



/ Hielan Ways Symposium

Winter 2015

Coffee Culture, oak galls,
Catholic seminary, snow shoe
walk, Qalandiya checkpoint and
biennial, fat-balls, new books,
enamel mugs, exploration
aides, fiddle music, land rights

**Perceptions of Exploration:
The Walking Institute's first
symposium
Tomintoul, 14 & 15 November**

The symposium began with a day of walking; our greatest fears came true, rain and wind force 50. But perhaps that is to be expected when organising an outdoor event in November in Scotland! Surprisingly the dreich weather seemed to be

somewhat of a positive, uniting factor, bringing people together in a shared soggy experience, rather than sodden misery and isolation. Some walked the Smuggler's route with Richard Long, rejoicing when they made it over the top without being blown over; some joined Gill and Ron for a 'haik aboot', some ranting, ruins and a surprise dram with Jake Williams; others walked mindfully with artist Simone Kenyon, forester Steve Brown and cloud appreciator Gavin Pretor-Pinney, exploring the local flora and fauna. In the afternoon for those not feeling disheartened by the weather (and equipped with good waterproofs), they could join legendary mountaineer Doug Scott and walk over Tom Trumper back to Tomintoul. Perhaps vital to the success of the days walking was the unexpected lunch time rendezvous at Scalan – an old remote Catholic priest training 'college', now kept as a heritage museum by locals John and Silvia Toovey who laid on fire and a magic spread.

On the talking day, the morning shift was dedicated to the Hielan' Ways artists, marking the end of a year long project which sought to re-

engage with a remote landscape - once inhabited, once lived in - through following old pathways and creating new ones, through a genealogy of place names and composing new sounds from old views. This was an opportunity to situate each artist's work back within the larger project, to walk with them - to find out what they found out and to hear how they got there. The afternoon's talks, in contrast, were linked through the heading 'perceptions of exploration'. The intention was to pull together some narratives, to raise some questions collectively and to explore exploration from a series of individual discourses and perspectives: through an understanding of cloud physics and appreciating the unappreciated; through mapping and the way it can affect our perception of

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BIRD BAUBLES.

This Christmas, Dovern Arts are decorating Huntly Square's Christmas tree with bird baubles. To make your own:

1. Pour melted fat (lard or suet) onto a mixture of seeds, nuts, oatmeal, dried fruit & shortbread.
2. Stir well & allow to cool.
3. Shape into balls.
4. Decorate with string + ribbon.
5. Hang your bird bauble on a tree outside.

/// Outernational

Faceloop in Chicago

2013 artists in residence Celia y Yunior have been selected to show their Huntly work Faceloop in the *Cuban Virtualities* exhibition at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago next year. More info here: <http://www.saic.edu/sullivangalleries/fullschedule/cuban-virtualities.html>

Sanaa Gateja at Go Forward, Groningen

Also check out recent artist in residence Sanaa Gateja's work on Mackay of Uganda in the *Go Forward* exhibition at the Academie Minerva in Groningen, Netherlands. More info here: <http://www.okayafrica.com/news/ugandan-chief-ham-mukasa-historic-notes-reinterpreted-go-forward-hipuganda/#slide1>

Previous page - Clockwise from top left:

Black Route A march to the Lecht Mine; Richard Long and Black Route A group on Carn Dulack; Scalan; Doug Scott meets Claudia Zeiske; grouse butt; mystery stag dancing with Gill Russell; Simone Kenyon presenting her project; afternoon discussion with Doug Scott, Tim Ingold, Gavin Pretor-Pinney, Vanessa Collingridge and Karen Darke

A Tear and a Smile: to Ramallah and back A visit to the Qalandiya Biennial, October 2014

