

Tamara Henderson  
*Green in the Grooves*  
6 October/31 December

Tamara Henderson,  
*The Canberran Characters*, 2020-2021  
Various material, dimensions variable.  
Produced in collaboration with Nell Pearson.  
Courtesy the artist. Photo: Levi Fanan.



Camden Art Centre is pleased to present *Green in the Grooves*, the first institutional exhibition in the UK by Tamara Henderson (b. 1982, New Brunswick, Canada). It will include a major new body of work, produced over the last three years, comprising sculpture, installation, painting, live performance and film.

Focused on the close observation of microbiology in compost soil, and the chemical and insect driven processes of decomposition and Earthworm ecology, *Green in the Grooves* draws our attention to the often-unappreciated earth beneath our feet, the grounding of life on this planet. Conceived as a series of new commissions that explore the primordial intersection of life beneath and above the Earth's surface, Henderson's project is indebted to the material substance of the terrestrial world—what matters to life on Earth—whilst retaining a visionary capacity to reach beyond the horizon, to the wider cosmos.

The exhibition is structured around four archetypes, personified as characters—The Gardener; The Director; Sound; and Light—and includes a major new film commission, a new series of 12 paintings, ceramic, glass and bronze sculptures, a sound installation, and bespoke costumes for each of the characters. Henderson's virtuosic ability to work with new and unconventional materials in tandem with more traditional mediums such as ceramics, glass, wood and metalwork, gives rise to a distinctive artistic language that casts these archetypal characters in an animistic worldview, exploring how we are implicated in wider cosmologies that relate us to the planet and to the universe. Taking audiences on a journey through her creative process, from experiments made in her studio and garden in Australia, to the technologies and points of view associated with each character in her worldly cosmology, Henderson brings our senses into contact with realms that are beyond the reach of everyday experience, including a live-feed installation of the sound of worms tunnelling through organic matter, and incense derived from plants that Henderson terms 'botanical travellers', including Verbena, Lavender, Eucalyptus and Wattle.

Henderson's earlier series have been concerned with cycles of night and day, death and rebirth, seasonal shifts and circadian rhythms. This new, immersive exhibition explores our entanglement with nature, the importance of our symbiotic relationship with the living planet, and modes of healing through regenerative systems in the body and the wider environment. As such, *Green in the Grooves* draws attention to patterns of decomposition, regeneration and metamorphosis, reflecting on our current relationship with the Earth and the ecological challenges we must face in order to envision a sustainable future.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a File Note with a new essay by writer Jennifer Higgie.

Supported by Arts Council England, The Henry Moore Foundation, Canada Council for the Arts and Arts ACT (Canberra). Henderson is represented by Rodeo London | Athens and Palas, Sydney Australia.

#### Notes to editors

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#### Camden Art Centre

Camden Art Centre is a place for world-class contemporary art exhibitions and education. Situated in Hampstead, North London (charity number 1065829) Camden Art Centre is a place for art and artists; a place for the curious, the novice and the expert alike. It's a place to see, to make, to learn and to talk about contemporary art, whether in our building, attending off-site projects or via our digital forums. Founded by artists in 1965, the Centre continues to be a space for the most vital and diverse mix of practices and ideas and is dedicated to supporting artists at every stage of their careers.

#### Biography

Tamara Henderson (b. 1982, New Brunswick) lives and works in Canberra, Australia. Henderson's film *Womb Life* (2018) was included in the group exhibition *The Botanical Mind, Art, Mysticism and The Cosmic Tree*, at Camden Art Centre in 2020 and her film *Seasons End: Out of Time* (2018) was exhibited at Tate Modern that same year. Following those presentations, this will be Henderson's first institutional solo show in London and builds on her significant national and international exposure which includes solo presentations at Kunst-Werke Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2018), Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin (2018), REDCAT, Los Angeles (2016), the ICA Philly (2015), and Grazer Kunstverein (2014), as well as inclusion in group exhibitions and festivals, such as *Thin Skin* curated by Jennifer Higgie at Monash University Museum of Art, Australia (2023); the São Paulo Biennial (2021); the *Virginia Woolf* exhibition at Tate St Ives, Pallant House Chichester and The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge (2018), Glasgow International (2016); Vancouver Art Gallery (2016), Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm (2016); Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2016); and dOCUMENTA 13 (2012).



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