

# Across the Landscape

*" Science and art, matter and spirit, Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science - can they be goldenrod and asters for each other? When I am in their presence, their beauty asks me for reciprocity, to be the complementary colour, to make something beautiful in response" (Kimmerer, 2020)*

**Across the Landscapes** is a collaborative exhibition between Ramsgate based artist Melanie King and South African Glasgow based artist Jess Holdengarde. The show is a collection of natural based explorations that have culminated from the two artists sharing, exploring and building upon their existing sustainable practices with one another.

Through conversation, knowledge exchange and collaborative practice, Jess and Melanie's work has weaved together - across landscapes and boundaries- new and undeveloped plant-based recipes for analogue processing, printing & toning. Coming together, through the landscapes of Scotland, England and the Outer Hebrides, Melanie and Jess present a series of new and existing work.

Jess is exhibiting some of her in-process works from her current project, **The Natural Process**. This is a newly funded research and development project which explores the ethics of foraging, growing & harvesting local plant matter to brew, develop & test a collection of new & refined plant-based chemistry for analogue developers. The project has a specific focus on developing plant-based recipes from local landscapes & local plant matter available within Scotland. Jess's sustainable silver gelatin prints on display are some of the examples of the new recipes that have been produced as part of this project. For the first time, she is also presenting some of her deeper explorations into natural- based processes:

*"Through working with local plants, I have drawn from personal healing methodologies including my own Reiki training, herbalism and somatic practices in the effort to open an effective embodied understanding of the more-than-human subjects of my work. From this, I have been drawn to the medicinal properties and folkloric traditions of the plants I have been foraging, photographing and developing with. In an attempt to have a more embodied practice, I have started working with plants at a more cellular and vibrational level. This has opened up exciting avenues with sound which can be heard in the collaborative work titled "Polymossphony." The 35minute soundscape was produced through touch, singing, field recordings and the electro activity of moss which was amplified with a modular synthesizer. My hope with this body of work is to develop a more reciprocal and collaborative relationship to the plants I'm photographing & developing. I aim to provide my audience with the glimmers of what we have left in our current epoch so that we can consider the future"*

Melanie will exhibit several artworks and projects produced in a range of landscapes, responding to the environment using sustainable photography processes. These projects include **Acquaintance** and **Submerged Landscapes**.

Melanie's project **Acquaintance** explores the creative possibilities of botanical cyanotype toning and sustainable photographic processes. This exploration considers how location-specific sustainable photographic processes can produce bodies of work that are materially connected to the landscape. This project was centered on the Peak District and surrounding areas, close to where Melanie grew up. This enquiry allowed Melanie to become reacquainted with the landscape, through the lens of photography and through the material engagement with plants identified in the environments she visited.

Melanie's research includes her project, **Submerged Landscapes**. According to the Climate Central app, developed by Climate Scientists, Thanet, UK is likely to become an island again within the next decade. This is an ongoing project where Melanie documented the affected areas before they are submerged, using the materiality of the sea within the production of the work. Within these images, Melanie has used film developers made from bladderwrack seaweed, sea spinach to make anthotypes and salt water from the sea to "fix" lumen prints.

