

# WILD NEW TERRITORIES

Wild New Territories showcases new visual art, media and performance works that explore the interplay between the urban and the wild. A tri city event going from London to Vancouver to Berlin.

## Summary of activities to date for Wild New Territories in London

After extensive negotiations the installation of Wild New Territories began in Camley Street Natural Park in early September facilitated by the participating artists with support from the team at London Wildlife Trust and various other technical experts. The challenge of installing all the numerous works in various settings, some with complex technical requirements was no easy task. All members were pushed to their limits, though miraculously almost all elements were in place and fully functional by opening night. The installation of works at the Foundling Museum was scheduled for Sept. 17 and the very capable curator Stephanie Chapman and her team made a difficult day run more smoothly. There was also a technical check at Canada House the same afternoon with James Rennie and team that allowed speakers and artists an opportunity to become familiar with the space.



LWT team install electrical cabling for WNT outdoor screens



Jamie Griffiths and Rob Scharein install complex 'La Wefan'



Julie Henry and Debbie Bragg install works with assistance



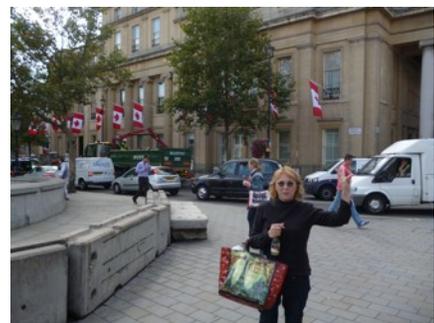
Henry/ Bragg 'Surrey Hills' required special waterproofing



LWT team helped Edgar Heap of Birds install Banner



The Foundling Museum, Brunswick Square



Canada House with WNT artist Alma Tischler Wood



Technical check with Canada House Team



Interpretive centre at Park with WNT works to be installed

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## Opening Reception Wild New Territories - CANADA HOUSE Sept. 18, 2012

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6:30pm	Doors open – reception
	Video works and installations presented from <b>Wild New Territories</b> artists through the evening
6.30 – 9.00	<b>1 Mile of Sky</b> – performance by <b>foreign investment</b>
7.00	Welcome (Canadian High Commission)
7.05	Opening remarks-intro to artists and overview of the exhibition ( <b>Ron den Daas</b> )
7.10	<b>Mathew Firth</b> from the <b>London Wildlife Trust</b> ‘Wilderness in London’s urban areas’
7.15	<b>Chris Stringer</b> from <b>Museum of Natural History</b> – ‘Human ecologies’
7.35	<b>Elizabeth Rollinson</b> from <b>Linnean Society</b> ‘What’s in a Name? Language and Biodiversity’
7.50	<b>Edgar Heap of Birds</b> , ‘Most Serene Republics’
8.05	<b>Glenn Lewis</b> , ‘Paradise Mythology in the Garden’
8.20	<b>John Wood</b> – overview of Wild New Territories - relation to art/design
8.30	summation - informal discussion (artists + speakers + audience)
9.00	END

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With a press campaign that included many local art listings, twitter and facebook activity, and some strategic advertising a full house of over 80 guests was welcomed to participate in the Opening Reception of Wild New Territories in the elegant reception rooms of the Canadian High Commission. *Schedule of activities above*. All facets of the event, including the Foreign Investment performance, program of video art from WNT artists, WNT sculptural installation and Keynote speakers proceeded as planned though unfortunately due to the ambitious nature of the evening and the caliber of material presented the evening ran 40 minutes over schedule and the ‘overview of WNT by professor John Wood was cut short. This missing segment is being resolved in the following discussions being organized at the Park including a one hour talk by John Wood at the Park Oct. 7 which will also include tours of WNT works installed at Camley Street Natural Park.

The talks initiated at this opening event have been instrumental in informing the installed works of Wild New Territories in London. Mathew Firth’s moving account of the struggle for environmental conservation in London culminating in the formation of the London Wildlife Trust and protected areas such as Camley Street Natural Park pointed to the possibilities in restoring highly impacted urban landscapes to once again support vibrant biodiversity. All the installed art works in the park gain from the idea that a devastated land can be repaired and though the park is still in early stages of restoration and is surrounded by urban development it alludes to alternative strategies aimed at addressing some of the concerns voiced by the works presented in Wild New Territories. Chris Stringer presented an amazing review of southern UK’s deepest past around the ever evolving Thames water basin which included startling new discoveries related to the earliest dates of human activity in these regions which through the ground breaking work of AHOB (Ancient Human Occupation of Britain), which Chris Stringer directs, has now learned the previously accepted date of earliest known human activity has been pushed back ½ million years to 900,000 years ago! The cultural and environmental themes expressed in WNT, seen through this lens, gain resonance and currency as the unprecedented impacts of contemporary society are contextualized by a new understanding of an ancient primordial past. Elizabeth Rollinson from the Linnean Society brought important perspectives in a talk that underlined the important role language and by extension cultural understanding plays in grappling with contemporary environmental paradigms. All keynote speakers offered valuable insights informing Wild New Territories works and formed a brilliant and profound basis to commence the Wild New Territories tri city project.

