

Touring information



Clare Hewitt *Everything in the forest is the forest*

An exhibition with sustainability and environmental consciousness at its creative heart.



Image: *The Peace Tree* © Clare Hewitt

Clare Hewitt: *Everything in the forest is the forest*

In 2019 artist Clare Hewitt read a government report suggesting that loneliness and isolation were increasing in rural areas of the UK. Simultaneously she was learning that trees communicate, nurture, and thrive in sentient communities.

For five years Hewitt worked at The Birmingham Institute of Forest Research (BIFoR FACE) within a circle of twelve oak trees, which are about 180 years old, and would have been acorns when photography was invented.

Setting her artist studio within this circle, Hewitt has repetitively documented the forest and its seasonal changes. She has examined the way trees relate amongst themselves and how, in the subterranean world, they connect their roots with fungal networks to share nutrients and information, they identify and nurture their offspring, pass wisdom to their young, and care for their community.

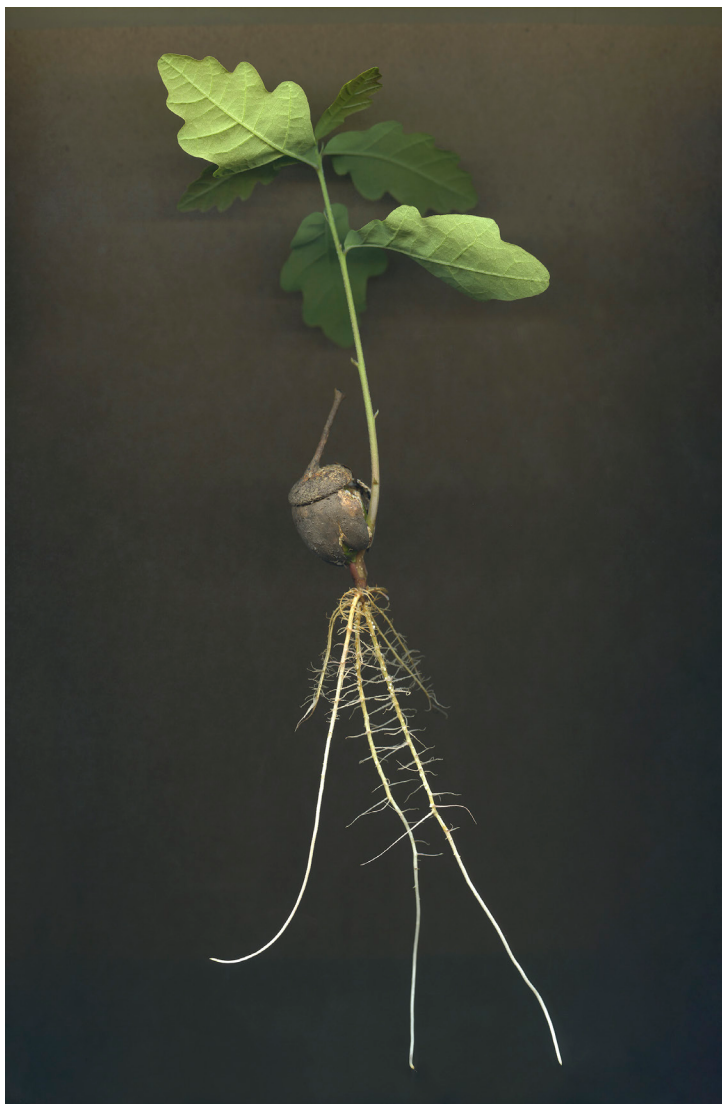


Image: Acorn Germination © Clare Hewitt

Clare Hewitt says *"I started visiting the trees as often as I could, and I began to think about why they are so successful at creating and nurturing a community. Trees are doing so many things right, and we have veered off on a different track somewhere along the way. I now look to the trees and their eco system to inspire change, and I've tried to replicate their behaviour in my creative practice and my life."*

Everything in the forest is the forest presents 14 bodies of work that celebrate trees remarkable ability to nurture and communicate, and offers a wealth of insights on how we, as a society, can gain from the unity, communities, and relationships found within the forest.

