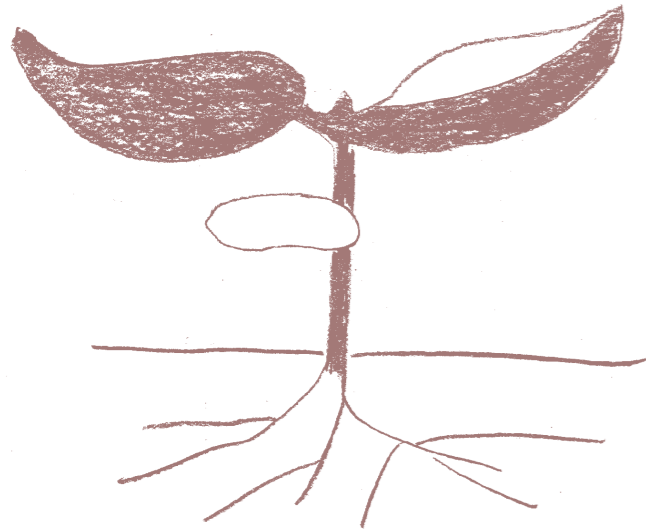


Edge Effects

30 January – 26 May 2024



Edge Effects is a participatory project that takes inspiration from nature to shape an ongoing series of artist residencies with primary and secondary schools in Newham, East London.

It borrows its title from an ecological phenomenon that occurs in the space where the tree line of a forest meets a field, or land meets water. This natural convergence creates an area of unique biodiversity where overlapping communities become all the richer for their mutual interactions.

Workshops in school gardens and classrooms, during autumn 2023, adopted a slow approach, guided by

principles of permaculture to *observe and interact*. Activities included looking closely at trees and absorbing the histories of herbs to create light-touch responses through drawing, words and weaving.

As urgent as it is timeless, *Edge Effects* is a project about our stewardship of the planet and promotion of a mindful understanding of our place in nature. In taking time to observe a leaf, to listen and learn from its stories, we ask: might an oak tree or a blade of grass impart their valuable wisdom if we look for long enough?



12 principles of permaculture

12 creativity use & response to change.

11 use edges & value the marginal

10 use and value diversity

9 use small & slow solutions

8 integrate rather than segregate

7 Design from patterns to details

6 produce no waste

5 use & value renewable resources & services

4 Apply self-regulation & accept feedback

3 obtain a yield

2 catch & store energy

1 observe & interact

people care

fair share

earth care

Johanna Tagada Hoffbeck

(b.1990, France)



Penser, Manger, Partager III, 2024

Donated fabrics, plant dyes including onion skins, carrot peel and avocado pits

Translated from French, *to think, to eat, to share* is an ongoing series of works initiated in 2015 that creates space for reflection on habits and cycles of food and textile production and consumption. A suspended structure composed of used fabrics invites you to sit inside its ephemeral walls. Sensitively hand-dyed with the peelings and pits of plant-based kitchen waste, the work poetically embodies permaculture principles of re-purposing what we would otherwise throw away.



Safe Space, 2021

Growing Memories, 2021

Oil on linen

Two paintings sit side by side, the soft tones rendering the artist's memories of growing and harvesting alongside her grandmother; two women coming together, sharing passed down wisdom of tending the family's permaculture gardens in rural Alsace.



Tree Drawings, 2023

with Years 4 and 6 pupils at Vicarage Primary School
Pencil on recycled sugar paper

The Gardening Drawing Club, founded by Johanna Tagada Hoffbeck in 2021, is an ongoing series of participatory interactions with people, plants and gardens. For *Edge Effects* the artist created a warm invitation to school children to stop, look and draw; to take notice of the tree leaves, branches and berries found on the periphery of their school site. The resulting collection of drawings are a poetic illustration of time spent in careful observation of nature.



(Almost) Ikebana, 2023

with Year 10 students at Plashet School
Paper cups, natural pigments, dried flowers, seedheads and grasses

The Japanese practice of *Ikebana* is a disciplined art form in which nature and humanity are brought together through a slow, meditative consideration of plants' shape, line and form. This workshop conceptualised for The Gardening Drawing Club is a playful take on the practice. Johanna guided students through some of the key principles of Ikebana. The works are displayed in the gallery windows in an ever-changing relationship to the natural light.

Kirsty Lowry

(b.1977, UK)



Wild Baskets, 2024

with Year 9 students at Plashet School
Mixed grasses, cordyline leaves, pine needles, nettles, cotton and linen thread

Using foraged natural material, including wild grasses from open land close to the school and leaves fallen from municipal planting, the artist guided students to weave using simple, yet ancient, basket making techniques. The repetitive rhythm of stitching and coiling, gathering fibres in your fingers and coercing them into shape, creates a meditative experience. Entwined in this act of making and handling of raw materials from the local landscape is the experience of connecting to the land.

Sonya Patel Ellis

(b.1973, UK)



Botanical Notes, 2023

with Years 5 and 6 pupils at Vicarage Primary School
Book of works in pencil on recycled sugar paper

The geographical, spiritual and medicinal histories of oak, hawthorn and rosemary, all growing on the site of a primary school in Newham, East London, have been captured by pupils in notes, sketches and poetic compositions. This collection of botanical meditations is gathered in a beautifully bound book by artist Julie Vermeille.

Sam Ayre

(b.1986, UK)



Wood Works, 2024

Oak, elm, douglas fir, ash, hazel, cherry and beech wood

A place to sit, pause and read has been carved out of reclaimed and salvaged wood using inherited tools and skills passed down from the artist's late grandad. The various woods feature all the knots, textures, holes and grooves of their respective journeys from tree to timber. This furniture is borne out of a practice that centres conversation and collaboration, seeking to build community as much through the relationships formed on the forage for offcuts, as by the conversations that can be exchanged across the carefully crafted table.

12 Principles of Permaculture

Illustration by Johanna Tagada Hoffbeck, 2024

Permaculture is a creative design process that takes inspiration from nature to create regenerative solutions for ourselves, our communities and our planet.

Adapted from *Permaculture: Principles & Pathways Beyond Sustainability* by David Holmgren, first edition 2002. Original illustration by Richard Telford.



Scan the QR code for artist bios and to find out more.

With thanks to staff and students at Vicarage Primary School and Plashet School in Newham, East London; especially Zenab Bhuta, Hazel Lopatkin, Lucinda Roche and Julie Singleton.

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