5am, muezzin calls, off to the Dome of the Rock, its eternal beauty, the blue, the gold, the ultimate aesthetics, we see Orthodox Jews, accompanied by soldiers crossing, the plaza, women calling Allāhu Akbar, some men say, its normal, the school girls pick the olives. Taxi bus outside Damascus gate, 12 shekels, through the city, pass Qalandiya, the wall, Berlin/Belfast, Bethlehem, spring to mind, into Ramallah, quick bearings, busy place, many jewellery shops, lots of gold, in all shapes and sizes, Al-Manara square, lions like on Trafalgar, bronze man climbing up flagpole, meet Jack Persekian, Director of the Palestinian Museum, in planning for 2016, introduces us to the essentials of arts/artists in Palestine, lunch with humus and chicken kebab, meet Tina, Director of the International School of Art, supported by the Kingdom of Norway, only 12 students here, every year, off to the opening, Archives, Lived and Shared, is the theme, Almal foundation, skype connection to participating Gaza artists, some of us choke, Vera Tamari next to me, gets goose pimples, speeches, Arab lute, reception, with wine and beer, with Palestinian delights, savoury, and spicy and sweet ones, do we deserve this?, here?, anywhere?, what have we done to?, Vera, founder of the Birzet museum, an anthropological institution that works with artists, makes us mint tea, spicy cakes, cardamom and dates, studio, potted history of Ramallah, of Palestine, and its art, who can go in, and how can go out, and the Christians, not so many here any more, they left to the US, and other places, art in Ramallah, and in Palestine, how it thrives, the contemporary art, writer Raja Shehadeh is her neighbour, pomegranate/ginger/carrot juice, Ramallah, God's Mountain, past the check points, settlements on horizon, Sakakini center, design show, Museum of Manufactured Response to Absence, Quattan center, another banquet of Arabian delights, savoury, spicy, sweet, do we deserve it?, highlight is a Shat-ha walk, crack of dawn, Ramallah – Abwein, 8 hours, through olive grows, Tim switches GPS on, up, steep, along the terraces, of the ancient olive groves, symbol of peace for many, war weapon for some, red earth, a speckled spider, artist Ahlam Shibli, talk of referendum, freedom of countries, the sharing breakfast, ensuring its not Israeli produce, a shat-ha, a feast for eye and mouth, mint salads, spicy yoghurt fresh bread, herb teas, cakes and dates, nuts and humus make it to the cloth spread on the floor, some singing, see you in Scotland Ahlam, see you Vera ...

Exert from Claudia's travel blog on her recent trip to Palestine: fernweh-heimweh.com

More:

www.qalandiyainternational.org
www.almamalfoundation.org
www.palmuseum.org
<http://virtualgallery.birzeit.edu>
www.riwaq.org
www.facebook.com/QattanFoundation
www.womeninhebron.com

The Path Travelled



/ Hielan' Ways Symposium Continued

reality; through experiencing a loss of ability, and a gaining of a new understanding of limit; through creative acts seeking to gain a better understanding of place, of distance, of measurement and time, an art made by walking; through extremes and endurance, and attempting to comprehend the vast.

"Ambiguous about its intentions (in a positive way)."; "A symposium that escaped from the boundaries of the lecture theatre." are comments from the survey monkey questionnaire. More: <http://www.deveron-arts.com/hielan-way/>

/ Artist in Residence: Caroline Wendling - project update

Caroline has now finished the first part of her residency here with us in Huntly. She will return in the spring to plant an oak wood - 49 descendants of Joseph Beuys' 7000 Oaks of Kassel.

While all over the country people were commemorating the beginning of WW1 over the last two months, Caroline has been researching ideas around peace and pacifism. In particular she has been investigating local conscientious objectors in both the First and Second World Wars. Through the Huntly Express archives Caroline discovered a series of articles reporting the trials of 4 local conscientious objectors, plus many more about local lads attempting to overturn their conscription orders to stay and work in the local area. Further research uncovered a camp at Dyce (now the

airport car park) where conscientious objectors (CO's) were sent during the first world war.