The work ranges from large format six month to four year long exposures made in handmade 'birdbox' pinhole cameras, affixed to the oak trees; three hundred individual and unique oak leaf lumen prints exposed to the sun on the forest floor; oak gall ink paintings; videos made in the subterranean roots environment, through to photographs by workshop participants, working with Hewitt, created during the pandemic.

The exhibition is accompanied with a resonating immersive sound recording of the dawn chorus in the forest, made in collaboration with musician Annie Mahtani.

Sustainability and environmentally conscious considerations are the cornerstone of the exhibition, with re-using and re-purposing principles. Every process and production has been meticulously researched and carefully considered - such as printing on paper made with waste from the fashion industry and using reclaimed scaffold boards to make frames.



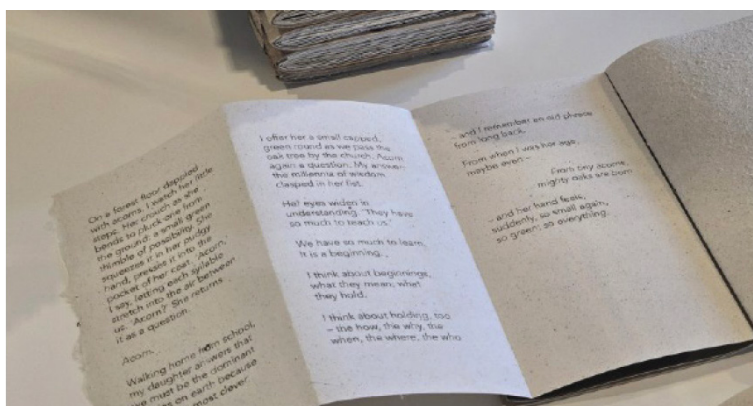
Anne McNeill says, "Caring for the environment has increasingly been a central concern for the work we show and the work we produce. We are committed to presenting photography that is more sustainable and better for the environment. I am delighted that Impressions premiered this innovative and thoughtful work of Clare Hewitt, an artist who I consider to be at the vanguard of sustainable artistic practice."

I believe **Everything in the forest is the forest** is a ground-breaking project and exemplar of sustainability that will benefit future generations of photographers, artists and visitors alike."



An Impressions Gallery touring exhibition, curated by Anne McNeill, and Clare Hewitt's first major solo exhibition and UK premier. Presented as part of Bradford 2025, UK City of Culture.

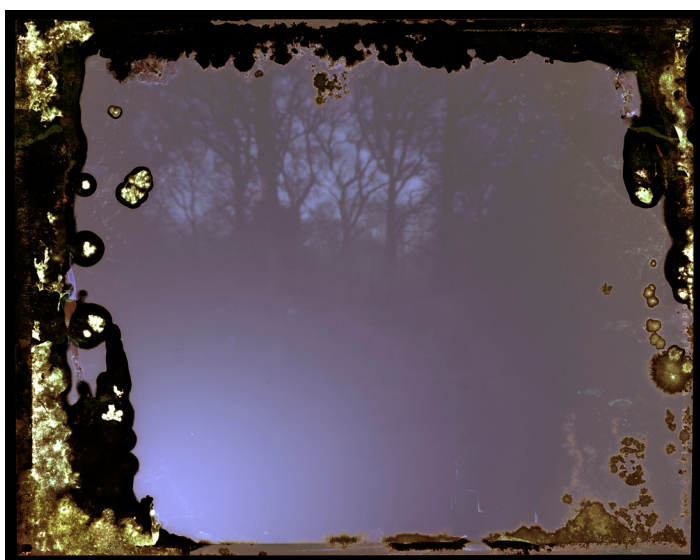
Everything in the forest is the forest: A handmade, biodegradable photobook inspired by the interconnectedness of the forest



Mindful of creating a book inspired by the behaviours she observed in the forest, Hewitt worked collaboratively with artists Carolyn Morton, Danielle Phelps and Alice Fox, alongside designer Emily Macaulay (Stanley James Press) to make *Everything in the forest is the forest*, a handmade biodegradable photobook. The small collection of books has been consciously produced using responsibly sourced natural materials, including fungi (mushroom) paper, oak gall ink and spun linen thread.

