



## Programme - Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> March & Fri 4<sup>th</sup> March, The Lodge, Staylittle

A programme of soul-warming sparks for the beginning of Spring. Join others interested in the creation of live outdoor arts in Wales and internationally, for a small two-day gathering at The Lodge in the Cambrian mountains.

This gathering will start to give space for some new flames to light up the creative landscape of Wales and beyond as we enter 2022.

All those interested in creating outdoor arts are welcome - from Producers, Town Centre managers, Artists and those working in the natural environment, to Venues, Festivals, Ecologists, Local Authorities, and Funders.

Whatever your background or needs, we would like you to feel at home taking part in these activities – we welcome conversations with you about what you need to take part. Just contact us – [rosie@artculture-wales.co.uk](mailto:rosie@artculture-wales.co.uk).



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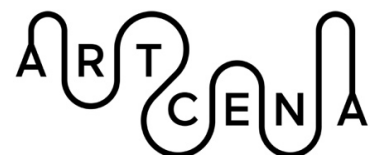


MINISTÈRE  
DE LA CULTURE

Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité



wales arts international  
celfyddydau rhyngwladol cymru



## Day 1 - Outdoor Arts Wales focus

### 9.30 - 11am - Lounge and Lawn

Arrive at The Lodge lounge to register and pick up refreshments before heading to Lawn to enjoy a warm-hearted Welsh welcome with an international twist in a Cambrian mountain setting with AndNow's Mandy Dike and man hap Artists Gareth Clark, Ami Marsden and Catrin Doyle.

Central to the welcome will be AndNow's large-scale Samovar - a Russian invention traditionally used to make tea embodying warm-hearted hospitality, where people believe that Samovars have souls. Tea - the cup that cheers!

AndNow, are based in North Wales and work worldwide, conceive, design and create visual performance, image and installations. [andnow.co.uk](http://andnow.co.uk)

**man hap: human happenings**, is a supportive space for artists from across Wales to come together to meet, create and share. **man hap** collaborate online and in person across Wales in ways that are often beautiful, sometimes anarchic but always warm and welcoming. [manhap.com](http://manhap.com)

Gareth Clark is best known as one half of Mr and Mrs Clark who have been making performance, live art and dance theatre for 20 years. They are inspired by the environment they live in to make bold and challenging performance work to connect and inspire our audiences. [mrandmrsclark.co.uk](http://mrandmrsclark.co.uk)

Catrin Doyle is an Artist-Activist based in Pontypridd, South Wales. Working across a variety of art forms, including film and mixed-media sculpture, Catrin's work is often playful and interactive; exploring our relationship with the environment, community and our collective future. Past works include cycle-powered zoetropes that toured Llawn festival, and films that screened on S4C, BBC, and at prestigious film festivals across Europe. [catrindoyle.squarespace.com](http://catrindoyle.squarespace.com)

Ami Marsden is a social practice artist and sculptor who works with people's voices and community participation to create interactive and inspiring public works. [amimarsden.com](http://amimarsden.com).

### 11am - Welcome by Articulture & Circostrada – Village Hall

## **11.15am – 1pm – A choice of activities**

### **Plans and Aspirations for Outdoor Arts Wales 2022 – Village hall**

What are people's plans and aspirations for outdoor arts in Wales this year?

An open circle conversation with a creative twist, with contributions are welcome from everyone to share their opportunities, projects and ideas. Facilitated by Iwan Williams, Independent Producer and Director, Ffiwsar, and Rosie Strang, Co-Director, Articulture. This session will be documented for sharing with others.

### **Two drop-in sessions you can join/leave as you wish –**

**Conversation and cooking – Dining room** - A conversation whilst we cook together for others. Hosted Annie from the Articulture team. Why do we want to make outdoor arts work? What are our aspirations? What's inspired us to create?

**Re-imagining – Lawn or Lounge** - A workshop space to re-imagine and create with simple creative activities around the Samovar fire or in front of The Lodge Lounge woodburner with man hap – **human happenings** Artists Catrin Doyle, Ami Marsden and Gareth Clark.

### **1-2pm Lunch – Lounge, Dining room, Lawn**

### **2pm – Provocation and Invitation – Lawn**

**Provocation** - Sita Thomas, Artistic Director of Fio and Osian Meilir, Performer, Dance-maker and Movement artist take personal reflections on outdoor arts practice in Wales, and its future.

