



Mbereko

Mothers, Women and Nutrition

Spring 2013

Mums & women, walking, talking, Beeching Axe, Perma-Prep, river thoughts...

Nancy Mteki is a young photographer from Zimbabwe, who was awarded with the Deveron Arts residency prize at the Dak'Art festival in Senegal, last year. She has been invited, with her daughter Kayla, to explore the topic of motherhood and nurturing during winter 2013. Collaborating with the local artist Norma D Hunter, Nancy has reflected with other young mothers on their relationships with their children. As a talking point, her project focuses on

two of the elements of everyday life affecting this relationship: eating and baby carrying. The cloth Nancy uses to carry Kayla on her back—the 'Mberekko' as it is called in Shona language - becomes a way to think about both the physical, and emotional closeness between mother and child.

Shadow Curator for this project is Christine Eyene. Follow her blog here: www.eyonart.blogspot.co.uk



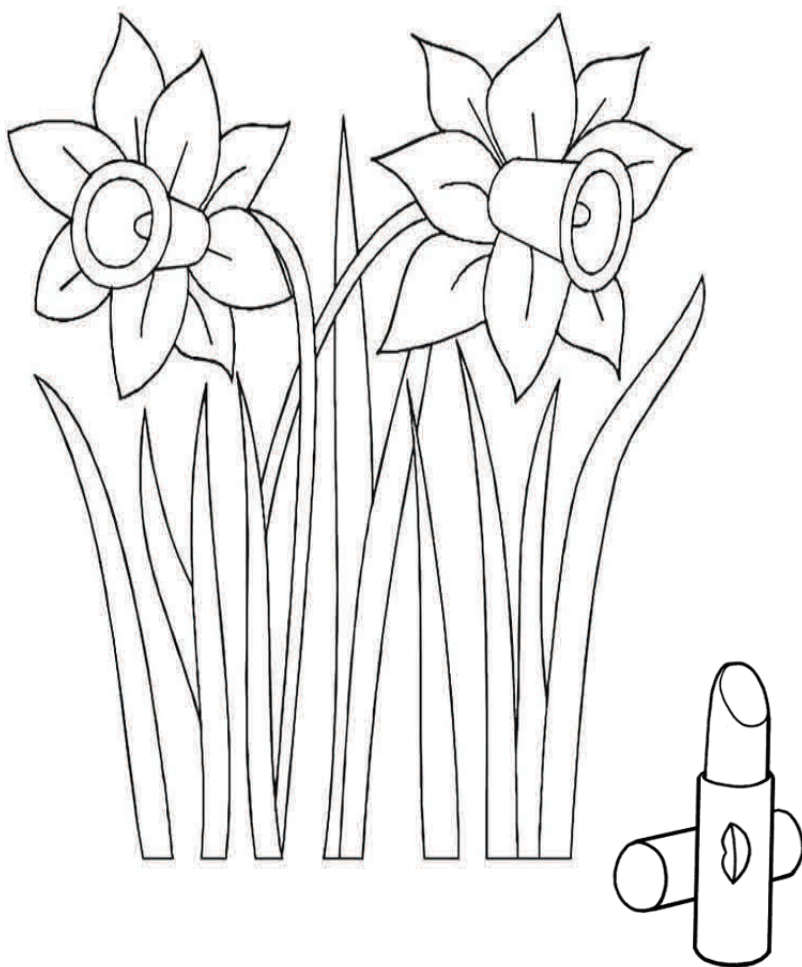
**Deveron
Arts**

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

To all the Mothers who are taking part in Nancy's Project, to Ingrid's cookery class at the Linden Centre, to Norma for the patience, to Kiera for all your help with cooking, Christine Eyene for the critique and TAAT for the funding.



Colour me in!



We wish the pride of International Women's Day and the joy of Mothering Sunday to last you all year round!

Creative Place Award

Huntly

The most Creative Place?!?!?

Huntly won the Creative Place Award 2013 for the town with fewer than 10,000 residents.

The Award of £100,000 was presented by Creative Scotland at a ceremony in St Andrews in January. Despite snow storm weather, a delegation of about 17 people from Huntly went all the way to the award ceremony at St Andrews to receive the award. Here we celebrated in style singing Room to Roam, the town anthem and a few more North East Bothy Ballads to the ceremony audience. The Creative Place Award will mean that we are able to roll out a programme of walking & art activities in the coming years that will build on our previous projects, help the town to increase its profile as a cultural and outdoor tourism destination, and set a platform for the town to address health, environment and economic development issues through the medium of walking. It will also enable us to set up a Cultural Fund for other groups in Huntly.