The book features collaborative text by international writers Kerri ní Dochartaigh, Marchelle Farrell and Jessica J. Lee, interweaved with oak leaf lumen prints, some of which were created by people living near the trees during the Covid lockdowns. The others, made by Clare Hewitt, depict just a handful of over eight million leaves produced by the twelve oaks each year. The photobook consists of twelve parts, each a self-contained 'mini-book' offering its own experience, while forming part of a connected whole. This modular format is inspired by the relationships found in the forest and has been conceived to enable the work to be shared more widely.

Throughout Summer 2025, *Everything in the forest is the forest*, a handmade biodegradable photobook by artist Clare Hewitt and a community of collaborators, toured across the UK via a Borrow and Share system.



Six month to four year long exposures made in handmade 'birdbox' pinhole cameras © Clare Hewitt.

Our visitors said ...

Another beautifully presented exhibition. I particularly like this exhibition by Clare Hewitt as it has an important message behind the work and teaches and educates photographers like myself, artists and visitors that we should consider the environment more thoughtfully and seriously and apply it to our practices and our everyday lives.



- What a beautiful subject matter so beautifully captured. A portrait of a forest imbued with love and longing.
- Really enjoyed this. Peaceful and soothing but provokes me too.
- Love how sustainability is intertwined with every part of the exhibition!
- I've seen many photographic exhibitions (nature), never really felt moved in the way this exhibition has. The large photo prints of the seeds are wonderful. The colours are so warm. Love the soundscape.



- Loved the concept and the putting into practice of many values seen here – sustainability and regenerating.
- Moving and fascinating – love the attempt to capture so many facets of the forest through different techniques. And the love for the environment.
- A brilliantly curated exhibition with real depth and sensitivity. I like the connection with science which opens the exhibition up to a wider audience. Thank you for adding the sound effects, it really brings the exhibition to life.



Camera trap image: *Blue Tit* collecting spiders webs to build their nest © Clare Hewitt



Camera trap image: *Muntjac Deer* © Clare Hewitt.



Minirhizotron Imaging of Subterranean Environment © Clare Hewitt

Introductory panel created by Impressions Gallery and displayed in the exhibition to show sustainability and environmentally conscious considerations that were made during exhibition production and install.

Creating Change: Sustainability and Photography

"Trees are doing so many things right, and we have veered off on a different track somewhere along the way. I now look to the trees and their ecosystem to inspire change, and I've tried to replicate their behaviour in my creative practice and my life." Clare Hewitt

Caring for the environment is a central concern for Impressions Gallery. We are committed to presenting photography that is more sustainable and better for the environment.

Sustainability, environmentally conscious considerations, reusing and repurposing principles are the cornerstone of *Everything in the forest is the forest*. Each process and production method has been carefully researched and considered; such as creating recyclable prints, working with paper made from fashion-industry waste, using reclaimed scaffold boards to make frames, and collaborating with organisations striving for change.

We have used paint diverted from landfill supplied by *Seagulls* (Paint with Purpose). Brochures and leaflets have been printed on paper made from 100% FSC® recycled paper, information boards and labels are presented on Katz board, made from fully recyclable wood pulp, and paper used for our information sheets is supplied by the *Woodland Trust*, produced to the most demanding environmental standards.

A small collection of biodegradable photobooks, presented here and circulating nationally via a borrow-and-share system, have been produced using biomaterials, including mushroom paper, botanical inks, and spun linen thread.

While we hope this ground-breaking project will be an exemplar of sustainability for photographers, artists and visitors alike, we also want to learn from what others are doing.


