**SITE 1 - An ancient semi-natural woodland**

Where we consider aesthetic components and forms.

**Working from an immersed forest experience.**

**RESEMBLANCE:**

**Bio** - The forest in all stages of growth, layers of vegetation.
- Light, water, oxygen, nutrients, vital elements.
- All living things with a common force, origin and connection.
- The macro, meso and micro forests; of trees, brush and lichen.
- These are communities of resemblance inter-related across scales.

**Aesth** - Colours of life, greens, with same shapes and trends.
- Sense of time, feels slower a lively stillness.
- Life and (smell of) decay → life/death.
- Trees as the interface between soil and sky.
- Tone, mood, humidity: calm and peaceful.
- Shades of green and the verticality of the forest.
- The story between the upper story and lower story.
- Height of the heather in relationship to height of trees.
- A luxuriant living landscape that is satiated and evolving.

**DIFFERENCE:**

**Bio** - Between life and death a fragile balance.
- Within the environment/ecosystem strategic niche organize.

**Aesth** - Textures, shapes, the forms of trees, Light and temperature changes.
- Sense of peace, simplicity and breadth, tree vs bark scale.
- Ages and life scale the granny pines versus blueberries.
- The story between the upper story and lower story.
- Land, sky, straight, curved, down and damaged.
- The understory in tension with the overstory.
- This place with and without direct sunlight.

**DEGREE or INTENSITY:**

Quiet yet not without sound...
- I perceive activity in every possible space.
- Considering the totality of branches branching...
- Late evening light in the vertical forest is intense.
- A composition of unified yet extreme differences.
- The depth of the understory, unrestrained growth.
- Life and death, open, cold, isolated... (yet feels safe.)

**IDENTITY:**

Altitude and height, precipitation.
- Dry waxy feel – a lack of juiciness.
- Stillness; age, ages, time and maturity.
- A sense of forest agency and familiarity.
- Old trees people in place with living things.
- Positive forms and hidden (shadow) spaces.
- The grey green shade that is unique to Scotland.
- Life forms that can be read like a song, or a poem.
- Scars and accidents shape the tree becomes unique identity.
- The rolling topography and thick vegetation shapes perception and attention.

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**Hosts:** Gemma Lawrence CCS, Ian Perks RSPB, Kirsty Chalmers RSPB, Ruth Carruthers.

**Workshop Participants:** Jacqueline Barbour, Sarah Bish, David Edwards, Simon Fildes, Anca Piernag, Tom Golin, Martha Gray, Scott Herrett, Fiona King, Virginia Kenyon, Fiona King, Mhairi Longmuir, Anne Lopez, Lar Macgregor, Mairi McLennan, Judith Nott, Wyn Poltratz, Elizabeth Reader, Amanda Thompson, Tina Scopa, Ben Twist, Alison and James Wardlaw, Sheena Wilson and Carla. The texts are developed from notes provided by those participants with an x before their name.
SPACE & TIME:
- Tides and forests are ever changing, ever changing...
- The scope and scale of the view opens the imagination.
- The flow space of the glen: wind, humidity, haar, rain, snow and ice.
- Ages and size, spaces in between, a function of historic clearing and harvest.
- The geology of the glen overwhelms the forest in terms of both time and pace.
- Distance to horizon, open view, young trees, older trees, day, scale, sun positioning.
- Older trees here are about time and place, future is embodied in the younger trees.
- Ice gouged landscape then covered (recovered) in Scots pine: has an ancient feel.
- Shaped by glaciers and ice melt, stream erosion and deposition drains to the Spey.

QUANTITY & NUMBER:
- Scattered young everywhere downslope and upslope.
- Forest tree clusters as seed source for the whole glen.
- Seeds harvested and replanted by conservation interests.
- The heather and the trees at different scales and quantities.
- Forest time in tension with geologic time in the Anthropocene.
- To look at one tree, to be walk around a grove, to be immersed in forest.
- Panoramic views from the east, the south and out to the west one glen many things.

CAUSE & EFFECT
- Old tree young tree grown tree old tree.
- Light, glen, unified seed sources and slopes/drainage.
- Consider a man's role in the landscape versus a woman's.
- Geology — fractures, steep slopes, terraces, erosion and deposition.
- Use the trees save the trees – for us or for the trees? – for other species?
- A site both of and about time, destroyed then restored by people & trees together.
- Trees as seed sources, decayed trees as habitat and nutrient sources for all things.
- Room for a multi-generational community of trees and other living things to prosper.

SITE 2 - A glen dominated by Scots pine
Where we consider significant influences on this place.
Working from a visual/panoramic perspective.

4 November 2017 - Workshop: Aesthetics in Forest Places. RSPB Abernethy
Working from the idea that understanding comes from initial experience, impressions, memory and imagination, artists Tim Collins and Reiko Goto asked participants to consider relationships within each site.

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