

# Manifesto for Sustainable Experimentation 21 May-9 August 2025

## Maggie Roberts

Fiction as Method

Presentation with workshop

Saturday 21 June at 2pm

[Book on Eventbrite](#)

Maggie Roberts contributes to *Manifesto for Sustainable Experimentation* by proposing Fiction as Method for imaginative and cognitive sustainability. Robert's is a founding member of the legendary Orphan Drift collective and will draw upon their early project SYZYGY, a Beaconsfield Commission of 1997, as well as current research, speculative fictions and conversations with collaborators such as Serpentine Gallery's Creative AI Lab team.

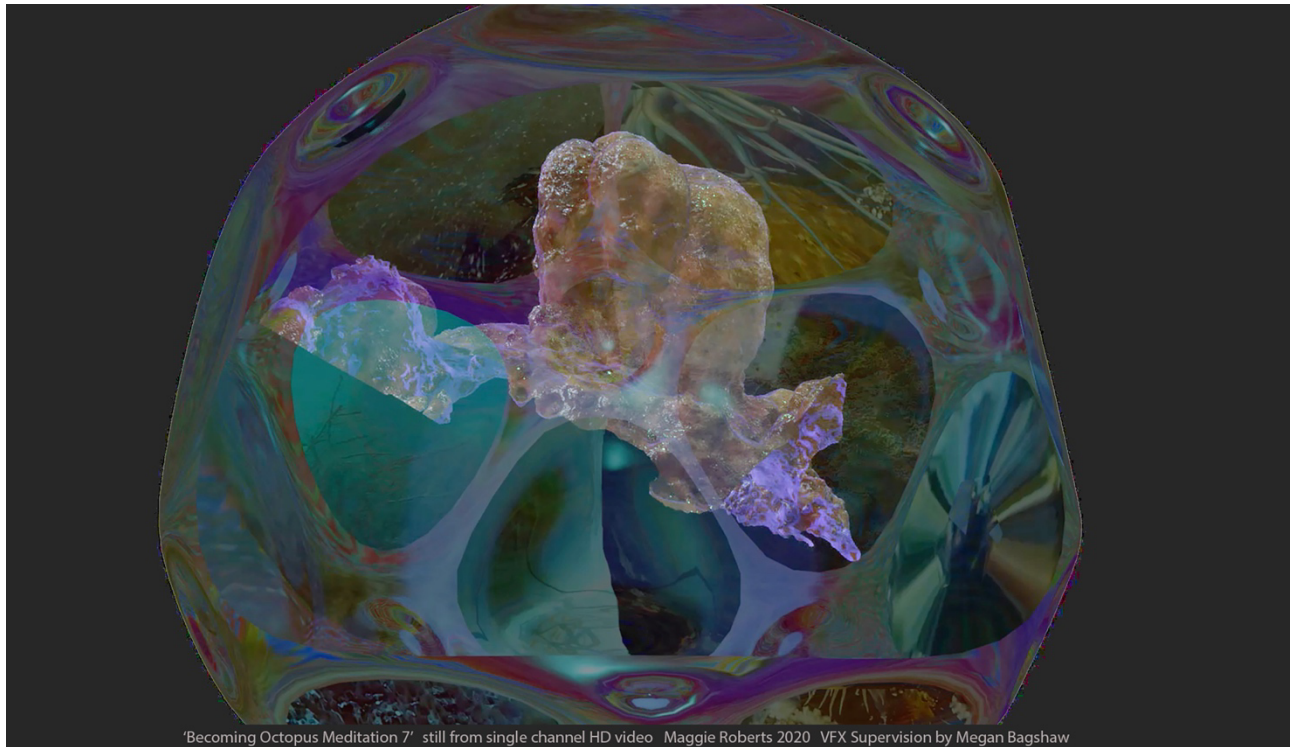
Robert's performative presentation will open *Sustainable Solstice* which marks the summer solstice by bringing to light some of the strategies in which artists engage to survive, thrive and be heard through fictioning and humour. This event is part of Beaconsfield's current exhibition project Manifesto for Sustainable Experimentation. The title is imbued with irony, since making art for most artists is simultaneously unsustainable (due to lack of resource) and yet sustained by the vocational pursuit of aesthetic and political expression. We recognise 'environment' not only as physical landscape, but as the social and political ecosystems we inhabit and shape.

## 0(rphan)d(rift>)

Orphan Drift's contemporary work manifests as video projections, installations, texts and site specific projects. Carrying the signal into a moment organized much more thoroughly by time travel. Considering current narratives around climate change, bio- capital and related migratory patterns we re-imagine the urban as porous, interspecies and terraformed. We are researching the sentience and sensory intelligence of the octopus in an attempt to imagine the alien distributed consciousness of algorithm systems, and continue to work with moving images and ancient predictive technologies such as I-Ching and the shamanic technique of Interspecies Communication to create non-linear narratives and installations.

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<https://www.orphandriftarchive.co>



'Becoming Octopus Meditation 7' still from single channel HD video Maggie Roberts 2020 VFX Supervision by Megan Bagshaw