

ARTFUL MIGRATION CONFERENCE

*An exploration of artists-in-residence, birds on the move,
and habitats in transition*

20TH OCTOBER 2023 / 9:30-17:00

**EASTERBROOK HALL
DUNCAN ROOM
THE CRICHTON
DUMFRIES
DG1 4ZE**



**OUR FIRST ARTFUL MIGRATION CONFERENCE WILL
BE AVAILABLE IN PERSON AND ONLINE AND WILL:**

REVEAL the achievements and challenges of three innovative artist residency programmes developed by Upland and Moving Souls Dance, hosted in local areas of wildlife importance. We will hear the artists' views about the opportunities to make and exhibit work, and their engagement with local people, on the shared theme of migratory birds and their habitats.

REFLECT on how the artists have responded to the challenges facing these birds, including shifting weather patterns and changing management of habitats.

LISTEN to keynote speakers from conservation and ecological art perspectives illuminating further the contexts and approaches involved in this work, encompassing artistic practice, conservation, citizen engagement, sustainable land management and the manner in which these approaches overlap.

CONSIDER the implications of Artful Migration for global agendas on the conservation of migratory species and the complex mix of values and contexts at stake.

CELEBRATE the partnerships and collaborations stimulated by Artful Migration, and discuss where these might lead in future!

WHO IS THIS CONFERENCE FOR?

- Bird enthusiasts and anyone concerned with nature conservation.
- Young people engaged with climate change activism / climate science and environmental issues.
- Organisations and audiences who engage with the arts in a place-based context.
- Artists, enthusiasts, volunteers, activists with an interest in the natural world and commitment to sustainable lifestyles and creative practices.
- Academics and scientists who research and contribute to the fields of policy and decision-making in conservation, sustainable land management, eco-tourism and related disciplines.
- Policy makers, land management agents / agencies, farmers and publicly owned venues concerned with management of the natural environment of Dumfries & Galloway.
- International conservationists and organisations concerned with migratory species and their conservation needs.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



SACHA DENCH

Sacha Dench, aka the ‘*human swan*’, is a world record breaking biologist and conservationist. As Ambassador, UN’s Convention on Migratory Species and CEO and founder of Conservation Without Borders, Sacha wants to change the narrative of the climate crisis to one of ambition, energy and enthusiasm for solutions.

Sacha is a pioneering conservationist, record-breaking adventurer and inspirational speaker. With her global experiences in conservation, time spent with people in the Arctic and losing her family home in the 2020 Australian bushfires, Sacha can make a compelling case for immediate action on climate change, biodiversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2016, she embarked on a daring and groundbreaking expedition to track the migration of Bewick’s wans, a declining species. She used a paramotor (a type of powered paraglider) to fly alongside the swans on their migratory journey from Arctic Russia to the UK.

Find out more: www.conservation-without-borders.org



CHRIS FREMANTLE

Chris Fremantle is Research Fellow and Lecturer at Gray’s School of Art. He works as a producer of public art and design projects, a writer/editor in particular on ecoartscotland.net.

The focus of Chris’ work is the role of art and design in environmental research. He is currently leading the arts work package in a Future of UK Treescapes project focused on genetic diversity.

He is Curatorial Research Associate with the UFS Collaborative Arts programme and Arts Advisor to the European Marine Board’s Embracing the Ocean initiative.

He has worked with the James Hutton Institute, Rowett Institute for Nutrition and Health, Scottish Rural University College, the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, and been involved in the Landscape Decisions and Valuing Nature programmes.

Find out more: chris.fremantle.org / ecoartscotland.net

DR GREG CONWAY
- Senior Research Ecologist,
British Trust for
Ornithology, BTO

Greg Conway is a specialist researcher studying the Nightjar population in Thetford Forest, Suffolk. He has enabled Leeming+Paterson to attend the site in Thetford Forest and been part of their research to engage with these elusive birds. The British Trust for Ornithology has supported ongoing research in Thetford Forest and across the UK, including tagging of the Nightjars to reveal their migration routes to African wintering sites and feeding habits on the UK breeding grounds.

Find out more: bto.org/about-bto/our-staff/greg-conway

DAVE PRITCHARD
- Consultant

Dave Pritchard has worked for over 40 years in research, policy, legal, management and governance roles in the fields of environment, culture, heritage, and the arts, and has held several non-executive directorships and chairing positions. He is now an independent consultant for bodies including the UN Environment Programme and the Council of Europe, and serves on a variety of national and international advisory boards.