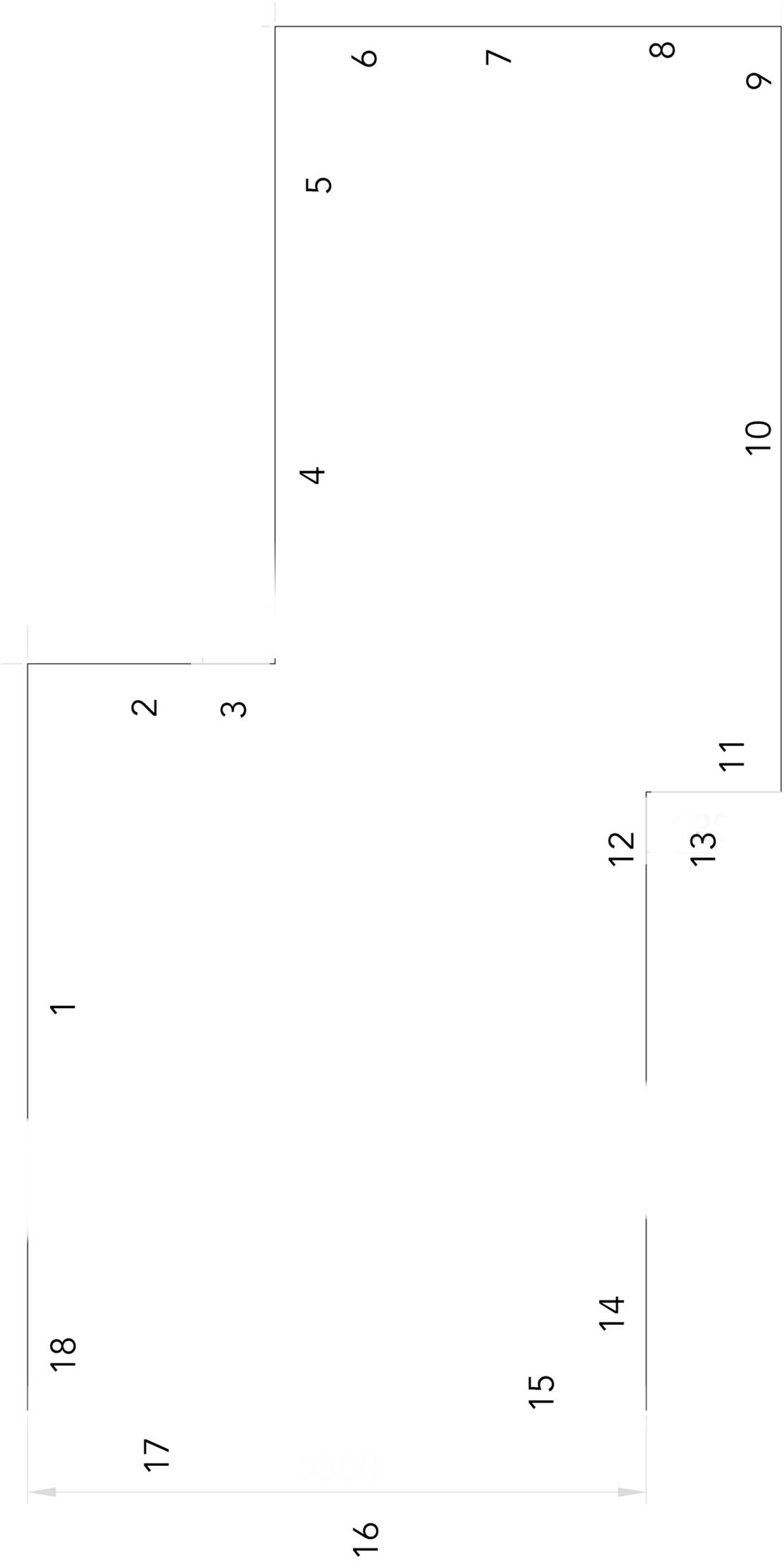
The exhibition, through the display of recipes, conversational mediums, analogue prints, moving image and sound demonstrates how it is possible to produce works that are intrinsically and materially connected to the landscape and to one another's processes. Through conversations, sustainable processes, methodologies and queer lenses of thought, Melanie and Jess give us an insight into the more-than-human experience. We see this show as a lens of intertwined, connected and sustainable methods of working as artists in an era of ecological ruin. We hope it encourages the ongoing dialogue around the future of analogue practices in the UK and more broadly.

**Jess Holdengarde** (b.1991) is a South African artist based in Glasgow, who works predominantly in photography, film and auto fictional narrative. Jess's current practice investigates the entangled relationship of precarity and temporality with the natural environment. Through the consideration of her subject and the materials she uses, Jess considers the role of a lens-based practitioner in an ecological crisis. Her process creates a counter narrative to the natural world being separate and opposed to humans whilst challenging binary knowledge systems that reject the very reality of our intertwined existence.  
[www.jessholdengarde.com](http://www.jessholdengarde.com)

**Melanie King** (b.1988) is a working class artist and curator, originally from Manchester, UK. Melanie is now based in Kent, UK. She is co-Director of super/collider, Lumen Studios and founder of the London Alternative Photography Collective. Melanie is Lecturer In Photography at Canterbury Christ Church University, and a practice-based PhD Candidate at the Royal College of Art. She is the Interim Chair of the Royal College of Art, Working Class Collective. She is represented by the Land Art Agency. [www.melaniek.co.uk](http://www.melaniek.co.uk)

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1. **Jess Holdengarde, *FOR THE LOVE OF MOSS***, installation of FB silver gelatin print, processed & printed with handmade moss developer, collected from Loch Katrine, 40 x 50 inch, unique print, 2024. **[AVAILABLE: £2700]**
  
- Stereo Audio: ***POLYMOSSPHONY***, multitrack sonification of moss made with field recordings and modular synthesizer. A collaboration between **Jess Holdengarde and Kieran Heather**. Recorded at The Synth Palace, Glasgow. Field recordings and voice by Jess Holdengarde. Modular synthesizer, recording and production by Kieran Heather, 2024 **(33:00 minutes)**
  
2. **Jess Holdengarde, *THE NATURAL PROCESS - WILD BERRY***, FB silver gelatin print made with handmade wild raspberry developer, collected from Glasgow, 5 x 7 inch, edition of 3, 2024 **[AVAILABLE: £250]**
  
3. **Jess Holdengarde, *LUMINAL INTERDEPENDENCE - A MOMENT***, FB sustainable silver gelatin print made handmade gorse developer, collected from East Lothian, 16 x 20 inch, edition of 2, 2024 **[AVAILABLE: £750]**
  