AN Journalist Michaela Nettell wrote in her Sept. 21 article. *‘We were reminded how important simple contact with the natural world is, especially for city-dwellers; that children who spend too much time playing computer games are dangerously disengaged from the natural world; and that the biggest driver of biodiversity loss is habitat change, triggered by the exploitation of place by humans. I spoke to artist Gordon Cheung about artworks as warning signs and the role of the artist in telling cautionary tales. “Artists try and face what might be seen as monstrous aspects of civilization,” he says. “Only by facing these things can change be affected.”*



FI Shepherd greets WNT guests



Guests mingle with artists and the backdrop of WNT works



Elizabeth Rollinson presents ‘what’s in a name?’ language and biodiversity’

## Opening of Wild New Territories - Camley Street Natural Park Sept. 19 2012

After a final day of last minute installation adjustments, the Wild New Territories Park Opening contrasted the formal setting of Canada House with the more natural important restored wild lands of Camley Street Natural Park and post industrial surroundings of the Kings Cross area. The evening was well attended with over 200 visitors over the duration of the opening.



Foreign Investment performance, selling shares in the sky, with Shepherd and dPearly King & Queen of St Pancras, at Camley Street Park



After touring the WNT works visitors gathered around the wood burning ovens where pizza and drinks were served to raise funds for Camley Street Natural Park



Visitors also gathered around the interpretive centre/ gallery to watch works being presented on the outdoor screens Morris/ Trasov, Colour Bar Research slideshow was viewed in the gallery

## Opening of Wild New Territories – The Foundling Museum Sept. 26 2012

After the Sept 18 and 19 WNT Openings the next week brought the WNT Foundling Museum Opening and a LWT Members Opening at Camley Street Natural Park on Sept. 28 that included keynote speaker John Wood and artists Henry/ Bragg and Jamie Griffiths.

The Foundling Museum WNT Opening was in conjunction with the opening of two other exhibitions 'Dickens and the Foundling' and 'Received – a blank child'. Director Caro Howell made an articulate introduction to Wild New Territories and encouraged the approximately 50 guests to visit the exhibition at Camley Street Natural Park. The Foundling Museum has an amazing history connected to many important creative icons such as Handel, Hogarth and Dickens, all who joined forces with many others to support important social issues of their day. The Museum was London's first public gallery and the portrait given by William Hogarth of Thomas Coram, original benefactor of the Foundling Hospital still forms part of the historical collection of the Museum. Wild New Territories project is inspired by the actions of these important artists and grateful for the opportunity to connect with this institution.



William Hogarth's donated portrait of Thomas Coram



Opening remarks at the Foundling Museum



Foundling Museum WNT exhibition introduction text



Mars Kaliszewski and Alma Tischler Wood exhibited works related to themes in both Wild New Territories and the Museum



Ron den Daas exhibited painting 'New School'



Jamie Griffiths exhibited photograph 'Marked'



Max Kimber, Foundling

## London Wildlife Trusts Members Opening Night Sept. 28

Professor John Wood introduced Wild New Territories themes to the approximately 40 audience members who braved the torrential down pours of the afternoon to learn more about Wild New Territories.