Find out more: arts-ed.csu.edu.au/education/creative-practice-circle/researchers/profiles/david-pritchard

ANDREW BIELINSKI
- Area Manager, Scottish
Lowlands & Southern
Uplands, RSPB

Andrew is a zoologist by training, with some 40 years' experience in nature conservation. He has worked for RSPB Scotland for 13 years, currently as Area Manager covering the 5 southernmost counties in Scotland. He leads on RSPB's operational work across the area, including 7 nature reserves, planning and forestry casework, project management and advisory work. Before joining the RSPB he worked for Scottish Natural Heritage. Outside his day job Andrew is also Regional Representative for the BTO, a bird ringer and is chair of the local bat group.

Find out more: rspb.org.uk/scotland

JOHN WALLACE
- Artist

John's multi-screen installation *Scene: here* was the result of his 2020-21 Artful Migration residency at National Trust for Scotland's Threave Garden and Nature Reserve. His environmental films and video art installations explore human relationships with ecosystems and commonly focus on landscapes where he has lived experience.

His work has been exhibited at Environmental Art Festival Scotland, Wild Film Festival Scotland, Berwick Film and Media Arts Festival, Biggar Science Festival, The Barn at Banchory and CCA Glasgow (Cryptic Nights). He received The Royal Scottish Academy's Morton Award in 2018 for his installation *Roadspace*.

Find out more about John's work: johnwallaceartist.co.uk

ED FORREST
- Director, Galloway
and Southern Ayrshire
UNESCO Biosphere

Ed's involvement with the Biosphere began in 2011 before the designation had been awarded, helping to raise awareness amongst communities, businesses and agencies about the potential the UNESCO Biosphere status offered to SW Scotland. Prior to that he was involved in delivering a Landscape Partnership project for D&G Council, and spent 15 years working with the National Trust in both the Lake District and Cornwall.

Find out more: gsabiosphere.org.uk

DAVE THOMPSON
- NTS Head Ranger,
Threave Garden and
Nature Reserve

Dave has been an employee for NTS for 23 years and has had several different roles over the years, all in operational land management and nature conservation, taking care of their Galloway properties, including Threave Nature Reserve. Dave has had a key role, with partners in delivering the new landscape restoration project, initiated in the Threave Nature Reserve site, restoring and transforming the way that the land is being cared for and used that puts natural and sustainable solutions at the heart of this vision for the next 100 years.

Find out more: www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/threave-garden

Dr JAN HOGARTH
- Education and
Community Engagement
Officer, Galloway Glens
Landscape Partnership +
Environmental Artist

Born in rural Annandale, Jan has a First Class Honours degree in Sculpture, an MPhil in Public Art and a practice-led PhD in Environmental Art titled *Dislocated Landscapes*. Working as a public art manager in close partnership with artists and landscape based organisations, Jan's own practice has evolved to create immersive landscape based journeys which connect people with nature through myths, sketching, history, and storytelling. Jan is most passionate about reconnecting young people with nature and following a PGDE in Primary Education, has been working for Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership as Education and Community Engagement Officer.

Find out more: [janhogarth.wordpress.com / gallowayglens.org](http://janhogarth.wordpress.com/gallowayglens.org)

BILL COOMBES
- Regional Environment
Manager, Forestry and
Land Scotland - South
Region

Bill Coombes is part of the South Scotland regional team for Forestry and Land Scotland, covering Dumfries and Galloway, Scottish Borders and part of South Ayrshire. He is responsible for delivering the vision of FLS to take responsibility for 9% of Scotland's forests and land, which are key in fighting the impact of the Climate Emergency and biodiversity loss to reach Net Zero. By putting nature at the heart of these actions, FLS can truly make a difference. Bill has been part of the restoration management project of the Lochar Mosses peat bog complex and the adjacent woodland habitat that provides essential food and protection for the Nightjars.

Find out more: forestryandland.gov.scot

LEEMING+PATERSON
-
Artists

Ted Leeming and Morag Paterson have collaborated for nearly two decades, exhibiting in many locations, from local venues to international photography festivals. Their work increasingly focuses on land use, climate, and ecology - including their long-term *Zero Footprint* project, an immersive exploration of place that continues to evolve, surprise, and fascinate. They've been artists-in-residence for *Energise*, the Fantastic Forest Festival, and an Arts Territory Exchange Remote Residency. They present at numerous events, festivals, and conferences, contributing to broader topical discourses. Workshops and gatherings are essential to fostering co-creation and collaboration throughout their practice.

Find out more about their work: leemingpaterson.com

AMY MARLETTA
-
**Creative Director,
Upland CIC**

Upland CIC is the visual arts and craft development organisation for Dumfries & Galloway.

Upland delivers a year-round creative programme that includes events, exhibitions, residencies, workshops and professional development. We engage and collaborate with a wide audience that includes young people and emerging and established artists and makers.

