

ARTWORKS FOR BIRDS. A Visual Arts Workshop for Educators



40 High St, Brentford, TW8 0DS

10.00 – 12.30, Saturday October 19, 2019



“When a decoy works it captures the entire attention of the predator. All eyes are on the tantalizing teaser and that takes the attention off of you. That’s your green light.

Distraction is good.”

What kind of art would a falcon enjoy? What might be its aesthetic tastes, its conceptual conundrums? How might our ideas around these themes provide new material for the visual arts classroom?

Aimed at those working in education at all levels, and led by artist/filmmaker Laura Cooper and artist/anthropologist Hermione Spriggs, this visual arts workshop playfully explores the possibility of making art for birds. It engages with bird perspective, and how we might act with greater sensitivity to the technological and natural environments that surround us.

Participants will explore physical movement exercises drawn from falconry that communicate with birds of prey. We will conduct hands-on experiments making wearable textiles and flags that communicate specific messages between species using a “predator eye” aesthetic. We will engage with visual strategies of visual mimicry and decoy use across the human and animal kingdom. We will discuss the ecology of predator-prey relations in London’s suburbs, and the ethics of human-bird interactions in domestic, public and private airspace. We will endeavor to construct “artworks” for raptors.

There is a £5 fee for this workshop.

Hermione Spriggs and Laura Cooper come together for special projects as the Anthropology of Other Animals. “AoOA” is a multi-species conversation dedicated to discussion and experimentation around our collective status as human animals. The Anthropology Of Other Animals has developed in alliance with The Political Animal Reading Group (The Showroom, London/Dublin), Land Art Mongolia (Ulaanbaatar/ Berlin), Titanik Galleria (Turku, Finland), East Side Projects (Birmingham), the Multimedia Anthropology Lab (London), Mildred’s Lane (Pennsylvania) and Emerging Subjects of the New Economy at University College London.

Artworks for Birds accompanies the exhibition *Air Matters. Artists Learning from Heathrow*, Watermans Arts Centre, 10th October 2019 – 4th January 2020. Private View Wednesday 9th October, 6 – 8pm. For more information or to book a place on the workshop please email Nicholas Ferguson. n.ferguson@kingston.ac.uk or contact the Watermans Box Office <https://www.watermans.org.uk/events/air-matters-learning-from-heathrow/>



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