- 4a **Jess Holdengarde: *THE NATURAL PROCESS - ELDERBERRY***, FB sustainable silver gelatin print made with handmade elderberry developer, collected from Glasgow, 5 x 7 inch, edition of 3, 2023 **[AVAILABLE: £250]**
- 4b **Jess Holdengarde: *THE NATURAL PROCESS - GORSE***, FB sustainable silver gelatin print made with handmade gorse developer, collected from Portree, Isle of Skye, 5 x 7 inch, edition of 3, 2023 **[AVAILABLE: £250]**
- 4c **Jess Holdengarde: *THE NATURAL PROCESS - PINE NEEDLES***, FB sustainable silver gelatin print made with handmade pine tree developer, collected from Ullapool, 5 x 7 inch, edition of 3, 2023 **[AVAILABLE: £250]**
- 4d **Jess Holdengarde: *THE NATURAL PROCESS - SMOCK OF HEATHER***, FB sustainable silver gelatin print made with handmade Heather developer, collected from Isle of Lewis, 5 x 7 inch, edition of 3, 2023 **[AVAILABLE: £250]**
  
5. **Melanie King: *BENEATH THE SURFACE: CALANAIS & ACHMORE***, cyanotypes toned with Heather, collected from the Isle of Lewis. Fabriano Accademia. 27cm x 35cm, 2024. **[available to purchase: £350 each]**
  
6. **Jess Holdengarde: *CLIFF EDGE BLOOMS***, FB sustainable silver gelatin print made with handmade heather developer collected from the Isle of Lewis, FB paper, 8x10", edition of 3 **[AVAILABLE: £350]**
  
7. **Jess Holdengarde: *FROSTED BLADDERWRACK W/ LENSES OF LOSS***, FB sustainable silver gelatin print made with handmade gin&seaweed developer, collected from The Lengths Studio, 40 x 50 inch, unique print, 2024 **[AVAILABLE: £2700]**
  
8. **Melanie King: *BENEATH THE SURFACE: MANGASTA***, silver gelatin negative produced using handmade seaweed-gin film developer, collected from the Isle of Lewis, giclee print on Hahnemuhle Bamboo Rag paper, 16 x 20 inch, 2024. **[NOT FOR SALE]**
  
9. **Melanie King: *BENEATH THE SURFACE: ACHAPHUBUIL***, 5x4" silver gelatin negative produced using handmade eggwrack seaweed-gin film developer, collected from Achaphubuil, giclee print on Hahnemuhle Bamboo Rag paper, 16 x 20 inch, 2024. **[SOLD]**
  
10. **Melanie King: *ACQUAINTANCE***, cyanotypes toned with valerian leaves, dandelion leaves, oak gall, blackberry leaves, lavender stems and rosemary collected in and around the Peak District. Fabriano Accademia, 27 x 35cm, 2023. **[AVAILABLE: £350 each]**
  
11. **Melanie King: *ACQUAINTANCE: MATLOCK***, 5x4" silver gelatin negative produced using handmade coffee film developer, giclee print on Hahnemuhle Bamboo Rag paper, 8x 10 inch, 2023. **[NOT FOR SALE]**
  
12. **Melanie King: *SUBMERGED LANDSCAPES: PEGWELL BAY***, 5x4" silver gelatin negative produced using handmade seaweed-gin film developer, collected from Ramsgate, giclee print on Hahnemuhle Bamboo Rag paper, 16 x 20 inch, 2023. **[NOT FOR SALE]**
  
13. **Jess Holdengarde, Nat Mcgowan (video) & Mishaq Diesel (sound): *ECOLOGIES OF PERCEPTION - JESS HOLDENGARDE ARTIST PORTFOLIO***, HD VIDEO, 2022/24 **(running time: 04:09min)**
  
14. **Jess Holdengarde: *VERKEERDE MAAKSELS***, Sustainable FB silver gelatin print made with homemade natural rhubarb developer, 12 x 16 inch, unique print, 2021 **[PRICE ON REQUEST]**
  
15. **Jess holdengarde: *A GIFT OF GORSE DETAILS ON SKYE (C)***, Sustainable FB silver gelatin Print made with homemade dandelion developer, 8 x10 inch, unique print, 2022 **[AVAILABLE: £300]**
  
16. Reading & inspirational material - feel free to flip through but please don't take
  
17. Lightbox: Original 5x4" negatives by Melanie King and Jess Holdengarde. Produced using seaweed-gin film developer and moss-gin developer collected from Achuiphubuil, Scotland, UK
  
18. **Melanie King: *BENEATH THE SURFACE: CALANAIS STANDING STONE***, cyanotypes toned with Gorse, collected from the Isle of Lewis. Fabriano Accademia. 27cm x 35cm, 2024. **[available to purchase: £350]**

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