

Black Mountain College

MUSEUM  ARTS CENTER

“How do we mark the flood?”

Swannatopia

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“How Do We Mark The Flood?”

11/23/2024

A day of collective healing and community resilience on the historic grounds of Warren Wilson College | Swannanoa, NC

Film Link: <https://vimeo.com/1051272012>



About the Film (A Message from Swannatopia):

Prior to the storm, we had been planning an “Ambient Farm Stroll” outdoor land-arts happening at Warren Wilson College as part of our project “DEER FREAKS...and decoys,” a group exhibition at BMCM+AC below and in conjunction with *The Farm at Black Mountain College*. “DEER FREAKS...and decoys” explored the hyper-natural forces of attraction and repulsion informing our interactions with the

landscapes we inhabit and the creative ways people propagate, shape, lure, and protect in their environments. Both were originally set to open on September 27, 2024, but the storm hit and the museum didn't reopen for some time until the power and water had been restored to downtown Asheville. Now we are able to gather again in our studio in Swannanoa's historic Beacon Village, we feel lucky every day that it- and we- are still here.

When asked by the WWC farm manager to not cancel post-Helene, we pivoted our efforts with the help of the Art & Craft department and many friends and neighbors to create an event that included 45+ land-art installations by students and community members across 5 acres of farm and garden. This included song in the garden, bells in the wind, decorated deer in a gymnasium, a live scored puppet show, flying kites on a muddy field, sown clover, swine dazzlers, polaroid lifts, newly revealed clay, serenades by WWC old time bands, CROW, Drones In The Garden, and XOR, a cider pressing by the Garden Crew, community meal and hog roast. We also had a Sunset Surprise with a salamander procession to the Pavillion to see LAPHAM feat. Kelsey Wishik, and then paraded with a giant caterpillar to Bryson Gymnasium to listen to Superflower, Ellicott Hooligan, April Wilson Vocal Ensemble, and danced along with A Clutch feat. DJ Hypervelvet, Loose Atlantis with projections by Abby Portner. Thank you to our dear MadFrog Anderson for the production support and to Drop of Sun for helping with sound.

This was the first time since the storm that many folks had seen each other, and traveled from across the region to be together. We, of Swannatopia, remain in awe of the power of gathering this day brought. This video made by our friends Erin Brethauer & Tim Hussin beautifully captures our curious, playful, and kind community coming together through art, music, song, dance, and sculpture woven into the fabric of the landscape.

Thank you to BMCM+AC for your trust and support, for extending both exhibitions through March, and for hosting our closing reception puppet fashion show on March 14, 2025: "How Do We Disappear, Yet Still Be Seen?".

Thank you also to Buncombe County Special Collections for inviting “How Do We Mark The Flood?” and DEER FREAKS...and decoys to be included in the Come Hell Or High Water community memory project as part of the Carolina Record Shop creative residency from April-June 2025. And The Green Grass Grows All Around And Around And The Green Grass Grows All Around (aka Experimental Archives Club) invited our community to join us as we researched and relaxed, learned about trees and seeds from our arborist and farmer friends, and redirected our gaze toward the legume lagoons of our future.

Love,
Swannatopia





Figs. 1, 2 and 3: Deer Heads upcycled with razzle dazzle effects by Swannatopia's Experimental Art Club- purchased at a yard sale on Edwards Ave in Swannanoa, Survived Helene on the top of a shelf at Mark's house on North Ave. Spent three months in our temporary studio at space k-18 at the Asheville mall, marched in the Deer Parade at 'how do we mark the flood?', strutted in the Puppet Fashion Show, then back up on the shelf at Buncombe County Special Collections as part of our 3 month residency with the Come Hell or High Water Community Memory Project.





