

Manifesto for Sustainable Experimentation 21 May-9 August 2025

Joseph Walsh

Plant Gazing

2025

31 May from 13.00 Roof Garden workshop

Thursdays May-August 12.00-17.00 (except 19.06 and 24.07)

Joseph Walsh has been invited to develop his recent art-botanical practice by basing himself in Beaconsfield's garden yard on Thursdays during *Manifesto for Sustainable Experimentation*.

During his residency, Joe considers how the flourishing gallery garden might inform the underlying environmental themes of the exhibition. He asks how plant communities and eco-systems growing alongside human organisational structures might inform or inflect the art communities that pass through the site, developing drawing and writing over the time and bringing ceremonial and meditative practices to bear on the topic.

In 'Plant Gazing', drawing is a way of connecting with the herb in its moment (in season) and also drinking it as tea. By deeply engaging self and others with a particular botanical species through sketches and notation, the artist gleans forms, behaviour, qualities and feelings that cross between plant and person. Walsh suggests Plant Gazing as an activity that moves us beyond assumptions of a 'not-me', attuning to the plant on its own terms. He aligns this practice with questions around neurodivergent communication.

Joseph Walsh's most recent practice has involved herb meditation workshops, observational drawing and painting in nature, and lifelong learning through his upkeep of a plot of land in a community wildlife garden. He has previously delivered Plant Gazing workshops at IMT Gallery and Jamyang Buddhist Centre and is currently studying herbalism.

Walsh is a long-term artist associate of Beaconsfield and in 2010 he collaborated curatorially with Dafna Talmor in the mentored project *Test Bed 1*. Walsh's cinematic contribution 'Rise of Treble, Ode to Bass' was complemented by Talmor's 'Space Ship Earth', in which she realised the roof garden that triggered the greening of Beaconsfield's garden yard; work that was continued by Urban Oasis and Lucy Gregory.

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