



Fermynwoods Contemporary Art
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PRESS RELEASE

WHERE TO STAND IN THE WIND

East Carlton Country Park

Church Lane

East Carlton

Market Harborough

LE16 8YF

31 July – 3 October 2021

10am – 4:30pm daily

Fermynwoods Contemporary Art presents *Where to Stand in the Wind*, an exhibition of art made in collaboration with nature and curated by Yasmin Canvin, installed in the vacant craft workshops in East Carlton Country Park's Old Coach House building.

When working with and not against the elements, artists surrender a portion of creative control to living, organic or unobserved forces within their environment. This results in work that contains a poetic beauty, even when the natural forces are destructive.

Humanity is currently experiencing destructive natural forces in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increasingly dramatic effect of climate change. The title of this exhibition takes its inspiration from a rhetorical question raised by Chris Watson when discussing the challenges of documenting live sound. The wind is present and undeniable but it is our actions that determine the final outcome.

This exhibition features work by an international array of artists including Marion Coutts (UK), Simon Faithfull (UK/Germany), Regan Gentry (New Zealand), Inger Lise Hansen (Norway), Jess MacNeil (UK/Australia), SUPERFLEX (Denmark) and Bill Viola (USA).

The exhibits include photography and film, plus Bill Viola's *The Night Journey* - one of the first experimental art games ever made, which uses both game and video techniques to tell the universal story of an individual's journey.

Extracts from Jess MacNeils's *Opera House Steps* are also included as an online counterpart to the exhibition at fermywood.org/jess-macneil-opera-house-steps. *Opera House Steps* removes the figures of walking people, leaving only their shadows and sounds. Meant as “a timeless observation of inhuman phenomenon” at the time, this particular work was included online for audiences not able to visit in person as a reflection of the eerie, palpable absence of crowds during recent lockdowns.

Editors Notes

Funded by Arts Council England, The Compton Fund and supported by North Northamptonshire Council (formally Corby Borough Council), *Where to Stand in the Wind* is the final exhibition of *In Steps of Sundew*, Fermywood Contemporary Art's two-year programme of artistic interventions in public spaces, which 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. Other exhibitions in the series are at Deene Park, Rockingham Castle and Fineshade Wood.

Bill Viola is one of the most emotionally evocative and internationally sought after contemporary artists working today. His last major show in Britain was at the Royal Academy in London, where his powerful installations were shown along rare drawings by Michelangelo. *The Night Journey* was one of the first experimental art games ever made and has been exhibited at high profile locations around the world. Thanks to Northamptonshire Community Foundation, Fermywood Contemporary Art have brought the work to communities accessing East Carlton Country Park by bequeathing a custom made arcade machine to the park that features *The Night Journey*, which will also host future artist made computer games.

Featured artist Simon Faithfull discusses his influences and his work in the exhibition with curator Yasmin Canvin in the Fermywood Podcast, available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and at: fermywood.org/fermywood-podcast-13-simon-faithfull

Fermywood 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.

Fermywood 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.

More information at: fermywood.org/where-to-stand-in-the-wind-at-east-carlton-countryside-park