affecting the nature, culture and ecology of a place. They also reflect upon how these delicate local balances relate to complex global issues such as climate change or marine pollution.

Fermynwoods Contemporary Art is an educational charity that commissions innovative and meaningful ways for artists to engage with audiences, in public spaces across Northamptonshire and online

The Forest Is the Museum is funded by Arts Council England, the Forestry Commission, and the Foyle Foundation.

For more information please contact James Steventon, Director, on 01832 731257 or via james@fermynwoods.org