To read more on the Creative place award visit:
www.creativescotland.com/explore/projects/creative-place-awards

Huntly Cultural Fund

Deveron Arts and Huntly Development Trust will be distributing a Cultural Fund of £40,000. The fund will be available for local groups and artists who propose projects that add to Huntly as a creative place and tie in with the Years of Natural Scotland and Homecoming.

More details on our website, or on www.huntly.net

What's Next?

Celia y Junior artists from Havana will be joining us in April for a three month residency. Their project will map geographies of friendships in the town and offer some refreshing Cuban cocktails!

Simone Kenyon, a performance artist from London will be leading our Hielan' Way project, which aims to develop a long-distance path from Huntly to the Cairngorms through artistic, anthropological and historic interpretation.

Fernweh is an international travelling-curator project that aims to investigate notions of travel, hospitality and socially engaged art with communities across Scotland. Eight curators from Scotland and the Americas will travel by train from SSW/Lumsden to Timespan/Helmsdale, ATLAS/Skye, IOTA/Inverness and back to Huntly. Over the course of this trip we will jointly produce a

publication between travellers and hosts that aims to define what we mean by socially engaged art.

The Caravan Gallery will be with us this Summer. Setting up an alternative tourist information office, they will gather local knowledge of local leisure, activities, and culture.

Stuart McAdam will be developing a path network with us looking at the redundant railway network in the North East of Scotland that fell victim to the Beeching Cuts 50 years ago.

Gayle Chong Kwan won the Deveron Arts RSA residency award. We will welcome her later in the year.

Creative Dates for your Diary

Fri 5 April, 7 pm

Creative Place Celebration

Introduction to the Cultural Fund and Ceilidh
Stewarts Hall

Mon 8 April, 11 am

Art, Culture and International Friendship

Discussion Event with Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet
Secretary for Culture and External Affairs
Booking essential

Past Projects

Michael Höpfner walked a 30 mile circuit around Huntly for 14 consecutive days in December. He was outside all the time, staying in his tent and with some locals along the way. A publication of the route is in progress.

Simon Preston brought together chefs, bakers, cooks, butchers, and ice-cream makers to create the Huntly Signature Menu. Since then recipes have been taught in the Gordon Schools and posters of the menu will be going into kitchens around Huntly. Check out the recipes on our website and try making some for yourself!

Allysson Velez finished his residency in December, the NordEste/North East CD by the *Ceilidhcatu* band is now in the making. Watch this space.

Oot and About

Claudia Zeiske, Director of Deveron Arts was invited to give a talk at the University of Lapland Annual Conference about Rural Cultural Development. She went the 2467 miles from Huntly to Rovaniemi by train, knitting Aran patterned tea cosies on the way. She felt this was time well spent to contemplate ideas and improve her skills.



In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks
John Muir

Walking Appreciation

Walking Institute

Deveron Arts has a keen interest in the concept and activity of walking. Our ambition is to set up a unique Walking Appreciation Institute over the coming year.

The Walking Institute will be an energetic centre of excellence for the walking & arts discourse that will produce work in Huntly and beyond. It aims to work with both walking research and walking action trajectories, encompassing both local and international communities.

The cross cutting strands of politics & ethics, community & place, season & time, pathmaking & mapping provide references for curation, research and action. Through these interlaced themes and activities the programme will both: contribute to current research and dialogue within the walking & arts discourse, while creating on the ground walking

activities that are appealing and accessible to a wide range of people.

We kick start the programme this spring with a new path-making project following the river Deveron, and The Slow Marathon 2013 with walking action and discussion around John Muir day.

With/Against the Flow

Double artists' walk on River Deveron

This spring locally based artists Anne Murray and Jake Williams are walking the River Deveron. Inspired by history, music, landscape and people who have lived or worked on the river, the artists will walk the 60 mile length leading from the foothills of the Cairngorms to the Moray Firth between Banff and MacDuff.

Against the Flow, is Anne, a ceramic artist who recently moved to Huntly. She is currently travelling up river from the sea to Huntly and then from Huntly to the Cabrach source. Anne is a peripatetic artisan, carrying with her everything she needs to observe, record and make things on her way. She

there must be more out there. If anyone has details of others I would be really pleased to hear". From the journey he will produce digital sound recordings of the songs that belong to the Deveron Valley, recorded on location.

