



**stour
valley
creative
partnership**

WOODS TO WHERE ELSE

King's Wood has always been a working wood, a cultured landscape marking an interface of natural resource and human activity.

Stour Valley Creative Partnerships seeks to explore this ecological tension between nature and cultivation and to examine and question the identity of the woods as a purely natural and harmonious environment.

Thinking about the woods as a site of industry and labour, rather than simply a pastoral space of natural beauty, this project will look at the woods both historically and in its present context.

From the production of timber to a site of leisure and recreation King's Wood is inherently ideological; the woods serve as a hub in a network of intertwined economic and ecological movements and distributions, in which nature becomes material and moves outwards beyond the woods to be used and employed elsewhere, whilst human activity enters into it, traversing through it and affecting its ecology.

This economic and ecological dance of nature and industry that creates a distinct 'time' for the woods, one that defines its territory as constantly shifting and changing, a poetics of visible and invisible forces that continually reshape it.

Woods to Where Else workshops, residencies and symposium

Stour Valley Creative and lead artist/lecturer Mavernie Cunningham would like to work with approx. 10 artists from the Ashford area. Artists will spend time in Kings Wood, exploring and engaging with the site, and the ideas outlined in our Woods to Where Else concept. There will be workshops with the lead artist and participant will be offered a short residency in the Forest Studio located on the edge of the woods.

This is essentially a research and development project, which will not focus on the production of artefacts but the artist's own creative processes, experiences and responses to the concept and environment. Artists will share their findings, experience and work at the Woods to Where Else Symposium held at the end of the project.

We are particularly interested in working with emerging artists and supporting contemporary arts in the communities and countryside around Kings Wood; an area developing rapidly but generally lacking in 'arts' venues and arts audiences.

OUTLINE OF PROJECT:

- Initial introductory meeting and discussion on the concept ideas
- Visits to explore Kings Wood independently and in the workshop/s.
- Workshop in Kings Wood with the lead artist to explore artistic processes - walking/mapping / listening /
- Each participant will be offered a 24 hour period in the Forest Studio to progress their ideas / art work / explore processes and experience a more sustained engagement with the woods.
- Participants will be asked to record their journey and submit this in writing, recordings, videos, imagery or other appropriate forms coming out of the process.
- Artist will be expected to attend and take part in the Woods to Where Else Symposium (to the best of their abilities).
- Outcomes from the artists and WWW symposium discussions etc. will be recorded / gathered and edited to form a published document.
- SVCP will endeavour to support participating artists to exhibit art work stemming from this project.

If you are interested in taking part: Please submit initial ideas (max 250 words) with CV and examples of your work (or links to examples).

Application deadline - September 29th 2017

Timescale: Workshops - October/November 2017
Symposium - November/December 2017
Publication - 2018

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