Fig. 4. The Camouflaged Looper made by Oggie and performed at “How do we mark the flood?” and “How do we disappear yet still be seen?” Photo credit: Sean Dunlap

DAYTIME PERFORMANCES

1-6 at the Farm
WWC old time bands

1-4 at the Garden Cabin and Herb Shed
YOR
Drones in the Garden
Crow w/ Riika
Mad's Puppet Show feat. 7ish Comets Orchestra

~SUNSET SURPRISE & ODD DANCING~
4:30 at the Pavilion
LAPHAM feat. Kelsey Wishik

5:18 in the Formal Gardens
Superflower

6-9 in Bryson Gymnasium
Ellicott Hooligan
April Wilson Vocal Ensemble
A Clutch
Loose Atlantis DJ Set

INSTALLATIONS & MUSINGS
In the Garden:

- Uplifting Blocks by Faresworks
- Cave Crew's Pop Up Tree Stone
- Photobooth and Lifts by AVL Darkroom + WWC Film and Video
- Swannanoan Silk by Tristan Turner and Isaac King
- Animal Tracks by Matthew Roman
- Crows by Lillian Woodworth
- Only Open Doors by Frederick Bell
- Walking Each Other Home by Jennifer Murphy
- 27 Feet of Grief by Fiber Arts Crew
- Wind Bells by Alyssa Shelton
- Moss and Mud by Mica Rage
- Love Letters to Nature by WWC Bio/ENS Crew
- Urtica: love letter to my non-human, non-domesticated organism
- binding agent by Pauline Hamer-Light
- Dark Side of the Moon by Mierca Hopper & Chloe Gilmore
- Club Head by Mazzy Carroll
- Salmonider Procession by Mica Rage, Em Miller, and Storm
- We Know Them in Flowers by Hummingbird Walks Farm/Lenora Stefanile
- Color Wheel Parachute + All Color Roll by Katrina Obstrom
- Life's Pathway + Column of Reflection, Owl's Nest, The Den of Knowledge by Tony Bayles

INSTALLATIONS & MUSINGS (cont.)
At Bryson Gym and Formal Gardens:
Looper by Emily (Oggie) Ogburn
Superflowers by Experimental Art Club
The Queer Deer by Liz Williams
Starboard Structures by WWC Environmental Leadership in collaboration with Swannanoa Grassroots Alliance
Deer Freaks! by Swannatopia an exploration of perception
On The Farm:
Vision Boards by Experimental Art Club
Floating Nest: Future Birdsongs by Peter Speer and Milad Mozari
Kites by Kaylee Dunn
Possum Trot freaks if the Bear Creek don't rise by Erin Castellani
Flood Marker Pole by Liam Miller
Black Walnut Taps by WWC Forestry
Pig Taps by Experimental Art Club
Night vision by Adam Void
All the Names We Give Water by Kathryn Moore
Spirit Dude by WWC Community
Pig in a Pen by Metal Sculpture
Boot Sculptures and Chore Tree by WWC Farm Crew
Ode to Arthur grain bin mural by WWC Pig Crew
Held by Ruth Zakej, Eidgeh Snow, and Violet Hill
Windmill by WWC 3D Crew
This tower is missing its weather-vane!
3D Crew is in the process of making a new one!
Decoy Ballet by Swannatopia
Clover Starts Us Over by WWC Drawing + Students drawing with clover seeds in the lower field
Stinky Delicious by WWC Ceramics Students Wild clay harvested after storm: fires to come!
27 Feet by Isabella Conlin
Forest Bathing by Maccrick Fisher-Gormely
Bear's Lament: The Rising Tide by Sarah Putebaugh

FOOD & DRINK
1-6 at the Farm - FREE COMMUNITY MEAL
hog roast and vegetable dishes by Chef Gavin and WWC Farm
1-4 at the Garden - Cider Pressing by WWC Garden Crew
4-8 outside Bryson Gym - tea & goodies by Sage Cafe (suggested donation)
beer by Ponta Flora Brewery (for purchase, 21+)

“How Do We Mark The Flood?”
a day of collective healing and community resilience
on the historic grounds of Warren Wilson College
Swannanoa, North Carolina
November 23, 2024

with love, **ARTS CRAFT**

Black Mountain College
MUSEUM ARTS CENTER

Warren Wilson College

Ponta Flora Brewery

This event is presented as part of “DEER FREAKS...and decoys,” a multi-media, multi-layered project of Swannatopia on view below and in conjunction with The Farm at Black Mountain College through March 15, 2025 at BMCMA+AC.

