



Sound Roots

On Listening to the Botanical World

2.30 – 5.30. Sunday 22nd June. The Exchange, Twickenham, TW1 1BE

Programme

- I. 2.30. Welcome from Kate Carr
- II. 2.45. Kate Carr and Nick Ferguson. River Crane soundscape performance
- III. 3.00. Nick Ferguson. Introduction to the project
- IV. 3.15. Drinks. *Diamond Grain Elderflower Cordial* and slide presentation *A Tangled Bank*
- V. 3.45. Sarah Edwards. *Plant People Entanglements*
- VI. 4.45. Round Table. *A Tangled Bank*. Kate Carr, Sarah Edwards, Nick Ferguson, Rob Gray.

About

Inspired by the meanders and connections of the River Crane, Sound Roots explores the sounds of human and botanical interactions along the riverbank. It is convened by artists Nick Ferguson and Kate Carr and brought to you in collaboration with [Richmond Art and Ideas Festival](#) and [Crane Valley Partnership](#). It is generously supported by The Performing Arts and Community Engagement Research Centre, Kingston University. For more information about this event, please visit: <http://nickfergusonstudio.org/sound-roots/>

The Contributors

Kate Carr's practice explores the encounters, textures and technologies entangled with field recording using movement, objects and experimental recording techniques. She creates intimate, delicate and hybrid sound worlds which centre the interactions and collectivity which generate soundscapes. <https://www.gleamingsilverribbon.com/>

Dr Sarah Edwards, author of *The Ethnobotanical*, is an ethnobotanist at the University of Oxford, where she teaches Ethnobiology and Biological Conservation and manages plant records for the Botanic Garden & Arboretum. She began her career at Kew Gardens, worked with First Nations communities in Australia, and has collaborated with artists on Richmond's Cultural Reforesting programme.

Nick Ferguson is an artist, curator and theorist. He works with local organisations, exhibitions and visual arts media to build new environmental imaginaries. He is Senior Lecturer in Contemporary Art at Kingston University. <http://www.nickfergusonstudio.org>

Rob Gray was a co-founder of Friends of the River Crane Environment (FORCE) in 2003 and continues as a Trustee. In 2021 Rob helped to set up Crane Valley CIC as the new host for the Crane Valley Partnership. These organisations have helped to invest over £20m in to the Crane Valley and are working in Partnership with many others to transform the community and environmental value of this urban river catchment.

Talk Abstract: Dr. Sarah Edwards. Plant-People Entanglements

Human lives are deeply entangled with those of plants: these more-than-human beings with whom we coinhabit our beautiful planet sustain us with air, food, medicine, and materials. Ethnobotany - the study of the interrelationships and interactions between people and plants as mediated through culture - sits at the intersection between the sacred and the science, acting as a bridge between different disciplines, modalities and knowledges. In this talk, Dr Sarah Edwards will explore her work as an ethnobotanist, drawing on experiences collaborating with First Nations communities in Australia and with the London Borough of Richmond's Arts Service. Sarah will reflect on how storytelling, art, and cultural practice illuminate the agency of plants and the complexity of our interdependence. By engaging with the histories and narratives of plants, Sarah argues, we can foster emotional connection and ecological empathy – essential foundations for protecting biodiversity in a time of planetary crisis.

Photography

This event is being photographed for the purpose of documentation and social media. If you do not want yourself photographed, please let the photographer know.

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