Upland is a membership organisation that works to create opportunities that connect our artists and makers with audiences, communities and each other. With a strong sense of place, we aim to highlight and celebrate our unique region and its creative community, raising its profile in a national and international context.

Find out more about Upland's work: weareupland.com

**MOVING SOULS
DANCE**
-

Virginia Wollaston and Nicholas Paton Philip founded Moving Souls Dance in 2017.

They have developed a range of professionally-led participatory projects involving diverse artists and communities through dance, storytelling and carnival projects. They co-produced large scale Carnival costume and dance events with North Birmingham Alliance and ACE dance and music for the Commonwealth Games B2022 Festival. They developed *Artful Migration* in partnership with Upland to offer artists an opportunity to embed their research and artist practice in local habitats in Dumfries & Galloway, whilst reflecting on the impact of climate change on the flyways of these migratory birds.

Find out more: movingsouls.dance/about-us/



Artful Migration: Nightjars

An immersive mixed media exhibition exploring the world of the mysterious Nightjar and one of their local habitats, the Lochar Mosses - a forest-to-bog restoration site.

Leeming+Paterson

*Launch 20th October
Open to the Public 14th October - 11th November*

*Gracefield Arts Centre
28 Edinburgh Road
Dumfries
DG1 1JQ*

PROGRAMME:

09:30 - 10:00	Arrival / registration / tea and coffee	13:45 - 15:00	Artist-led creative interactions with audience participation Led by Ted Leeming, Morag Paterson and John Wallace
10:00 - 10:10	Welcome by Virginia Wollaston (Co-Director, Moving Souls Dance) and Amy Marletta (Creative Director, Upland CIC) and introductions to keynote speakers	15:00 - 15:15	Refreshment break
10:10 - 11:20	Keynote presentations with Q&A: Sacha Dench (UN Ambassador for Migratory Species) Chris Fremantle (Research Fellow and Lecturer at Gray's School of Art) Brief presentation: Greg Conway (BTO) Session Chair: Dave Pritchard (Consultant)	15:15 - 16:30	Enabling positive conversations to find sustainable solutions The artists and partners involved in the Artful Migration programme discuss areas of tension and collaboration. The range of speakers involved discuss lessons learned for future artistic endeavours to provide intelligent responses to today's climate and ecological crises Andrew Bielinski, Greg Conway, Bill Coombes, Sacha Dench, Chris Fremantle, Jan Hogarth, Ted Leeming, Morag Paterson, Dave Thompson, John Wallace Session Chair: Ed Forrest
11:20 - 11:40	Refreshment break		
11:40 - 13:00	What the Arts Can Offer reflection on 2 Artful Migration residencies: Artist John Wallace artist-in-residence 2020-21. Presentation on his residency focused on the Osprey at the NTS Threave Garden and Nature Reserve Project Partner – Dave Thompson (Head Ranger, NTS) Artists Ted Leeming & Morag Paterson artist-in-residence 2023. Presentation on their artistic work inspired by the Nightjars and the peat bogs of the Lochar Mosses Project Partner - Bill Coombes (Regional Environment Manager, FLS) Brief presentation: Dave Pritchard (Consultant) Session Chair: Chris Fremantle	16:30 - 17:00	Plenary session chaired by Virginia Wollaston to draw conclusions from the day and gather suggestions for future artist-in-residence programmes We hope to build new audiences in partnership with academia and stakeholders to ensure their future in Dumfries & Galloway Wendy Macleod (Chair, Upland CIC) to thank all contributors & participants to the conference
13:00 - 13:45	Lunch	17:30 - 19:30	Exhibition Launch and drinks at Gracefield Arts Centre, 28 Edinburgh Road, Dumfries, DG1 1JQ Attendees are invited to join us for the opening of Leeming + Paterson's exhibition at Gracefield Arts Centre The exhibition is the culmination of their Artful Migration residency



Photo: Leeming+Paterson

Artful Migration is a residency programme developed by Upland in partnership with Moving Souls Dance, offering artists a unique insight into the migratory birds of Dumfries & Galloway through partnership working with local nature reserves.

Artful Migration was set up to honour the legacy of Virginia Wollaston's uncle George Clark and his brother John Clark, a keen artist who lived for many years in Gatehouse of Fleet. Virginia wanted to give this legacy to Dumfries and Galloway in memory of both uncles, enabling artists to create work inspired by the unique environment and migratory birds associated with the region.

For more information:

www.weareupland.com

www.movingsouls.dance



Upland Arts Development CIC is registered in Scotland as a Community Interest Company.

Limited by Guarantee No. SC350101

Registered office: Gracefield Arts Centre,
28 Edinburgh Road, DG1 1JQ

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