

PRESS RELEASE

THE FOREST IS THE MUSEUM - ABIGAIL LANE & LALA MEREDITH-VULA

The culmination of Abigail Lane and Lala Meredith-Vula's residency at Fineshade Wood recontextualises lost property collected in the forest, the artists working with Forestry England to reflect the human presence within these woods as well as our ongoing relationship with nature and managed natural spaces.



Exhibition

30 November 2019 – 30 March 2020

10am – 4pm daily

The Arches

Top Lodge, Fineshade Wood

Nr Corby, Northants

NN17 3BB



Artist Talk

**with Yasmin Canvin, Lala Meredith-Vula
and Richard Wentworth**

Saturday 25 January 2020, 2pm

Our possessions follow us and the process of losing, finding, and handing belongings into a lost property point is familiar worldwide. Each of the ninety items which now comprise The Forest is the Museum collection were considered important enough to carry into the forest by someone and, once lost, identified by a passerby as something worth an attempt to reunite with its owner. Most items have little monetary value, but tagging and cataloguing the collection re-empowers these objects, imbuing each with new value and significance.

Notably, many of the objects are plastic, a material which survives long past our individual human lifespan and arguably beyond that of many of our natural spaces.

The installation and accompanying photographs project our current existence into the future, treating the everyday artefacts of our recreation as future archaeological specimens or articles of evidence.

This exhibition features the beginnings of a new body of work in collaboration with Loughborough University's Studio of Light, with artefacts from the collection forensically photographed and presented as incredibly detailed platinum prints, a highly specialised photographic and reprographic process that dates back to the 19th century.

Editors Notes

Abigail Lane's work addresses the idea of the museum; our need to make sense through histories, stories and memories, albeit with the often arbitrary source material from which things have to be pieced together. Abigail is interested in the way we create order, and also how confusions result in a museum context, the failure to be sure or complete.

Lala Meredith-Vula, Professor of Art and Photography at De Monfort University is an English and Albanian Kosovan artist whose work focuses on themes of migration, diaspora, identity and belonging.

The Forest is the Museum is Fermynwoods Contemporary Art's programme of artists in residence at Fineshade Wood, taking place between 2018 and 2020, situating itself in the surrounding environment as well as The Arches, a project space and artist studio renovated by the Forestry Commission to celebrate their 100th anniversary and Fermynwoods Contemporary Art's 20th. The four Forest is the Museum residencies were Edwina FitzPatrick, Justin Carter, Owl Project and Abigail Lane & Lala Meredith-Vula.

The Forest is the Museum is funded by Arts Council England and The Foyle Foundation, with generous support from Loughborough University and De Monfort University.

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.

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