



NATURALCULTURAL NIGHTS | BWG GALLERY

Naturalcultural Nights is an event and exhibition series showcasing the best of rising contemporary artistic talent, taking place within the home of visionary Curator Jack Trodd.

Since the emergence of human art and culture some forty to fifty thousand years ago, people have surrounded themselves with visual art in its various forms. Far from being merely decoration, making and living with art continues to define our evolutionary existence as a species. As environmental uncertainty reaches its zenith in the current Anthropocene epoch, art is once again being called on to evolve our ways of perceiving and thinking. New ecologist Donna J. Haraway has conceived this shift in terms of our awareness of a 'naturalcultural' life in a Chthulucene epoch, where the absolute distinction between 'Nature' and 'Culture' that has existed since antiquity will be overcome.¹ Cultural assimilation of new scientific knowledge regarding climate change has, however, continued to lag behind the comparative urgency of the issue. Over the last few years, theorists have increasingly acknowledged the benefits of integrating art into sustainability research, indicating both a paradigm shift in artistic, scientific and philosophical methodologies, and the need for transdisciplinary collaboration.²

Naturalcultural Nights invokes the capacity of art to disclose our current ecological situation both directly and indirectly. An appeal to the senses and the imagination is equally a call to action: whether we are struck by a spell-binding narrative, or an 'aesthetic emotion'³ evoked by abstraction, artists continue to disseminate information using a visual-tactile ('haptic') language that affects us on a visceral level. During a time when we may feel uncertain about the present and the future, art can be intrinsically restorative, invigorating, and above all, life-affirming.

Realised within an intimate domestic setting, *Naturalcultural Nights* will stimulate lively discussion and discourse, with selected artists demonstrating the profound merger of 'Nature' and 'Culture' within their 'naturalcultural' practices. Evolving within 'Nature', humankind and its 'Cultures' are interwoven in dynamically fluctuating states of 'naturalcultural' hybridity. An increasing realisation of the present and future possibilities of our 'naturalcultural' hybridity is one of the most important causes of the apocalyptic changes of state which are currently taking place inside and outside ourselves.

Anna Moss - Art Historian | Writer | Curator
Edited by Stephen Baycroft - Writer | Philosopher

¹ Donna J. Haraway, *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene* (Duke University Press: 2016)

² Harald Heinrichs, 'Artful and Sensory Sustainability Science: Exploring Novel Methodological Perspectives' *Revista de Gestão Ambiental e Sustentabilidade*, vol. 8, no. 3, pp. 431-442, 2019

³ Clive Bell, *Art*, (1914)