Henry/ Bragg introduce the audience to their work



Interesting discussions developed from the questions fielded



Jamie Griffiths discussed the complex nature of her installation

## Wild New Territories, list of works



Wild New Territories banner



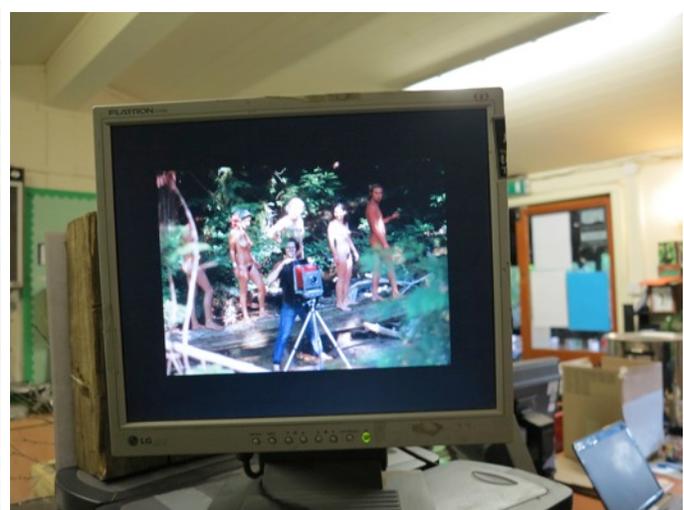
Wild New Territories signage for park



## Indoor works



Cornelia Wyngaarden, 'Philosopher's Walk: Episode 1. If Water Were Like Wishes in Fairytales Uninvited guests/invasive species. A prelude to Sleeping Beauty' 2 channel video2 installation, 2012



Michael Morris/Vincent Trasov, 'Colour Bar Research', digital slide show, C 1970

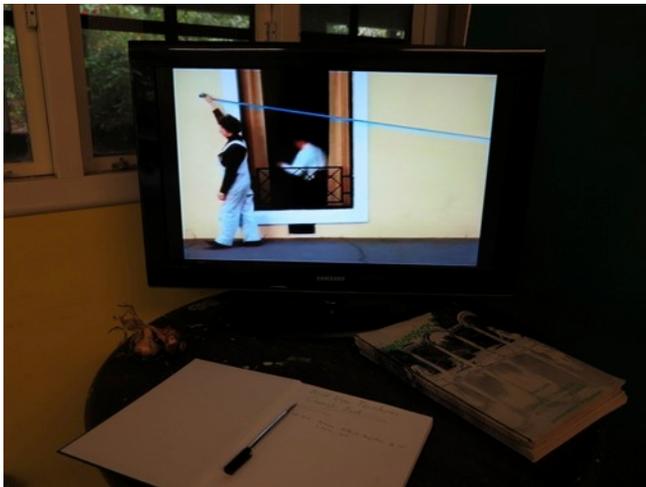


Ron den Daas



Glenn Lewis

Gordon Cheung, 'Drift Wood' 2012



Glenn Lewis, Blue Tape around City Block, video, 1969



Gordon Cheung, Tulipmania, mixed media on stock listings, 2010 Michael Landy, 'Greater Plantain', etching, 2006



Gillian Wearing, 'Roger and Peter', photograph, 1994



Bo Myers, 'Excavate' Digital Print, 2012

Outdoor works



Gordon Cheung, beehive installation, wood, glass, metal, bull skull and bees, life size, 2012



Gordon Cheung, 'Four Riders', 2 screen video installation, 2010



Dana Claxton, 'Onto the Redroad' outdoor installation of 2 photographs, 36 x 60' each, 2010



Henry/ Bragg, 'Blooming Britain' installation of 12 photographs, 24 x 36", 2010



Henry/ Bragg, 'Surrey Hill', video installation, 2012



Ron den Daas, Native Species and Food Chain installation, painted plastic consumer waste, 2008



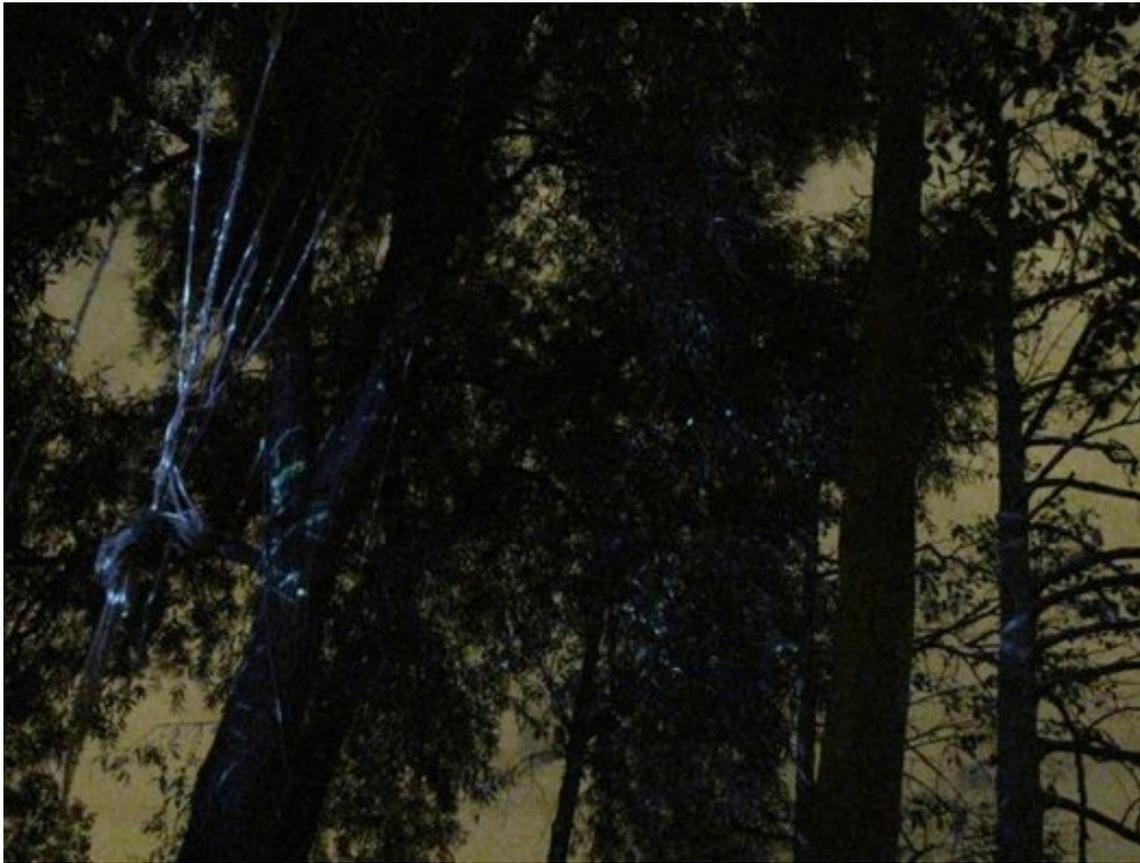
Alma Tischler Wood, Bird houses installation, mixed wood construction, 2012