Warren Wilson College started as the Asheville Farm School in 1894, became a coed junior college in 1942, and transitioned to the four-year Warren Wilson College in the mid 1960s. Collaborations between the Asheville Farm School and Black Mountain College form an important part of The Farm at Black Mountain College, curated by David Silver and Bruce Johansen

Swannatopia is the home of Experimental Art Club, a multigenerational play group that “makes stuff for fun”, a wide circle of friends who practice coommunity care, a bunch of people who play together regularly with a do-it-together mentality and pools of energy.
For more information, call 256-EGGS-4-US or visit www.swannatopia.com

credits:
polaroid lift of WWC field taken november 12, 2024 - WWC Film & Video
aerial photograph of WWC taken Oct 13 1964 - USGS Earth Explorer
program design - Swannatopia



Fig. 5 and Fig. 6., Program for “How Do We Mark The Flood?”

Program + Map design by Swannatopia

Image credits: Polaroid lift of WWC field (back over) taken November 12, 2024 – Charlotte Taylor

Aerial photograph of WWC field taken Oct 13, 1964 – USGS Earth Explorer



Fig. 7. Polaroid lift workshop by Charlotte Taylor. Photo credit: BK Segall

Film Link: <https://vimeo.com/1051272012>



Fig. 8, Clover Starts Us Over, 2024 – ongoing
Kathryn Moore's drawing 1 class
Warren Wilson College Art + Craft Department
Clover seed drawing in the lower pig pasture at WWC Farm
Sown on Nov 23 2024, aerial photograph taken by Liam Miller



Fig 9. Stinky Delicious, wild clay found by Jenn Kaplan's ceramics class after the storm



Fig 10. Runway at "How do we disappear yet still be seen?" – Closing party and fashion Puppet show on Pi Day, March 14th, 2025. Photo by BMCM+AC Staff.



Fig 11. Back Door of Mariana' s barn hat at the runway for "How do we disappear yet still be seen?" – Closing party and fashion Puppet show on Pi Day, March 14th, 2025. Photo by BMCM+AC Staff.

SWANNATOPIA Artist Statement

If you are reading this, know that no one is in charge! We, of Swannatopia, are a group of experimental artists headquartered in Swannanoa, North Carolina. Over the past decade, we have set out to defamiliarize the familiar, to nurture an immersive, whimsical, thoughtful, experience of empowerment and offer a glimpse of what is possible. We believe that cross-disciplinary collaborations are essential to cultivate a healthy community and to maximize creative potential. Our installations and happenings are mutually supportive, multigenerational endeavors that help us all—individual, group, and participant-observers—to dream bigger, together. To this end, we launched our “Experimental Art Club” in 2021. An experiment in and of itself, Experimental Art Club aims to facilitate the free exchange of knowledge, experience, tools, and materials, while bringing the people together to “make stuff for fun!”

THIS LAND FILMS Artist Statement

Erin Brethauer and Tim Hussin are the filmmakers, photographers and co-founders behind This Land Films (@thislandfilms), a multi-disciplinary documentary production company and creative studio. Before filmmaking, we were newspaper photojournalists for over a decade at places like the San Francisco Chronicle, National Geographic and the Asheville Citizen-Times.

Our background in photography helps us notice and capture subtle moments when filming. We love immersing ourselves in community and following our intuition and curiosity. We believe this approach leads to unexpected and enlightening moments of connection between collaborators and viewers.

We are currently directing our second feature-length documentary film called *Stray Embers*, which is based in Paradise, California after the Camp Fire destroyed the town in 2018. Filmed over the course of five years, the documentary captures the loving bonds and inevitable tensions that arise when dozens of people (and their dogs) live under one roof after a natural disaster. The film is in post-production. You can watch a trailer at www.thislandfilms.com and follow along on Instagram at @strayembersfilm.