

CCANW

Art, Ecology and the Economy exhibitor information

Cea Blyth

Artist
Ashburton

Cea Blyth's practice has ranged from portrait and performance painting to exploring other art forms such as conceptual installation. She was artist-in-residence for Dartmoor National Park and has work on permanent display at Postbridge Information Centre, Bellever Youth Hostel and in collections around the world.



Since 1994 she has painted with earth pigments, inspired by their rich qualities. The breadth, subtlety and strength of their colours is astounding; for example, bright orange dust gathered from the Australian outback, black peat exposed by the hooves of moorland ponies and yellow clay from a river bank uncovered by flood water. A wealth of textures and a

natural affinity between the whole spectrum of earth colours resonate with each other in a harmonious way. The stories of how and where these 'earth paints' are sourced, adds a fascinating narrative aspect to her works.

The colour of the soil is 'local distinctiveness' itself, being a distinguishing characteristic of a particular place. This becomes most evident in her work 'Dartmoor Rainbow'.

Recently, Cea has developed the practice of painting with her feet and making body prints inspired by yoga dance, working in collaboration with performer and facilitator Michelle Wilkinson of Moving Nature. Instead of using brushes, Cea likes to use raw sheep's wool or pony hair and prefers to paint onto handmade paper or unprimed hemp canvas.

When gathering pigments, Cea tries not to disturb the ecology and sustainability of a place by taking only small amounts of earth that are already crumbling and eroding naturally.

Art, Ecology and the Economy was shown at CCANW's Project Space in Haldon Forest Park and Duchy Square Centre for Creativity, Princetown, in two simultaneous parts in Winter 2010. It was supported by Arts Council England, Devon County Council and Greater Dartmoor LEAF, incorporating funding from the EU, Defra, SWRDA and LEADER.

For more information contact CCANW, Haldon Forest Park, Exeter EX6 7XR
T 01392 832277 E info@ccanw.co.uk W ccanw.co.uk

Photograph: Chris Lewis