*Fio exists to create a seismic shift in the arts and cultural sector in Wales. Their vision is that Global Majority people of all ages are embedded and thriving in all aspects of theatre and arts in Wales. [wearefio.co.uk](http://wearefio.co.uk)*

*Osian Meilir is Performer, Dance-maker and Movement Artist originally from Pentre'r Bryn, on the west coast of Wales, who creates and collaborates nationally and internationally. He premiered his first mid-scale outdoor arts production - the ambitious and genre defying 'Qwerin', as Director and Choreographer in 2021. [osianmeilir.com/works](http://osianmeilir.com/works)*

**Invitation** - Inspired by the morning's conversations and provocations, what is your burning question, idea, opportunity you'd like to talk to others about? You are invited to suggest a discussion topic you would like to host later for the 'Plot and Pint' session, to be written up in the lounge for later at 4.30pm.

## **2.30 – 3.45pm**

**Moving – Studio** – Reconnecting with our bodies with playful movement, singing and music inspired by Carnival. For people of all abilities guided by June Campbell Davies in The Lodge's bright and airy studio with giant windows to the mountains.

*June Campbell Davies is a Dancer, Choreographer, Film Maker, Teacher and Facilitator with a rich and varied history of Carnival community collaborations, dance performances and teaching at organisations such as Rubicon dance and the Royal College of Music and Drama.*

**Two drop-in sessions which you are welcome to join/leave as you wish at any time**

**Conversation and cooking** – Dining room. A conversation whilst we cook together for others during the day. Hosted by Lisa Heledd Jones and the Articulture team. Why do we want to make outdoor arts work? What are our aspirations? What's inspired us to create?

*Lisa is interested in people and places and the stories they have to tell. She listens by recording sounds and voices, walking and taking pictures, collaborating with others to create extraordinary projects and interventions. [lisahelreddjones.com](http://lisahelreddjones.com)*

**Re-imagining – Lawn or Lounge** - A workshop space to re-imagine and create with simple creative activities around the Samovar fire or in front of The Lodge Lounge woodburner with man hap – **human happenings** Artists Catrin Doyle, Ami Marsden and Gareth Clark.

## **4pm – Break**

Regather, refresh, reflect at the Samovar with tea and cake.

**4.30 – 5.30pm – Plot & a Pint** - Who would you like to talk to now? Host your topics, ideas, or opportunity over drinks and a packet of crisps. Or just relax by the woodburner, or head out for a walk.

**6.30pm – Evening meal for those who have opted in.**

**7.30pm – Workshop: Sensory Connections**

Facilitators → Phil Lambert & Marc Rees

Experimental charcoal and night-time exploration activity.

The ancient process of charcoal making is inherently connected to the history of being human. Over millennia this process has provided us with fuel, pigment and drawing materials. Reconnect with the ancient processes like charcoal making, clay extraction and paint making with Phil Lambert and guest interdisciplinary artist Marc Rees. You are invited to sit around outdoor fires and engage in charcoal creation and conversation before heading out into darkness to capture the trees on magical night time meandering - mark-making and stargazing. Then back to The Lodge for a viewing of the drawings created and what they reveal.

### **Biography**

Phil is a father of three young girls, a Visual Artist and engagement specialist with an interdisciplinary background across the Sciences and Arts. His Arts practice shares and develops an understanding of Ecology, Sustainability, Philosophy, Learning and Creativity - working in painting, drawing, ceramics, film, alternative photography, surveys and with specific communities.

His practice considers the reasons for making works, the significance of the subjects, the provenance of the materials and then how to share them. Recently his work has been focused around soil, for example, working with the Reading University Soil Security team doing observational painting using local soils and photographic prints developed from an old soil assaying technique that looks at soil vitality.

## Day 2 – Circostrada Dive event

Circostrada, the European network for contemporary circus and outdoor arts, starts off its year on the topic of '[Living body/ies](#)' with the first of its '**Dive**' events, this time in collaboration with Articulture in Wales.

We are invited to 'dive' into a day of talks, walks, and workshops from a range of exciting international and Wales based workshop leaders, speakers and participants, dedicated to the issues of ecology and sustainability in the performing arts.

**Dive** provides contemporary circus and outdoor arts workers with an in-depth training opportunity in a given local context and enables them to gain significant understanding of a locality, of its artistic scene, ecosystem, community and stakeholders.

**Dive** takes place in the frame of circus and/or outdoor arts key event at local level and gives participants the opportunity to network and build international connections and collaborations.

### **9.30 – 11am – Lounge and Lawn**

A morning conversation to lay the foundation on the topic of Living body/ies. What are we talking about? How do we talk about it? Do we all have the same references when it comes to ecology and sustainability?

This first exchange will also try to go further by opening up a discussion on how to respond to ecological transformation through the lens of power differences, social and geographical inequalities.

