

AWAKE@ROOTS – the artists

Anthea Spivey



Anthea Spivey's project, "They Don't Die, They Disappear," is a sensitive and important look into the lives of people with albinism in Senegal. Through her unique perspective of growing up in Senegal, Spivey tells the stories of individuals she met through the charity Club Albinos SN, dispelling myths and breaking down stigma surrounding the condition. In addition to raising awareness, Spivey's work has also led to practical aid for those living with albinism in Senegal, as people around the world were moved to donate sunscreen and money for school fees. This support is crucial, as the high cost of sunscreen in Senegal puts people with albinism at risk of skin cancer and other health issues.

Spivey's work is also significant in its connection to the environment of the Atlantic rainforest on the Isle of Bute in Scotland, where the photos are being exhibited. The Isle of Bute is known for its natural beauty and is a popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts. The connection between the exhibition and the environment is not immediately apparent, but it is a reminder that our actions have a global impact. The exhibition serves as a call to action to protect our environment, which is intrinsically linked to the health and well-being of people around the world, including those with albinism. Through her work, Spivey highlights the interconnectedness of our world and the importance of compassion, empathy, and understanding.

Grace Siregar

Grace Siregar is an Indonesian-Scottish artist based on the Isle of Bute where she has lived since 2017.

Siregar is a multi-media artist whose work has passed through many forms over the years. Her work has included painting, photography, video, performance art, sculpture and installations. She has exhibited in the UK, West and Central Africa, South and Southeast Asia, Australia and extensively in Indonesia, her country of origin.

Siregar's work often makes use of objects retrieved in her local environment. The themes she weaves together in her work include political commentary, identity and belonging, climate and environment and parenthood.



Andrea Dow



Set against the backdrop of uncertainty and climatic instability, "Understories" enacts a descent into the underworld – inevitably a place of darkness and fear yet also of connectivity, revelation and regeneration threaded through by the light that is the enduring beauty of the natural world.

Forests are political zones as well as 'natural' places and the Forest of the poems is both a real locale filled with specific flora and fauna and the site of human history, legend and myth – a place of tangled roots and endlessly branching paths where dream and reality intersect.

In the poems I have tried to reflect as many different facets of the Forest as possible, but taken as a whole, the work is an attempt to both celebrate and mourn the possible passing of the natural world as we know it. Though much attention is given to the destruction of the Amazon Rainforest few people are aware that this small island boasts its own fragment of fragile Atlantic Rainforest.

And whilst we rightly decry vast scale deforestation, we must also remain alert to the less visible loss of single species – a tree here, a butterfly or wildflower there – that are slipping from our lives largely unnoticed.

Finally, it is the fear of this quiet erasure that informs this work. That and the belief that it is diversity, community and careful attention to the often marginalised and overlooked that will (if anything will) guide us through whatever is to come.

AWAKE@ROOTS opens 10th June 2023, Balnakailly Oak Wood, Rhubodach, Isle of Bute