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PRESS RELEASE

XYLOPHOBIA: ONLINE

Available at:

www.fermynwoods.org/xylophobia-online

22 April 2023 – 22 April 2024

Northamptonshire, UK – Fermynwoods Contemporary Art is pleased to announce the launch of *Xylophobia: Online* - a new international exhibition of digitally based work which takes its name from the fear of wooden objects, forests, or wooded areas.

Responding to the increased needs and fears of outdoor activities in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the featured work presents explorative, experimental and conceptual spaces, whilst inquisitive and mindful of the environmental impact of creating and presenting artworks using digital technology.

Imagined and digitised forests, physical wooden objects and speculative graphics processing units, forest inspired audio mixes and digitally fermented film-based work. Visitors are invited to engage with the works and consider their own relationship with the environment, both physically and virtually.

All commissioned work by artists Ama Dogbe and David John Scarborough, Spencer Graham, Zhengyang and Zhengzhou Huang, Felix Loftus and Greg Orrom Swan used The Networked Condition carbon calculator tool to help plan, shape and evaluate the work, with the footprint of each published alongside the work.

James Steventon, Director of Fermynwoods, commented, “We're delighted by the creativity of the commissioned work which teases at the intersections of our needs and fears of the forest and the real and virtual worlds. Getting lost in the woods can be an exhilarating but daunting experience. We invite audiences to explore the exhibition with the same courageousness that the artists have.”

The exhibition is free and open to the public, and can be accessed from anywhere in the world. For more information about the exhibition and to view the works, please visit www.fermywoods.org/xylophobia-online.

Please note that as part of his response to the exhibition theme, artist Greg Orrom Swan's film is available daily between the sunrise and sunset times in Fermyn Woods, UK.

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.

This exhibition is funded by Arts Council England as part of Fermynwoods Contemporary Art's *Xylophobia* programme, featuring artistic activity across Northamptonshire and online from 2022-2024.

Artists were selected from a global call out by the Fermynwoods team, plus Ruth Catlow – artist, researcher, curator and co-founder of Furtherfield – London's longest-running (de)centre for art and tech, who develop global, contributory projects that facilitate art activity simultaneously on the Internet, the streets and public venues.

The Networked Condition is an ongoing exploration of the often hidden environmental impact of the creation and delivery of artworks using digital technology. This research led project is a collaboration between Fast Familiar, Abandon Normal Devices and Arts Catalyst, and part of Julie's Bicycle Accelerator Programme: <https://thenetworkedcondition.com/>.