Caroline has also been in touch with local (recent) war veterans and charities supporting ex-servicemen, hoping to enlist their help in the planting of the oaks in spring.

As part of her research, Caroline has collaborated with English teacher Val Ross and her pupils at the Gordon Schools, creating a special remembrance day walk. Together, they compiled a list of all the men who left Huntly to fight, never to return. To mark the time, they wrote the names of these soldiers on oak leaves, which were then placed outside the homes where they used to live. Besides a reminder of the 188 lives lost to war, the walk was also an attempt to think about the impact this must have had on a small town like ours, the



many homes the fathers or sons did not return to.

Caroline has also been collecting people's ideas on the sound of peace, in a series of events that took place in the library, the school, and Christmas

events. The list ranged from 'a baby sleeping' to 'the sound of laughter', 'sound of bees' to 'total silence.' She then recorded a selection from the list, editing them into a short composition - each sound being played for thirty seconds. The sound piece, recently performed at Pallant House in Chichester, can be found on Caroline's vimeo page: www.vimeo.com/114074649

Caroline also represented Deveron Arts at the Handmade in Huntly fair, where she set up shop within the old Clydesdale bank along with all the other Huntly makers. She asked visitors to the space to draw oak leaves and acorns using a special ink made from oak galls. The invitation to draw created a great platform for Caroline to meet people and talk with them about their attitudes towards war today and to organise some volunteers for the planting next year.

The oak wood will be planted in a sunny spot close to the Bin forest, a short walk from Huntly town centre. Along with the oak saplings we will be planting other native trees such as Silver Birch and Hazel, interspersed with other native plants all with white foliage, flowers or bark - such things as, Ramsons (Wld Garlic), Snowdrops, Giant White Foxglove, Gulder Rose, and White Campion.

Want to help with the planting? If you are interested, get in touch with us at info@deveron-arts.com.

/ What is an Oak Gall?

Oak galls, or oak apples, are round woody formations on oak trees, caused by chemicals injected by the larva of gall wasps into developing oak leaf buds. The ink is made from crushing these galls and 'fermenting' them with a solution of water and iron(II) sulfate (rusty *Oak gall*



nails). The resulting ink is non water soluble and darkens over time. This kind of ink has been made since the 5th Century !

/ Andy Wightman Visit

Gill Russell, with help from Deveron Arts invited Andy Wightman - author of the extensively researched and illuminating book, *The Poor Had No Lawyers (And How They got it)* - to give a talk on land use and reform in Scotland at Glenbuchat hall. The talk attracted around 100 folks, eager to discuss the latest announcements on Land reform from the current government. More: www.andywightman.com



The Path Ahead

/ Programming

After a tense few months of waiting, we are delighted to announce that Creative Scotland have decided to continue supporting our work for the next 3 years through their regular funding scheme.

With this funding secured, we can now begin to focus on our programming and the development of Deveron Arts. Regardless of which way you voted in the recent referendum, we believe there are interesting times ahead for those living and working in Scotland. With an increase in public engagement in politics, as well as a heightened awareness of land use issues and the demand for change at both a local and national level, there is a palpable energy felt across Scotland in both urban and rural communities. We feel energised by this, and so hope to investigate some of the issues – landuse/ ownership, child poverty, our role in Europe, fracking, demilitarisation, the state of the state – that have arisen from what will be remembered as a significant year in Scottish history. Patrick Geddes' coinage 'Place - Work - Folk' will serve as our inspiration, in and sometimes out of town.



/ Aidan O' Rourke

In December award winning musician Aidan O' Rourke - BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards Musician 2014 - took up his winter residency with us..

