

ARUSHA

GALLERY

EDINBURGH
ART
FESTIVAL 2019



Ithell Colquhoun, *Gorgon* 1946 © The Noise Abatement Society, The Samaritans and Spire Healthcare. Courtesy of Richard Shillitoe.

All That the Rain Promises and More...

25 July - 14 September 2019

Arusha Gallery

13A Dundas Street, Edinburgh EH3 6QG

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#edartfest #allthattherainpromisesandmore

All That the Rain Promises and More... is a group show hosted by Arusha Gallery as part of the Edinburgh Art festival, opening on 25th July. Guest curated by Aimée Parrott this multi-generational exhibition will bring together 17 artists working across a range of disciplines.

The exhibition takes the fruiting body of the fungus - the mushroom, as its starting point; embracing the idea of the mushroom as organism which can perhaps, in a precarious age, serve as an unlikely source of hope - a symbol of connectivity, symbiosis and renewal.

The rhizomatic structure of fungus also provides a metaphor for the collection of artistic practices presented in this group show. Resisting a straightforward chronological approach or a linear narrative, the exhibition seeks to reconcile practices that overlap and interrelate despite spanning a period of over two hundred years. Each artist shares a preoccupation with the symbiotic connection we have with our environment, as is so aptly illustrated by the mushroom itself. Further, each recognises, idiosyncratically, the human body as a porous, precarious site and life as a transient and contingent state.

The botanic illustrations of pioneering 18th century mycologists James Sowerby and James Bolton, on loan from the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh archive will sit alongside works by renown occultist, writer and painter Ithell Colquhoun (1906-1988) and hugely influential artist Helen Chadwick (1953-1996) as well as contemporary artists including Emma Talbot, Sean Steadman and Paloma Proudfoot.

As human beings, we have shared an ancient and ambivalent relationship with the mushroom. Historically fungophobic nations such as Britain and the US have long regarded the mushroom with fear and revulsion, whilst for fungophilic cultures such as China, South America and most of the rest of Europe, the mushroom has long been revered as symbol of fertility, renewal and healing - not to mention as a gastronomically valuable and highly prized source of food.

More recent history has seen a great increase in our understanding of the microscopic world and with it an even greater appreciation of fungi. It is now known that within a single teaspoon of soil there exists a microscopic universe of complex interdependent lifeforms invisible to the human eye. With this has come the knowledge that each supposedly 'individual' being in fact comprises an entire ecosystem of coordinated organisms, and that therefore no living thing on the planet can now be deemed a single biological entity.

Arguably these revelations repudiate the long-held belief that humans are some sort of primary species occupying a separate and elevated platform of existence. The mushroom then - as the fruiting body of the fungus only emerging when it wishes to reproduce through the secretion of spores - serves as an archetypal visual symbol for the ontological machinations of nature and the infinite contingency of biology. This exhibition takes the mushroom as means of exploring what new potential for Art might lie in an attentiveness to the interdependency and complexity of all living things.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

For more information and images, please contact Arusha Gallery at info@arushagallery.com or on 0131 557 1412.

About Aimée Parrott

Aimee Parrott is an artist living and working in London. She studied at University College Falmouth (BA Fine Art, First Class, 2006-2009) and graduated from the Royal Academy in 2014. Recent exhibitions include solo show *Blood, Sea*, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London (2018) Trade Gallery, Nottingham (2018) and *Without Moving a Muscle*, Mackintosh Lane, London (2017) <https://www.aimeeparrott.com/>

Selected Artists

Victoria Adams, Helen Chadwick, Ithell Colquhoun, Natalie Dray, Ed Hill, Kate McMillan, Aimée Parrott, Matthew Peers, Paloma Proudfoot, Hermione Spriggs, James Sowerby, Sean Steadman, Emma Talbot, Virginia Verran, Joel Wyllie and Jerusha West, Wilhelmina Barns-Graham.

About Arusha Gallery

Arusha Gallery is an international contemporary gallery established in 2013, with main premises in Edinburgh's historic New Town.

About Edinburgh Art Festival

Founded in 2004 and now in its 16th edition, Edinburgh Art Festival is the platform for the visual arts at the heart of Edinburgh's August festivals, bringing together the capital's leading galleries, museums and artist-run spaces in a city-wide celebration of the very best in visual art. Each year, the Festival features leading international and UK artists alongside the best emerging talent, major survey exhibitions of historic figures, and a special programme of newly commissioned artworks that respond to public and historic sites in the city. Edinburgh Art Festival is a registered charity supported by Creative Scotland and the City of Edinburgh Council. For more information, please visit www.edinburghartfestival.com or follow the Festival on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @EdArtFest #EdArtFest.

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Open Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm. Sunday, 1-5pm.