SESSION #6 OTHER ECOLOGIES?
Question-making, thought experiments and meditation

SATURDAY 4TH JANUARY 2019

LIFE.FORMED EXHIBITION, TENSION GALLERY

Join us for ELASTIC NATURE #6 and start the new year with a curious combination of uplifting, action-focused open conversation, question-making, thought experiments and meditation around the concept of ‘Other Ecologies’.

What happens if we take ‘humans’ out of the centre of the conversation and centre around ‘other’ things? Do we need a new lexicon for discussing what we refer to as ‘planet’, ‘environment’, ‘nature’, ‘biosphere’, ‘climate’, ‘ecology’? What strategies are there for ‘thinking’ with nature? Everyone is invited and everything is encouraged. Come with your own question, lead a quickfire activity or just come along and listen.

To get us in an ‘other’ mindset we will be starting the day with meditation with the wonderful Jal Hilson.

This workshop takes cues from life.formed: shapes of non-human ecologies by Saroj Patel and Becky Lyon.

Tension Gallery, 135 Maple Rd, 
12.00pm - 1.30pm
Doors will be open from 11.45am
Free ticket link: elasticnature.eventbrite.com
Nearest station: Penge East, Penge West, Anerley
Google Maps Pin: https://goo.gl/maps/ahXNWMRyaSfVd97F9

This is the sixth Elastic Nature event - an art research club hosted by artist Becky Lyon bringing together interdisciplinary researchers, practitioners and thinkers around the broad subject of 'the future of nature' via artificial life, sympathetic synthetics, sensory realities, materiality and speculative bodies.

ABOUT ELASTIC NATURE

Elastic Nature is a project by artist and researcher Becky Lyon, graduate of MA Art and Science at Central Saint Martins. Through interactive workshops, seminars, breakfast salons and screenings we’ll stimulate conversation, ideas and imagination around the changing shape of nature addressing subjects such as:

/ How are we creating different forms of nature? And for what purpose?
/ What roles do culture, cognition, sensory mediation play in our understanding of nature and the ‘reality’ of it?
/ How have new forms of nature/ life been represented through speculative and science fiction? And how useful are these fictions in modelling the future?
/ To what extent is life contained by the ‘body’? (...and what is the ‘body’ anyway?)
/ What’s the future of the stuff of life - what will living things be made of?
/ Can ‘synthetic’ nature ever be more sublime and more beneficial to the biosphere than ‘wild’ nature?
/ How is technology changing the way we view nature - for better or worse?

Find out about future events at: https://www.elasticfiction.co/elastic-nature/
Follow Elastic Fiction on Twitter and Instagram: @elastic_fiction

ABOUT LIFE.FORMED

As we close a tumultuous 2019 and head into a new decade artists Saroj Patel and Becky Lyon present hopeful visions of alternative ecologies. ‘Hope’ centres around a perceived resilience inherent in more-than-human nature and its enduring existence independent of humanity. Saroj presents an iteration of Taraxa asking the viewer to reimagine our relationship with nature in our urban environments by thrusting a community of unseen organisms into full view via abundant bursts of colour and form, requesting active participation. Becky presents an iteration of Fieldnotes from a Technobiocology, a suite of organisms that have evolved from the enmeshing biology and technology, artefacts of humanity, situated in an imagined, undated ‘future’.
Both artists deploy sculpture and form in signature ways with Saroj’s plush almost playful modules richly coloured, abundant and in full growth contrasting with Becky’s stripped back colour and complex materiality - discrete elements of dazzle and experimental texture are animated with digital media representing a slow but steady emerging and unfurling. Themes of ecology, systems, the non-human, evolution and mutation unify the two bodies of work. Reconciling the distinctive aesthetics of each, the two artists will deploy an experimental approach to curation where some sculptures evidence the early stages of tethering, finding familiarity and others start to competitively colonise, or even mate... The beings are recontextualised, finding purpose, place and survival in a new environment.

Thursday - Saturdays with Christmas Break closing

5pm - 8pm - Thu 5th Dec
12pm - 5pm - Fri 6th Dec, Sat 7th Dec, Thu 12th Dec, Fri 13th, Sat 14th Dec, Thu 19th Dec, Fri 20th Dec, Sat 21st Dec, Sat 4th Jan, Sun 5th Jan

https://www.tensionfineart.co.uk/future-exhibition/