

Seedscapes Symposium

Saturday 21 November, 2pm to 5.30pm

Why do seeds matter? How can artists and scientists work together? How might photographs catalyse change?

Artists Dornith Doherty, Sant Khalsa, Chrystel Lebas, Heidi Morstang, and Liz Orton join guest speakers Simran Sethi and Miranda Lowe for an online symposium of presentations and discussions inspired by our exhibition *Seedscapes: Future-Proofing Nature*. The event is chaired by *Seedscapes* curator Professor Liz Wells, Director of Impressions Gallery Anne McNeill, and Head of Programme Dr Pippa Oldfield.

Seedscapes: Future-Proofing Nature is an Impressions Gallery touring exhibition curated by Liz Wells in association with The Dick Institute and Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery. With thanks to Spectrum Photographic and the Norwegian Embassy.

Seedscapes Symposium is supported by The Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art.

Programme

2.00pm Introduction

2.00pm Welcome from Dr Pippa Oldfield, Head of Programme, Impressions Gallery.
2.05pm Short film: Curator Liz Wells introduces *Seedscapes*.
2.15pm Why do seeds matter? The case for action: Simran Sethi, journalist and writer.

2.30pm Panel 1: Re-activating archives

Facilitator: Anne McNeill, Director, Impressions Gallery
2.30pm Chrystel Lebas, artist
2.45pm Liz Orton, artist
3.00pm Miranda Lowe, Natural History Museum
3.15pm Questions

3.30pm Coffee break

4.00pm Panel 2: Seeding change

Facilitator: Liz Wells, curator of *Seedscapes*
4.00pm Heidi Morstang, artist
4.15pm Dornith Doherty, artist
4.30pm Sant Khalsa, artist
4.45pm Questions

5.00pm Forum

Chaired by Pippa Oldfield, Impressions Gallery

5.30pm Close

Speakers biographies

Dornith Doherty, Artist

Dornith Doherty has an MFA in Photography from Yale University and is a 2012 Guggenheim Foundation Fellow. Her work has been exhibited widely, including Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas; Bluecoat, Liverpool, England; Museum Belvédère, Heerenveen, Netherlands; and Museum of Photography, Rafaela, Argentina. www.dornithdoherty.com

Chrystel Lebas, Artist

A graduate from the Royal College of Art (1997), Lebas has exhibited widely, at venues including Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh; The Photographers' Gallery, London; Maryland Art Space, Baltimore; Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels; and Palais de Tokyo, Paris. Her work is held in private and public collections including Victoria and Albert Museum; Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris; The Citigroup Private Bank; and The Wilson Center for Photography. Her book *Field Studies: Walking through Landscapes and Archives*, published to accompany her recent major solo exhibition at Huis Marseille Museum for Photography, Amsterdam, won the Kraszna Krausz Best Photography Book Award 2018 and Best Dutch Book Design Award 2016. www.chrystellebas.com

Miranda Lowe, Principal Curator and Scientist, Natural History Museum

Miranda Lowe has decades of experience caring for historically and scientifically important natural history collections. She presents lectures on both curatorial research and popular science, including appearances on BBC Radio 4, BBC Four, and CBBC. Her engagement and work with creative industries allows her to link science, nature, and art to aid the public understanding of natural world. In 2013, Miranda was a finalist in the National Diversity Awards Positive Role Model Award for Race, Religion & Faith. She is a founding member of Museum Detox, the network for people of colour who work in museums, galleries, libraries, archives, and the heritage sector; she works tirelessly on issues concerning representation and inclusion in museums and gallery spaces. She is passionate about ensuring representation of women and diversity at all levels of STEAM and inspiring the next generation.

Sant Khalsa, Artist

Sant Khalsa has exhibited internationally in over 175 exhibitions, and is represented in museum collections including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Center for Creative Photography in Tucson, and Nevada Museum of Art, as well as private and corporate collections in the US and Europe. Her work has featured in *Art in America*, *Artforum*, *Afterimage*, *American Photo*, *European Photography*, *British Journal of Photography*, *Huffington Post*, and *Los Angeles Times*, among others. She has lectured extensively, including The Getty Center; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Center for Creative Photography in Tucson, Arizona; and American Photography Institute at New York University. Khalsa is the inaugural recipient of the Society for Photographic Education Insight Award (2012) for her significant contributions to the field of photography. www.santkhalsa.com

Heidi Morstang, Artist

Heidi Morstang has worked with moving image, photography and experimental documentary for more than 20 years. She has exhibited her photographic work and screened her films internationally, most recently at International Science Film Festival, St. Petersburg, Russia; Krakow Film Festival, Poland; Royal Norwegian Embassy, London; Museo de Arte Contemporaneo de Santander y Cantabria, Spain; and The Science Museum, London. Her work is represented in numerous private and public collections. www.hcmorstang.co.uk

Liz Orton, Artist

Liz Orton is Mead Fellow at the University of the Arts London. She is the recipient of a Wellcome Trust Arts Award to investigate the social and cultural aspects of medical imaging. She was selected for 'Next Generation: Future Greats' by *Aesthetica* magazine, and has exhibited in group shows including Stour Space, London; Photofusion, London; and Guernsey Photo Festival. www.lizorton.co.uk

Simran Sethi, Journalist and Academic

Simran Sethi is a multimedia journalist, academic and public speaker who is endlessly curious about psychology, sustainability, food, and the people and places that nourish us. Named one of the '50 Most Influential Global Indians' by *Vogue India* and the 'environmental messenger' by *Vanity Fair*, Simran has written for outlets including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *National Geographic*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Guardian*. She was designated one of the top eight women saving the planet by *Marie Claire*, and is the author of *Bread, Wine, Chocolate: The Slow Loss of Foods We Love*, named one of the best food books of 2016 by Smithsonian. She is the contributing author of *Ethical Markets: Growing the Green Economy*, winner of a 2008 Axiom Award for Best Business Ethics Book. <https://simransethi.com>

Liz Wells, Curator of Seedscapes

Liz Wells is one of the UK's foremost photography scholars, specialising in landscape and the environment. She has curated numerous exhibitions, including *Light Touch* (Baltimore Washington International Airport, 2014); *Futureland Now – John Kippin, Chris Wainwright* (Laing Gallery, Newcastle, 2012), *Sense of Place, European Landscape Photography* (BOZAR, Brussels, 2012); and *Landscapes of Exploration, British Art from Antarctica* (touring the UK 2012–2015). She is the author of *Land Matters, Landscape Photography, Culture and Identity* (2011), and is series editor for *Photography, Place, Environment*, Bloomsbury Academic. She is Professor Emeritus in Photographic Culture at University of Plymouth, and formerly convened the research group Land/Water and the Visual Arts. In 2017, she was awarded an honorary doctorate from University of Gothenburg, Sweden.