



Fermynwoods Contemporary Art  
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## PRESS RELEASE

### WAYS OF KNOWING

**Brixworth Country Park, Northampton Road, Brixworth, Northampton, NN6 9DG**

**19th August – 31st October 2023**

**Free Entry**

*Ways of knowing* is an international exhibition by Fermynwoods Contemporary Art at Brixworth Country Park, making connections between the environment and our physical bodies. Guest curated by Yasmin Canvin, the exhibition features work by 14 artists from across seven countries, including Yukio Fujimoto (Japan), Heywood & Condie (UK), Krzysztof Maniak (Poland), Poppy Nash (UK), Alyson Shotz (USA), and Sarah Taylor Silverwood (UK).

The exhibition also features *Counterpoint*, a playlist of sound work by Professor Chill (UK), Atilio Doreste (Canary Islands), Daniel Garcia (UK), Yagi Lyota (Japan), Matti Palonen (Canada), Russick Smith (USA), Tosca Teran (Canada), and Zimoun (Switzerland).

In contrast to the urban environment, with its hard surfaces, predetermined routes and clear boundaries, the rural environment consists of indistinct pathways, ambiguously defined and often shifting boundaries. The many differences, together with insufficient opportunities to acclimatise ourselves with the natural world, can lead to feeling vulnerable or exposed when we encounter woodlands or large open spaces. To feel familiar or comfortable there, we need to gain tacit knowledge.

Unlike factual and data driven information, tacit knowledge is subjective, informal, and internalised, such as how we learn to ride a bike or speak another language. Tacit

knowledge is gained through our personal lived experience and informed by our context. Sensory experience generates insights and understanding that is unique to the individual involved. Experiencing art in the natural environment can focus attention on individual senses, which in turn affects our perception of the natural world.

The artists in this exhibition employ sound, human-made and natural materials to create physical and intellectual spaces that explore how and where we as individuals fit in the natural world, making connections between the environment and our physical bodies. As a result, these alternative spaces – literally or within our imagination – make the world feel a little less alien.

The sound works for *Counterpoint* have been created by artists and musicians engaging with and amplifying natural forces and elements. Headphones have been installed to create a listening circle, inviting visitors to focus on a single sense, and imagine the physical presence of the sonic landscape as its individual components are revealed through the aural textures of plants, wind, water and wood.

### 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 Brixworth Country Park Rangers and volunteers, Friends of Brampton Valley Way & Brixworth Country Park, West Northants Council, Nico Kos Earle, and The West Collection.

Car parking starts from just £2 for 1 hour, increasing incrementally by £1 per hour. Annual parking permits available. Blue badge holder parking is free of charge in designated spaces when blue badges displayed. No charge for 2 wheeled vehicles. Accessible vehicles available for hire for £2.50 per hour, subject to availability. Pre-booking is advised. WCs are open from 7am until 7pm, with accessible and changing facilities available. Car park gate open from 9am until 7pm.

More information at: [www.fermywoods.org/ways-of-knowing](http://www.fermywoods.org/ways-of-knowing)