Kathy Kenny and Ron den Daas, 'Howe Street Meets Camley Street Natural Park, video, 2012



Mars Kaliskewski, 'Organic', outdoor installation of photograph, 150 x 100 cm, 2012



Jamie Griffiths/ Diego Samper



Edgar Heap of Birds, '25 Million Red Indian Lives Lost', Text on vinyl Banner, 5' x 30', 2012

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## Further engagement opportunities with Wild New Territories

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Camley Street Natural Park has a steady stream of activities that offer opportunities for the WNT project to engage with community groups that are involved with programs attached to the park. Additionally Wild New Territories in conjunction with London Wildlife Trust is offering 4 workshops to London Schools that include an introduction to the exhibition at Camley Street Natural Park and the creation of a collaborative art project. Finally a closing discussion headed up by Professor John Wood and invited design and environmental experts is being planned for Oct. 28.



60 young people participating in the 'Challenge' program at the park were introduced to Wild New Territories on Sunday Sept. 30

# WILD NEW TERRITORIES

**London Wildlife Trust & Wild New Territories Workshops 2012, a free, outdoor classroom experience for your students**

**Explore art and ecosystems in your schools' nearby nature!**

The Exhibition Wild New Territories being presented at Camley Street Natural Park this Autumn is offering free, half-day interpretive workshops for select London schools and community groups. The workshops, initiated by Canadian artist Ron den Daas, will be hosted by London Wildlife Trust and a selection of artists inspired by nature, social and environmental issues.

**Workshops will consist of the following:**

- Introduction (15 minutes): discover the importance of functioning ecosystems to local environment and why it is important to protect habitat for other species.
- Art & Habitat Walk (45 minutes): look at the environmental and social themes expressed in Wild New Territories through the lens of the contemporary art works installed in the Park. Students will discover themes for their art project while learning more about the different habitats and wildlife at Camley Street Natural Park.
- Art Workshop (1.0 hrs): students work directly with WNT artists to create interpretive drawings and other collaborative art projects.

This art will be used to form collaborative works to be installed in the Park during the Project.

**Session Details:**

Sessions are on offer to single classes of up to 30 children (ideally KS2) on the dates specified below. Due to high demand sessions will be offered on a first come first served basis. All sessions run in the morning for a 2 hour duration with the option of staying for lunch at the park after the activities.

**Dates Available:**

Monday 8th October 2012	10.30 am – 12.30 pm
Friday 12th October 2012	10.30 am – 12.30 pm
Monday 22nd October 2012	10.30 am – 12.30 pm
Friday 26th October 2012	10.30 am – 12.30 pm

**Booking:**

To secure a session for your class, please contact Helen Burton at Camley Street Natural Park at [hburton@wildlondon.org.uk](mailto:hburton@wildlondon.org.uk) or call **Helen on 0207 833 2311** quoting New Wild Territories and your chosen date.

**Sponsors:** Wild New Territories Project. **London Wildlife Trust**

We are seeking to engage citizens, young and old, in creative strategies aimed at raising awareness about environmental impacts facing local watersheds and underlining environmental conservation through cultural engagement.