Within a 20 mile radius of Huntly, there are dozens, perhaps even hundreds of Neolithic sites, scattered across the landscape. In some places they are impressive with a grandeur; in others they are all but submerged, hardly recorded. Others are still being discovered and mapped, and whilst numerous hypothesis exist as to their ancient purpose, their origins remain at best vague. The cup and ring marks, engravings and other features we see left behind on exposed dormant rocks, and the recumbent stones still flanked by their vertical neighbours, have come to be powerful symbols, yet their true meanings remain hidden, their very ambiguity loaded with complex interpretations. Through discovery and chance encounters such sites can act as portals to another place, another culture, another ecology and relationship with the

land - one perhaps very different from our own. With recent attempts in Scotland to address land reform in mind - see the governments consultation on the future of land reform in Scotland - what can an investigation into such sites reveal about contemporary land uses and non-uses, ownership and commoning (common good), our sense of identity and belonging...

Using Aidan's skills and imagination we hope to interpret these marginal and solitary places for a contemporary audience, offering up an alternative language to give them a voice, to place them back into the geopolitical landscape post referendum.

/ Anthony Schrag: An artists' Pilgrimage

In our quest to understand what constitutes a modern pilgrimage, we are kicking off with an art pilgrimage to the most sacred of all art festivals, the Venice Biennial. Taking on the role of St Anthony, the Patron Saint 'of finding things and Lost People', Anthony Schrag is making a life-time aspiration come true for which he will walk from his spiritual home here in Huntly to the art temples in Venice. Anthony will leave Scotland in early summer hoping to reach his spiritual destination before it closes. Along the route our traveller will be seeking shelter, hospitality and companionship at various art (and non-art) organisations and spaces.

If you are based en route and want to accommodate Anthony for a night, get in touch!

/ Exploration Aides

Next year we will be working with London based artists Tim Knowles. Tim's work is often generated by systems or processes beyond his own control, like the wind or water. As Tim says, "Akin to scientific experimentation a situation is engineered in which the outcome is unpredictable, directed by the external forces. These operations seek to reveal the invisible forces in the world around us and investigate the nature of hidden systems." For Exploration Aides, Tim will be slightly adjusting his usual approach, creating a series of Howffs - an enclosed space, a favourite haunt, or a shelter - out in the landscape. Stay tuned for more info and how to find the Howffs!

/ Slow Marathon 2015

The 2015 Slow Marathon will run from Portsoy to Huntly along the former railway line, discovered and interpreted Lines Lost by Stuart McAdam. The day will be followed by a discussion on what it takes to make a path. 24-26 April. Early bird price £25.

Dates for your Diary

Mountain Talks

Tues 13 January: **John Perkins**

Mountains of Mallorca

Wed 25 February: **Ronnie Bowie**

Munro bagging in Scotland

Wed 18 March: **Jane & David Easton**

The Trail less travelled in Nepal

In collaboration with Huntly Hillwalking Club
Brander Library, 7 pm

Sun 18 January 2015

Snow Shoe Walk

World Snow Day

start The Square, Huntly, 9.30am

Sat 21 February

Artists' Talk-Walk: Aidan O'Rourke

Visiting neolithic sites around Rhynie.

Leaves Huntly Square, 10am

Tue 3 March, all day event

A Culture a Day, Keeps the Doctor Away

Discussing Cultural Health

in collaboration with engageScotland

Wed 11 March, 7pm

Debate: Can Scotland be a military free country?

Gordon Arms Hotel

Fri/Sat 20/21 March

Oaks & Amity Planting

Bin Forest

Wed 8 April

Design in Motion

Travelling gallery V&A exhibition

The Square, all day

Fri/Sat/Sun 24/25/26 April

Slow Marathon 2015

Sat: 26 mile walk Portsoy to Huntly

Sun: Path-maker gathering.

Monday Spring Walks

Walks under 2 miles, in and around Huntly.

All ages, shapes and sizes welcome

Starting Mon 2 Feb, for 8 weeks

Meet at the Square at 11am

Slow Marathon Training

Starting 21 Jan, until the Slow Marathon

Meet the Square at 5:30pm every Wednesday

Culture Club

1st Sat of the month, from 7 Feb 2-3:30pm.