The artists' work will help Deveron Arts to map a walk along the length of the river, connecting with routes already established, which will eventually be promoted for others to walk. Anne started her walking on the 3rd of March and tackles 5-6 miles each week, with special information gathering days at Duff House, Turriff and Huntly. Jake will commence on 17 March with gigs in, Glenbuchat, Rothiemay, Huntly and Banff. Photos of the river can be sent to anne@anne-murray.com in addition anyone can become a member of her open facebook group, set up for the project; join group 'River Deveron'. For further information contact: diane@deveron-arts.com

What's On

Jake Williams will perform at the following times and places:

Sun 17th March, 5pm

The Grouse Inn

Wed 20th March, 8pm

Huntly Folk Club, Ex-Service Mens Club

Thu 21st March, 8pm

Forbes Arms, Rothiemay

Sun 24th March, 8pm

Market Arms, Banff

Sunday 17 March

Walking Institute London Launch

Wed 20 March

Anne Murray and Jake Williams will show their work in the Empty shop on Bogie St.

Friday 19 April

Jim Crumley: The Landscape's Song
Talk on the Cairngorms

Slow Marathon route explanation

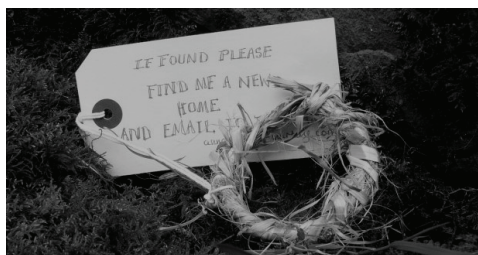
At the Empty Shop on Bogie St, 7pm

Saturday 20 April

Slow Marathon, start 7am

Sunday 21 April

Nature as Home Discussion
John Muir Day, 11 am
See website for details



will be walking the route slowly in small sections, mapping, illustrating and researching the route. She will gather found objects, collect soil samples and capture images on the way as well as producing small crafted objects while out walking. Anne wants to find out as much as she can about the river: "I will be meeting various groups on the way, gathering information about the Deveron, but I'm keen to find out more about the route, stories, architecture, geology and environmental aspects of the river. I also would love to receive images of the river or emails with information."

Coming from the opposite direction, *With the Flow*, musician Jake Williams is walking from the River Deveron source at the watershed between Glenbuchat and the Cabrach with his mandolin. The song-walk will feature a series of pub-gigs where he will sing songs and show images of the walk, where possible recording music on location. Jake is inviting people to join him for parts of the route, especially people who know of any songs of the area. "I know about a dozen traditional songs and Scottish Dance tunes that have their location in the Deveron Valley like 'The Burn of Gauch' but



Following the Success of the 2012 Event, we are organising a second Slow Marathon on Saturday the 20th of April. People will be joining us from near and far as we take a day of long distance path making to appreciate our extraordinary landscape. Around the marathon we will have scheduled a series of talks, celebrating the birth of Scottish conservationist John Muir.

The Slow Marathon 2013 will walk part of a Hielan' Way, one of the old drove roads that connected the communities of North East Scotland. A plan survives in the National Archives of Scotland which includes the Hielan' Road out of Huntly- the Capital of Strathbogie for over a millennium. This track climbs up over the Clashmach, via the remote upland Cabrach community past a variety of geological and natural features, to Glenlivet and the foot of the Cairngorm Highlands.

**Remember Walkers: You walk at your own risk.
Take your life and your legs in your own hands.**



Nancy Mteki talks about her long journey to becoming a Photographer

Nancy, how did your career get started as a photographer?

I started in 2008 at a local group in Harare called Iliso Labantu Photographers in Cape Town, South Africa. It was founded by Alistair Berg and Sue Johnson. My family is known in the arts in Zimbabwe. My late uncle Boira was a sculptor in what we call the 1st generation sculptors, (those who first went to art school). He taught my father, who again passed that to me. I started my art life by carving stone. As time passed by I thought I could use my talent better by teaching other young people in South Africa how to carve stones. So, in 2008 I travelled to Cape Town hoping to fulfil my vision. I was so disappointed when I arrived as I couldn't do it: there were no stones for carving like our Zimbabwean raw stones.

I recall one day when I was passing by the street I met this man Buyaphi Mdlele, a photographer from Cape Town who was sitting next to some colourful images on Church Street. I was drawn to these images and eventually I thought 'Maybe I can be a PHOTOGRAPHER! let me try and see'. So he introduced me to the group Iliso Labantu Photographers. My first exhibition was at the Cape Town Month of Photography in 2008.

Do you remember your first camera?

Hahahaha yes I do. It was an analogue Pentax K1000 and I still have it with me. Its one of my most special possessions. I was given this camera by my mentor Alistair Berg. It was a big nightmare for me to start taking pictures with this camera as at that point I didn't know anything about photography. All these mathematical settings were totally confusing. But the support I had gave me strength and hope: if I wanted it to work then I would have to dedicate my heart, energy and soul to it. During that time I was working as a waitress. I saved all my money to buy a new camera which was a digital camera Sony SLRA200 in 2009.

