



Fermynwoods Contemporary Art
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PRESS RELEASE

TREEWILDER

Barnwell Country Park, Barnwell Road, Oundle, Northants, PE8 5PB

5th November 2022 - 28th February 2023

Free Entry

Treewilder is an exhibition of site-responsive interventions, sculptures and video work set in Barnwell Country Park aiming to encourage visitors to explore the woodland space throughout autumn and winter. Guest curated by Angela Kingston, the exhibition features work by Denise de Cordova, Delaine Le Bas, Kim L Pace, Jennet Thomas, Danny Treacy, and Johannes Zits.

Suggestive of both the words 'bewilder' and 'rewilding', *Treewilder* invites audiences to take a step into the woods and the world of contemporary art, addressing our current theme of *Xylophobia* (or fear of the woods) head on. As guest curator Angela Kingston suggests, "Feel the fear and do it anyway", perhaps discovering what might be called 'xylophilia', or an attraction to nature, along the way.

The exhibition will feature sculptures by Denise de Cordova, based on her time spent alone in the deep woods and forest spaces of British Columbia. Look out for Kim L Pace's hybrid personages suggesting plant, animal or mineral combined with human characteristics, occupying trees in the park. Video work by Delaine Le Bas looks at the places where memories live within Britain's Romani Gypsy culture, and Jennet Thomas pairs the terrifying rate that bat habitats are being destroyed with the potent image of the bat super-charged by the origin story of Covid-19. Danny

Treacy presents new work made during the park annual burning, from social rituals and signs of affection and devotion left in the park.

Preceding the exhibition Johannes Zits will be artist in residence at Barnwell Country Park, working with local people to develop a guided experience through and with selected trees. This will culminate in a performance on October 9th connecting both the human and nonhuman in a lament for nature. Documentation of the performance will be included in the exhibition.

Editors Notes

Funded by Arts Council England as part of *Xylophobia*, Fermynwoods Contemporary Art's two-year programme from 2022-2024. Named from the fear of wooden objects or forests, *Xylophobia* addresses issues of place and belonging, which go to the heart of community feelings of exclusion from both the art world and woodland space. With Special thanks to Barnwell Country Park Rangers and volunteers, the Active Parks Project and North Northants Council.

Angela Kingston is a curator and writer whose previous group exhibitions include *3am*, *The First Humans*, *Is this planet earth?* and *Underwater*, which took place at the Bluecoat (Liverpool), Chapter (Cardiff), The New Art Gallery (Walsall), Towner (Eastbourne), and many other galleries throughout the UK. She is interested in fantasy literature, the natural sciences and the sub-conscious.

Based in Toronto, Canada, Johannes Zits' multi-disciplinary practice focuses on the many meanings engendered by a body, both human and non-human; extending the notion of the performer to include nature itself.

Parking charges contribute towards upkeep of the park. Beginning at £3.20 for up to 4 hours. Annual parking permits available. Blue badge holder parking areas situated near accessible toilets.

More information at: <https://fermywoods.org/treewilder>