impressionsgallery

 **BRADFORD 2025**
UK City of Culture

 Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

 **City of
BRADFORD**
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

 **UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM**  **BIPOR** Birmingham Institute
of Forest Research

GRAIN

 **BIRMINGHAM CITY
University**

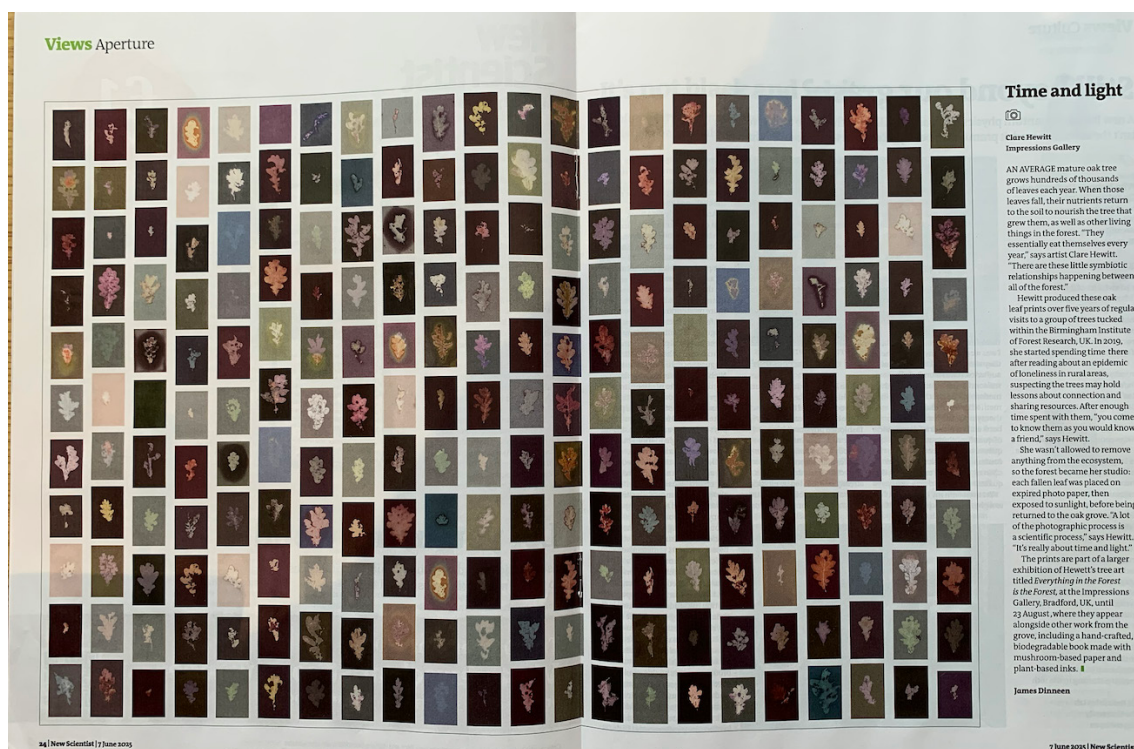
 **STEAM
house**
BIRMINGHAM CITY
UNIVERSITY

 **UWE
Bristol** University
of the
West of
England

 **SW**

 **a.n**

What the papers say



Aesthetica

THE ART & CULTURE MAGAZINE
www.aestheticamagazine.com

Issue 125
June / July 2025

5 Clare Hewitt: Everything in the Forest is the Forest

Impressions Gallery, Bradford | Until 23 August

impressions-gallery.com

In 2019, artist Clare Hewitt read a government report suggesting that loneliness and isolation were increasing in rural areas of the UK. At the same time, she learnt that trees communicate, nurture and thrive in sentient communities. Hewitt set up a photography studio within a circle of 12 oaks, which are about 180 years old, working with The Birmingham Institute of Forest Research to examine the impressive species. *Everything in the forest is the forest* presents 14 images that offer valuable insights into how society can learn from the unity found in nature.

Featured in
Aesthetica 10 to See.
Recommended
exhibitions this season.

About Clare Hewitt

Clare Hewitt (b. 1983) is a photographic artist based in Birmingham, UK. After completing a degree in Law at Oxford Brooks University, she went on to study Commercial Photography at Arts University Bournemouth. Her work has been exhibited at venues including Landskrona Foto Festival, the National Portrait Gallery, Open Eye Gallery, and the Royal Photographic Society, amongst others. In 2019, Hewitt was the recipient of the GRAIN Bursary Award. Her clients include New Yorker, Guardian, Photoworks, Oxfam, New Statesman, and The Wire. Hewitt also works as an Archivist and a Senior Lecturer in Photography at University of the West of England, Bristol. <https://clarehewitt.co.uk>

About Anne McNeill, Curator

Anne McNeill, former Director and Curator of Impressions Gallery and is arguably one of the most knowledgeable professionals in the cultural photography industry with over 30 years experience. Recent notable exhibitions include *The Queen, The Chairman and I* (2016) by Kurt Tong; *Borderland: Stories from Donbas* (2019) by Christopher Nunn; *In Which Language Do We Dream?* (2021) in collaboration with Rich Wiles and the al-Hindawi family; and *Nationhood: Memory and Hope* (2025) a Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture and Impressions Gallery commission.

