

# **Embodied Connections Conversation Series: Photographic Landscape Pedagogies**

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# Embodied Connections Conversation Series



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*Embodied Connections Conversation Series* is a programme of walking and moving *conversations in photography* across local nature spaces in Hartlepool involving women and gender non-conforming artists and photographers. Responding to the notion of embodied nature-based photographic practice (*the creation or generation of photographic imagery of the natural landscape from the natural landscape*) participants are invited to engage in walking/moving conversations through the natural landscape of Hartlepool exploring plant-based photographic image-making (anthotypes) in collaboration with other photographic mediums.



**Greatham Sea Lavender**

# Nature-based Photographic Practices

Using crushed light-sensitive plant-based materials (*for example; foraged berries, dandelion flowers, and red ox-eye daisies*) foraged and gathered through our walking conversations; participants are invited to create plant-based photographic imagery with the heat of their moving bodies and limbs in conversation with sunlight, rainfall, and the changing seasons.

Seeking, nurturing, and strengthening human and non-human connections, photography shifts to photographic imagery beyond representation through the creation of abstract prints of place with nature as collaborator.



**Anthotype preparation  
(plant-based emulsions  
and toners)**

# A Moving Methodology

Through a 'moving methodology' [the act of walking and moving through the landscape] we connect grasslands, wetlands, woodland spaces, hedgerows, and the local coastline, through a moving orbital photo-walk across Hartlepool. *Embodied Connections Conversation Series* consists of six walks with six women artists, with each participant joining at a different point of the walking orbital photo-walk; moving, mapping, and creating photographic imagery together in the landscape.

**Gifts from the land > connectivity**



# Walkshops

Photowalk (*Cowpen Marsh*)

Pinhole photography with Caffinol Eco-Developer (*Magnesium Quarry*)

Anthotypes & Plant-based Photography (*Burn Valley Woods*)

Mud Prints (*Greatham Mud Flats*)

A Photo Womble (*Seaton Carew Beach*)

A Digital Photo Womble (*North Gare*)



# The Nature Recovery Network (2024) Hartlepool

The Nature Recovery Network is a growing national network of wildlife-rich places, stretching from our cities to countryside, mountains to coast. It is supported by green and blue spaces that buffer and connect these wildlife-rich sites.

## Growing the Nature Recovery Network includes action to:

- enhance sites designated for nature conservation and other wildlife-rich places
- protect the natural, geological, historical and cultural diversity of the natural environment
- provide more, better green spaces for us to enjoy and connect with nature where we live, work and play, improving our health and wellbeing



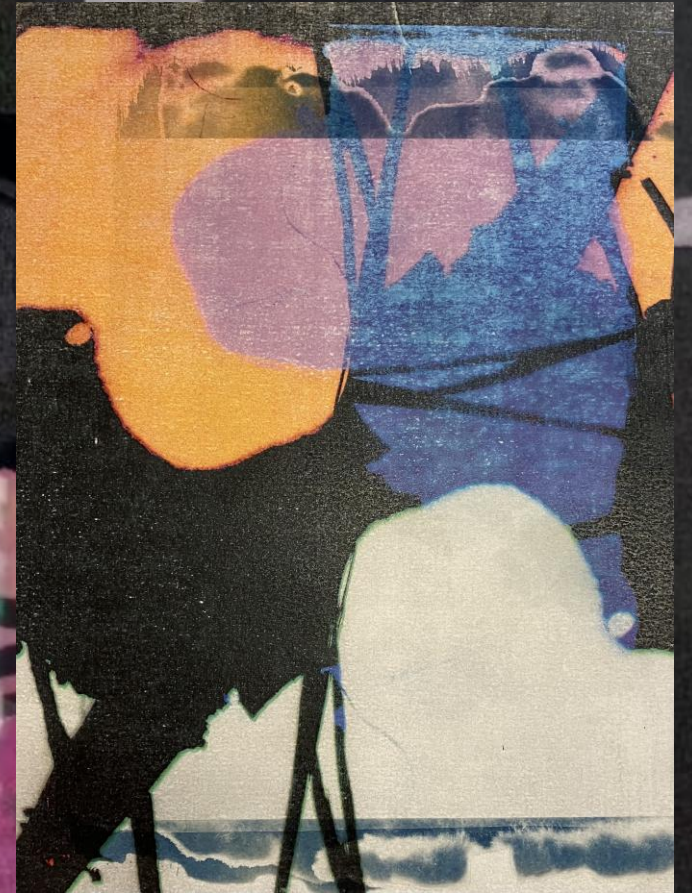
# Centering feminist perspectives of landscape through voices, spaces, places & practice

*Landscape Herstories*

*Recipes from the Land*

*Indigenous storytelling practices &  
oral traditions*

*Intangible heritage of Landscape*





Andrea Kim Valdez, Embrace the Base, 1983 (Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp)



Joy Gregory, Kalahari, 2010

# [Moving] Conversation as Methodology



Cooking Sections '*Climavore*' Isle of Skye  
Recipient of the Turner Prize 2021

# Conversation prompts

- Can nature-based embodied photographic practice inspire deeper connections, care and conversation of the natural landscape?
- Preserving intangible heritage of the landscape through photographic practice
- Nature-based photographic practices as a response to the photography's legacy of extraction and past links to colonialism (mining of raw materials, waste disposal and impact on the environment)
- How can we amplify women, gender non-conforming, trans women's voices, lived experience and tacit knowledge of the natural landscape, and their role in decision making process re: environmental policies at regional, national and international levels?
- How can we share and disseminate opportunities for climate adaptation and sustainable practices as women artists and photographers working within the landscape of north-east England?



# Next steps:

- Visiting China as part of a UNESCO delegation for Hebei Province/University of Hebei
- Arts-based evaluation in the landscape
- Short Film (speculative documentary)
- Podcast – expanding on conversation as a legacy, opening up conversations with other sectors
- International Creative Research Methods Conference 2024



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