Meet at Brander Library. £3/session.

Children: 8 - 13 years old.

Notices

Cultural Health

Since last year, we have been exploring what is cultural health and now want to open the concept up to discussion, bringing doctors, community health workers, and others of the medical profession together with artists and art educators to discuss questions around cultural health: should cultural health be clinically recognised like physical or mental health? Is there such a thing as cultural illness? What are the benefits of health practitioners and arts organisations working together to nurture cultural health? How can we nurture cultural health?

Catrin has now gathered a body of fieldwork, and is determining whether our hypothesis of cultural health 'as the condition of a person or a community's cultural orientation, and their capacity, or willingness, to explore new ideas and behaviours' is good and if we are using the right approaches to record and cultivate cultural health within the community. She is keen to have the input of experts from both health and art field contribute to her research. *Some Culture a Day, Keeps the Doctor Away: Discussing Cultural Health* will take place on the 3rd of March. The day, run in collaboration with engageScotland, will involve health and arts professionals teaming up, getting their hands dirty and monitoring their own cultural health before getting into a discussion. Interested? contact catrin@deveron-arts.com.

Ask our Cultural Health Visitor.



The dilemma: "I can't find a decent cup of coffee in Huntly - help me!"

Catrin answers: There is many an opportunity to stop for a cuppa in Huntly, from the institutional Saturday coffee mornings in the Stewarts Hall to several cafés around. However I suspect you consider 'decent coffee' as a fresh brew from good quality

beans and this is much harder to source around town. We are in the process of creating an outdoor cafe society in collaboration with such institutions as Rhynie Woman or the Farmer's Market - with good coffee on the square on the first Saturday of the month between 9am - 1pm. However we also could do with a wider selection of fresh coffee on offer! If you have any ideas of where to get the best cuppa, or how we could tackle this please get in touch.

Catrin solves problems sent by you. If you have a dilemma, send an email to:
catrin@deveron-arts.com

Shop

Alec Finlay
Some Colour Trends £10

Gill Russell
Lorg Coise: Footprints £10

Ron Brander
Ower The Hills Tae Huntly £10

Michael Höpfner
Walking Off the Grid £10

The Caravan Gallery & Jacques Coetzer
Aberdeenshire Ways £12

Huntly Mugs £7

People Talk

Welcome

Lindsay McMillan, Project Intern

*

Goodbye

Joss Allen, Shadow Curator Intern

Glenview Veg Bag

- Order your veggie bags at the Glenview Local
- Produce stall at the farmers market on the first
- Saturday of every month. Pick it up third Friday
- of the month from the Deveron Arts office.

Contemporary Pilgrimage

Today's Grand Tour, New Colonialism, Tourist trail, What is it? What could it be? Let us know your thoughts.

Our Guests

Fiona MacDonald, artist/curator
WochenKlausur, artist group/Vienna
Anthony Schrag, artist
Aidan O'Rourke, musician
Richard Long, artist
Michael Höpfner, artist/educator
Doug Scott, mountaineer
Karen Darke, athlete
Andy Wightman, writer/activist
Hielan' Ways Symposium Gang



FRIDAY LUNCHES

On the last Friday of the month our doors are open for lunch at 1pm.

Everybody welcome to meet us for a hearty meal from the garden and hear what we and our artists are up to! £1.50

Cant wait until Friday? Drop by anytime for a coffee and a chat. Our door is always open!

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Follow us:
on facebook and twitter

Deveron Arts works with the context and identity of the town of Huntly in Aberdeenshire. Here, the town is the venue, research base, studio, gallery and stage for artists of all fields and from all over the world. Engaging local people and the community in topics of both local + global concern, Deveron Arts works through a 50/50 motto, bringing together artistic and social relationships in a world wide network that extends throughout and beyond Huntly's geo-boundaries.