Anne is regularly invited to judge international awards, such as the *W. Eugene Smith Memorial Grant*, New York, 2015, and the *Krasna Krausz Book Awards* 2019. Anne is the 2022 recipient of the *Royal Photographic Society Curatorship Award*, the oldest photography award in the world, which recognises excellence over a period of time in the field of photographic curatorship, through exhibitions and associated events and publications.

Credits

With thanks to GRAIN Projects, The Birmingham Institute of Forest Research (BIFoR FACE), University of Birmingham, STEAMhouse, UWE Bristol, Stirchley Printworks, and a-n The Artists Information Company.

The book was made possible by Arts Council England (National Lottery project funding).

An Impressions Gallery touring exhibition, presented as part of Bradford 2025, UK City of Culture.

Exhibition content

Space required

Approximately 50 - 70 linear metres. We can help advise on adapting the show to suit your space.

Artwork

There are a total of 14 bodies of work displayed in the exhibition.

Acorn Germination

4 framed artworks at 83.5cm x 104cm / 33 x 41"

The Peace Tree

12 framed artworks at 41cm x 33.3cm / 16 x 13"

Branch Paintings

4 framed artworks 48.5cm x 67.5cm / 19 x 26.5"
2 framed artworks 33.5cm x 48.5cm / 13.1 x 19.1"
2 framed artworks 24cm x 67.5cm / 9.5 x 26.6"
2 framed artworks 34cm x 43cm / 13.4 x 16.9"
1 framed artwork 36.5cm x 48cm / 14.4 x 17.3"
1 framed artwork 22.5cm x 33.5cm / 8.9 x 13.2"
1 framed artwork 33 cm x 45.5cm / 13 x 17.9

Root Panoramas

2 framed artworks at 89cm x 23.5cm / 35 x 9.3"
3 framed artworks at 68.5cm x 28.5cm / 27 x 11.2"

Bark Portraits

12 framed artworks at 33.3 cm x 43.5cm / 13 x 17

Pin hole exposures

6 lightbox artworks at 91.5cm x 67cm / 36 x 26 "

Bird box pinhole cameras

12 artworks 22.5cm base x 26.5cm / 8.9 x 10.4"

Lumen Prints

296 artworks. Size of full artwork 686cm x 167cm / 270 x 65.7 "

Soil Chromatographs

36 artworks at 12.5 cm circular diameter / 5"

Camera trap

21 artworks at 30.5cm x 17.5cm / 12 x 6.9 "

Above/Below

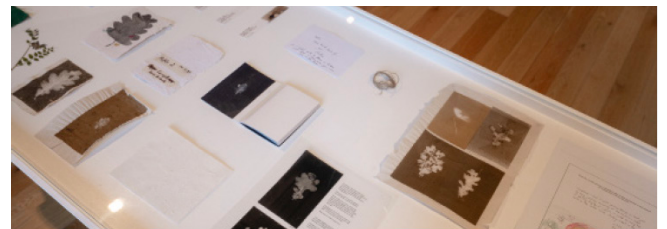
The film can be presented on a wall-based screen or projected, to suit venue (audiovisual equipment not supplied).

Documentary photographs

11 artworks 30.5cm x 25.3cm / 12 x 10"
3 artworks 25.3cm x 30.5cm / 10 x 12"

Workshop participants lumen prints and text

12 x lumen print artworks and 4 x text presented in a vitrine 180cm x 69cm. Vitrine can be supplied if required.



Everything in the forest is the forest photobook

2 mini books at 8cm x 12cm / 3.1 x 4.7 "
1 stack of 10 mini books 8cm x 12cm / 3.1 x 4.7 "
Books are presented in a vitrine 51cm x 51cm / 20 x 20". Vitrine is supplied.

Ephemera - Process materials from book production

19 x artworks at various sizes presented in a vitrine 180cm x 70cm / 70.9 x 27.6". Vitrine can be supplied if required.

Dawn Chorus

An immersive recording of the dawn chorus captured within the circle of trees, in collaboration with musician Annie Mahtani, bringing the sounds of the forest into the gallery space. Approximately 45 minutes from start to finish.