I remember when I bought my first digital camera. I saved money and woke up at 6 to wait for the shop to open. Today I thank Alistair, he taught me a wise lesson by giving me an analogue instead of a digital camera. I taught myself to understand images, and now am able to exhibit and travel to international workshops.



Saturday 23rd of March SHARING A-WAY

The final event for Nancy's Project is a day of sharing for Mums of Huntly, with food, memories, and discussion on the what we do as mothers today. Please get in touch if you would like to come.

What is it like to be a photographer in Zimbabwe?

Being a photographer in Zimbabwe is amazing. It is like I am living in my own world. At times it could be scary due to some people who lack the understanding of my career. Anyone can be a photographer, but the way we capture and portray subjects it makes us different.

You are here with Kayla, your daughter, and your project is about motherhood. You are collaborating with the local artist Norma D Hunter. Can you tell us a little bit more about it?

Yes I am here with my little angel. She is part of the project too: she is helpful and she easily relates with my subjects. Norma is an artist and it really helps a lot with getting closer to the community. We are a team. During the past weeks I have been attending mother and toddler groups in Huntly and my interaction with

them is getting stronger by the day. They are starting to know more about my work and some take part in my project. I aim to have a range of images, especially day to day life of mothers in Huntly.

In which way do think this experience will affect your art practice?

It is a once in a lifetime opportunity for me. I have never been in Europe before, and this will open more doors in my career, doors to more opportunities and to more countries to visit.

Nancy Mteki was interviewed by Elisabetta Rattalino

Nancy will be talking at the
Women Artists from Africa and its Diasporas
panel discussion
Thursday, 28 March 2013, 6:30pm
Tiwani Contemporary
16 Little Portland Street, London
Rsvp: info@tiwani.co.uk

STOP PRESS

Check out what's been going on this season at Deveron Arts

In Town

Town Collection

New pieces:

Berimbau: From Ceilidhcatu Project, NordEste/NorthEast, this Brazilian single string instrument is installed in the backstage room at the Stewarts' Hall where Allysson Velez held his drumming sessions.

The Town is the Menu: From Simon Preston's 2012 project, laminated posters of the Huntly Signature Menu are being installed in kitchens throughout the town.

Rafoogar Meets Kiltmaker: This item from Priya Ravish Mehra's textile project is now at Café India

Opportunities

Walking Programme Intern
Shadow Curator Intern
Project Intern
start April 2013

Cultural Health Visitor
Start May 2013

Volunteers / short-term Interns
any time

FRIDAY LUNCHES

Every week our doors are open at 1pm on Friday, for £1.50 lunch. Come along to meet us, our artists and hear about what we are doing!

What would you want from a Garden?

February saw a Perma-Prep in the Brander garden. Let us know if you have garden ideas or if you would like to volunteer in the garden.



People Talk

Hello

Shadow Curator Intern
Jan-March 2013
Anthony Elliott from London

Walking Project Intern
March—April 2013
Simba Leung from Hong Kong

Welcome

Walks of Life Project Manager
Diane Smith joined us from Moray Arts Centre in February to manage our new initiative exploring the relationship between art & walking.



Mum and Baby in Residence

Nancy Mteki arrived with her 16 month old daughter Kayla from Zimbabwe at the beginning of February, and has been photographing aspects of motherhood. Kayla is enjoying woolly hats and shortbread, but not Cough Medicine. She is flabbergasted by the amount of toys children in Huntly have.

Our Visitors

10 Students from Gray's School of Art came with Allan Watson to test the Slow Marathon.

Kate Rich to discuss a Ferral Trade project in 2014.

Christine Eyene, Shadow Curator for Mbereko is visiting for International Womens Day and Mothers Day weekend

François Matarasso visited investigating the cultural life of Aberdeenshire in January
Haste ye back soon to Huntly toon!

Shop

Slow Marathon

A hard back book with photos and essays on the 2012 project. Over 500 people collectively walked the 5852 mls distance from Ethiopia to Huntly and back. With texts by Ron Brander and Emebet Mesfin. £20

Norma Hunter: It's Knot Magic

Norma took a 5 day walking pilgrimage from the Clootie Well back to Huntly. This book of the project explores the relationships between walking, health and spirituality. £5

Roman Signer:

Transmissions from the River

Full colour publication from the River Installation and Screening. With text by Alice Bain. £7

Special Offers!

- Historical Huntly collection
- Music Collection
- Walking collection

www.deveron-arts.com/shop



Contact Us

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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 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 the geo-boundaries of Huntly.