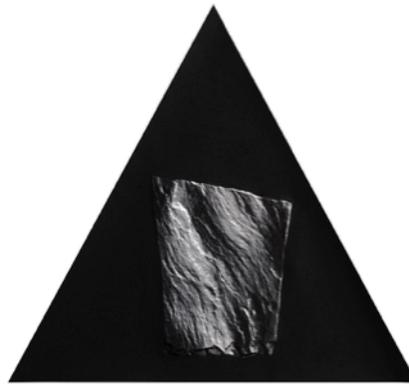


PRESS RELEASE

JULY 2020

IN STEPS OF SUNDEW EXHIBITION

Ikran Abdille, Tom Baskeyfield, Sarah Gillett, Ellie Harrison, Liz Lake, Onya McCausland



The Arches, Fineshade Wood, Nr Corby, Northants, NN17 3BB.

Open 10am - 4pm

25 & 26 July, 1 & 2 August, then daily from 3 August.

Fermynwoods Contemporary Art's gallery space at The Arches at Fineshade Wood is reopening after lockdown with a brand new exhibition of beautiful artwork by six artists, exploring the push and pull between nature and human presence and the effect that extracting resources from the landscape has upon those living within it.

The *In Steps of Sundew* exhibition takes its name from Sundew, once the largest walking dragline excavator in the world, used in mining operations in Rutland and Northamptonshire between 1957 and 1980. Sundews are also species of carnivorous plants, which digest insects through the glands on their leaves in order to supplement the poor mineral nutrition of the soil in which they grow.

In Steps of Sundew retraces 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.

The exhibition is endorsed by Visit England's *We're Good To Go* Industry Standard consumer mark to reassure visitors that the space is adhering to current and ongoing Government and public health guidance. A one-way

system with a hand sanitising station and social distancing signposts is in operation. Advance booking is not necessary and visitor numbers will be monitored electronically.

Also open on site is Grounds Cafe and the Fineshade woodland trails.

Editors Notes

Ikran Abdille's film *Kenya* overlays textures and thoughts to question and invite ideas around home and the migrant experience, alongside the colours and layers of the African landscape.

Tom Baskeyfield offers a portrait of stone and its relationship with human activity - the creation of human habitat from what the earth has to offer. In this time of globalisation and deep ecological imbalance, it asks us to slow down and pay attention to what is under our feet and in the walls that line our streets, asking where did this come from and how did it get here?

Starting from her collection of fossils, gothic oddities, Victorian ornaments and old dictionaries, Sarah Gillett's reworked vintage postcard collection brings art, science, landscape and language together to build fables across space and time, exploring histories of belief, ritual and storytelling in order to question our place in the universe today.

Ellie Harrison's *Early Warning Sign* uses familiar marketing techniques, but as tools to remind us of the consequences of our consumption rather than as tools to sell us more.

Liz Lake's *A River Once Ran Through My Veins* features flotsam and jetsam sourced from sites along the Thames Estuary, cast into concrete and sliced to reveal an imaginary but possible future geology with strata of landfill, concrete, aggregate and ash.

Onya McCausland's Tan-y-Garn watercolour paintings investigate the origins of mine water ochre pigments found in landscapes near Ammanford, South Wales, considering their significance as contemporary cultural materials.

The exhibition funded by Arts Council England and supported by Forestry England.

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.

For more information please contact James Steventon, Director, on 01832 731257 or via

james@fermynwoods.org