



Fermynwoods Contemporary Art
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PRESS RELEASE

PLEASURE GARDEN AT DEENE PARK

Deene Park

Corby

Northants

NN17 3EW

2 May 2021 – 29 September 2021

Deene Park open times and admission prices apply (from £3)

Fermynwoods Contemporary Art presents *Pleasure Garden*, an exhibition curated by Amy Lay Pettifer in the gardens of Deene Park. In considering how we gather and extract from nature for our own pleasure – to fantasise, decorate, bask and escape – the exhibition pays close attention to the landscape's own amorous agency; an equal and opposite will that meets ours from the other direction.

Through a series of installations within the gardens, artists Dyveke Bredsdorff, Bethan Lloyd Worthington and Leyla Pillai investigate the melting point between bodies and elements – a specific chemistry that gives rise to new landscapes, textures and strategies for survival. Emerging from the heat of summer sun, from manicured lawns and from the strata of deep, excavated time, these works join the familiar elements of the natural world in a thorny, generative romance.

Brudenell Estates comprises of approximately 10,000 acres of land divided between Northamptonshire, known as Deene Park, and Leicestershire's Welland Valley. The Brudenell family have carefully stewarded the House, Parkland and rural estates for over 500 years. Deene Park is a ring-fenced estate, bisected by the A43 road linking Corby to Stamford. The estate is centred on Deene Park with its Tudor Hall and designed landscape, gardens and parkland.

Editors Notes

Fermynwoods Contemporary Art is an educational charity that supports life through art by commissioning innovative and meaningful ways for artists to engage with audiences, in public spaces across Northamptonshire and online.

Pleasure Garden is a part of *In Steps of Sundew*, Fermynwoods' current two-year programme of artistic interventions retracing the movement of people and resources from the landscape, posing questions about the relationship between the natural and the industrial and how these might coexist whilst avoiding climate breakdown.

Dyveke Bredsdorff is a Danish artist based between London and Copenhagen who works within various media such as text, sound, performance, photography, 16mm film, and sculpture. Her practice explores the relationship between emotion and public expression specifically invested in reframing contemporary lesbian feminism and identity investigating visibility, representation, and lesbian feelings and desires.

Bethan Lloyd Worthington lives and works in London. Her study includes the excavation of Gully Cave, Somerset and practices of climate reconstruction.

Leyla Pillai is an artist, writer and researcher, currently producing and presenting *Who's That Girl?*, a radio-art show spanning seven years in residence on NTS radio. Based between the city and the sea, her work explores unfolding spaces, suspending in freeflow ritual between sound and body, and tracing the edges of the surReal as it in-spires.

Amy Lay-Pettifer is a writer and curator. Her practice encompasses collaborative, site specific and non-book writing projects, which focus on voices, bodies, objects and how words become rituals that connect these things across time. She is co-curator of the listening project SHELL LIKE and her work has been shown/published by Information As Material, Orlando, Montez Press Radio, Tate, Victoria & Albert Museum, Towner Gallery and Liverpool Biennial.

Fermynwoods Contemporary Art was named Best Contemporary Art Gallery in Northamptonshire in the 2020 Midlands Enterprise Awards and Art Charity of the Year for Central England in the Central England Prestige Awards.