Exhibition content



Left to right: Branch Portraits, Documentary Photographs, Pin Hole Exposures.



Ephemera - Process materials from book production.



Left to right: Acorn Germination, Soil Chromatographs. Branch Paintings.



Right to left: The Peace Tree,
Branch Paintings.



Bark Portraits.



Pin Hole Exposures.

Resources

VR virtual exhibition experience

An interactive virtual experience, which can be embedded into the venue's website. Visitors can explore the exhibition at Impressions online, zoom into artworks and click on hotspots to view more information.

Interpretation and engagement

Exhibition information

Supplied as InDesign files for you to produce in your preferred format to suit your space:

- Title and introductory text panel
- Creating Change: Sustainability and photography panel. Subject to using the same suppliers.
- Information sheet, including large print
- Caption boards explaining each body of work and how we have strived to recycle, re-purpose and re-use.
- A large print caption handout.
- Book making process ephemera information sheet.
- Artist information folder with artists biographies, examples of previous work and sustainable resources.

Activities

Supplied as InDesign files for you to produce in your preferred format to suit your space:

- 4 x family activity sheets
- Gallery trail for 5 to 10 year olds

Marketing

- Text for venue to produce press release
- Six hi-res press images

Films

Meet the Artist

5 minute and 28 second film with Clare Hewitt, in English, subtitled. Including film transcript, with large print.
Filmmaker: Jonathon Bartley.

Everything in the forest is the forest

6 minute and 23 second film with Clare Hewitt, in English, subtitled. Including film transcript, with large print.



Still from *Meet the Artist* film commissioned to accompany the exhibition with Clare Hewitt.

What the hire fee covers

Your touring fee of £5,000 +VAT includes:

- Loan of exhibition and all artworks for up to 12 weeks at your venue, plus additional time for installation and take-down.
 - Suggested liner hang 50 - 70 linear metres. Please note that the images featured in this proposal are indicative, and final content may vary slightly.
 - Artist fees to Clare Hewitt.
 - A fully interactive virtual reality version of the exhibition, which can be experienced remotely on tablets, mobile phones, laptops and desktops.
 - Interpretation (such as exhibition guides and information sheets).
 - Digital copies of exhibition interpretation to use and reproduce, including wall panels, information sheets, exhibition guides, and family activities.
 - Media pack with high resolution rights-cleared digital images and press release for your own press campaign.
 - Support from the curator and Impressions' team, with advice on curatorial and technical matters to help you plan the exhibition.
-

Your venue will cover the following:

- Two-way transport of the exhibition and insurance in transit and in situ.
- Exhibition installation.
- Travel and accommodation for a member of Impressions' curatorial team to attend layout day, if appropriate.
- Fabrication of interpretation, such as wall panels and info sheets.
- Exhibition launch (if applicable) and costs for Clare Hewitt to attend from within the UK.
- Fees and costs for your education and learning programme, and any engagement activities involving the curator and/or artists (if applicable).
- Press and marketing for your own venue.

About Impressions Gallery

Impressions Gallery is a charity that helps people to understand the world through photography and acts as an agent for change.

We opened in 1972 as one of the first specialist photography galleries in the country, and have played a vital role in changing the way people think about photography. We believe photography is for everyone and support ground-breaking artists who challenge and change photography. We present world-class exhibitions that explore issues such as identity, race, gender and politics. We showcase new work as well as historical photography outside the mainstream.

With an international reputation, we're proud to be in Bradford. In 2025, our landmark exhibition *Nationhood: Memory and Hope* launched the Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture programme before touring to Cardiff, Belfast and Glasgow. Throughout the year, we continued to commission and share photography that cemented Bradford's reputation as a dynamic centre for contemporary arts and culture.

Our national and international touring exhibitions programme means that more people have the opportunity to experience great photography, wherever they may be. We have worked with a variety of partners from museums and arts centres to heritage sites and international festivals. With curatorial and technical expertise, marketing and interpretation templates, and photographers' fees inclusive in exhibition hires, we make the touring process as easy as possible.

Impressions Gallery is funded by Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation and supported by Bradford Metropolitan District Council.

Contact

Impressions in Residence,
1 Piece Hall Yard,
Bradford BD1 1PJ
touring@impressions-gallery.com

Registered Charity No.503238