Facilitator → Stéphane Segreto-Aguilar - Circostrada Network Coordinator (France)

### **11am-12:30pm – "The internationalization of the arts: how to rethink international ambitions to be translocal.**

This session will dig into the concept of "translocality" in an attempt to answer the challenge posed by the current crisis: how to reformulate or rethink our international artistic ambitions in a way that is locally embedded? How can one transcend borders without entering a generic global world of art? Is it possible to connect local and global contexts in the art world and in the performing arts in particular?

Facilitator → Heba el-Cheikh (Egypt)

**12:30-2pm – Lunch**

**2pm-5pm – Simultaneous workshops**

**2pm-5pm – Workshop 1 – Ogham: The Celtic Tree Alphabet**

Facilitator → Cheryl Beer

Curator → Marc Rees

Thousands of years ago, the ancient Celts spoke in a language considered so sacred that Kings banned it, but the Ogham Alphabet is much more than a collection of letters. It is a system of symbols based entirely on the cultural & spiritual significance of trees, giving us a window into how our ancestors respected, appreciated & understood their environment.

Join Cheryl to learn about this ancient form of writing, found on wood, in stone & in the hands of Celtic people as sign language. We will talk about the relevance of Ogham to the Druids, unearth how they applied Ogham to daily life & draw each of the symbols to understand its meaning. If the weather wishes it, we will learn of Ogham in the presence of trees, if not, we will meditate a wooded space into being. Joining Cheryl is special guest, Welsh interdisciplinary/site-specific artist Marc Rees, explaining how his recent British Council supported work CROIPAN explored Ogham as gestural dance in rural Wales, through collaboration with the Pickle Factory Dance Foundation, Kolkata, India.

### Biography

Cheryl Beer (UK) is a tree-listening, sea whisperer, repurposing hearing aid & biomedical technology to compose symphonies & sound sculptures led by the natural world. She is interested in the relationship between sound, music & the environment, her innovations in ecomusicology raise awareness by promoting a visceral sense of place. As well as creating an innovative fusion of Arts & Technology, Cheryl grounds much of her practice in cultural & historical research, exploring the ancient ways passed to us by our ancestors, informing the Now, for a better tomorrow.

<https://www.cherylbeer.com/>

## **2pm-5pm – Workshop 2 – Focus on ecology-based new aesthetics**

A workshop to explore the new aesthetics produced with the advent of ecological issues. Let's focus on artistic creations that come specifically from ecological thinking.

Facilitator → fin Jordao (Wales/Portugal)

### Biography

fin Jordao is a biologist and educator at the Centre for Alternative Technology, Wales where they also co - created an artist residency program for the Arts Council of Wales and trained on Julie's Bicycle Creative Climate Leadership program.

Their arts practice is situated in the frameworks of participatory choreography and relational aesthetics, and they often work in collaboration with artist collectives [hello!earth, DK], within symposiums [social fermentation, art.earth, fo.am] and conferences [PSI #21 fluid states] residencies [Cambridge Sustainability Residency, Kedja Nordic Dance Wilderness] and commissions [Artscape].

They have written for artist led publications in three languages, most recently about queer ecology for PEAK Cymru and the National Museum Of Wales.

Acknowledging the historical interrelation between the visual arts and the natural sciences and understanding them both as forms of engagement, they bring their background in biology and ecology into conversation with arts praxis, engaging and enabling the collaborative potential of complementary practices.

## **2pm - 3:30pm – Workshop 3 – Fungi: the missing link**

We often think of nature as separate from human kind; something we've learnt to control and use to our advantage. Humans have created a hierarchy of intelligence of living beings placing ourselves at the top, followed by those who look more like us (chimpanzees)... placing plants and fungi right at the bottom because they don't look, behave or have a brain like us. The truth is, this anthropomorphic interpretation of the world only shows how ignorant and profoundly disconnected from nature, and more particularly fungi, we are, and the major role it plays in ensuring our existence in the first place and our survival.

Fungi belong to an entirely separate kingdom of life from plants and animals and are found in every habitat on Earth... including our own bodies! Through an introduction to the fascinating and enlightening work of biologist Merlin Sheldrake, we will explore the world of fungi and the under-discovered and fundamental part they play in making



our world, change our minds and shape our future in helping us address the greatest issues of our times: Climate Change.

### Biography

Karine has been working in the arts for the past 25 years in London, Geneva and Wales. She co-founded Migrations in 2004 and developed projects focused on bringing arts, nature and science together through cross sector partnerships, aiming to reconnect people with nature and engage with climate change related issues. She is also a co-founder and active member of European network AREA, focusing on contemporary arts in rural places.

Facilitator → Karine Décorne (Wales/France)

**5pm-6pm – Informal networking**

**6pm-7:30pm – Evening meal for those who have opted in**