



muntjac

Becky Lyon

01.08

16.08

Fleeting correspondences on invasion, invitation, ill-logics and brown bodies.

MUNTJAC is a project inspired by a series of personal encounters between artist Becky Lyon and the 'invasive' muntjac deer across the woodlands of London. The muntjac, originating in China and released into the English wild via Bedfordshire's Woburn Park in the early 1900s are rare to come across. Therefore, these frequent encounters have felt like an invitation to tell stories and make-meaning. They have offered a surprising and generative vessel to think through and reckon with England's relentless hostility towards, enclosures of and alienation of the brown or 'othered' body across the UK. At the heart of the work is a series of journaled correspondences conjured from this little brown deer alongside a series of offerings which hold sacred its fleeting presence and humbling revelations. The exhibition and supporting programme of correspondences with co-conspirators contribute to ongoing discourses around who is welcome to and feel joy on this island.

Pro-log

Visitation 1: Backpack and Tupperware - gently - Borehamwood, Hertfordshire border to Scratch Wood, London border - scratch of ancient woodland - hidden in plain sight - fuming N25 - threshold - decaying log - temperate, overcast, green bloom - take a breath - flushing medicine - veggie bacon sarnie - *MUNTJAC* - eyes 3 seconds - shifting a millimetre - dissolved moment - meeting - 'invader' seldom seen - presenting.

Visitation 2: Solo urban adventure - Metropolitan line - London Loop - Moor Park to Oxshey Woods - golfers - being - crossing Playing Fields - criss crossing 'burban streets - sneak path - mud - cradled either side by woods - petrichor-y fresh soil - *MUNTJAC* emerges - eyes 3 seconds - disappear - sign - springing words - Notes app iPhone - grazing - adding - currents of consciousness.

Visitation 3: Winter walk - medicine - discharging grief to ground - unfolding horror - Palestine - November - touch too late, touch too far - just go - Colne Valley - Uxbridge - Met line - outpace sundown - dipping light - unmapped detour - Queen Bess woods - golden hour glow field - balm - "thank fuck I have nature" - being watched - *MUNTJAC* - bunny bounce - inner pull - three times a charm - storytime.

microscope

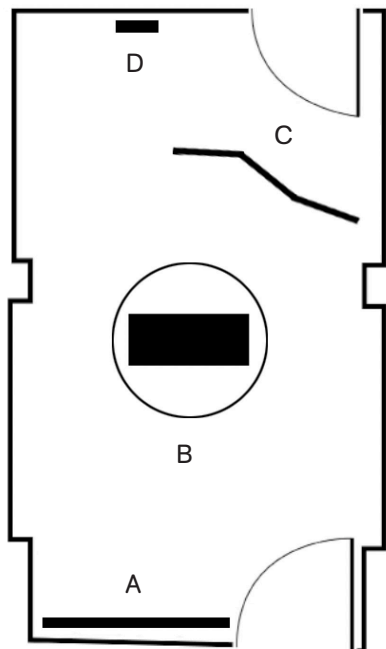
2-4 Tottenham Road, N1 4BZ

hello@periscope.uk

elasticfiction.co / @elastic_fiction

My encounters with the Muntjac, specifically the Reeves' Muntjac have created a surprising vessel to contain and spill the thoughts that have been bubbling about my relationship to England - the country of my birth and a place where I have become estranged, become stranger. Its little brown body, through my little brown body has helped me think through England's relentless hostility towards, enclosures of and alienation of the brown body across the country. Its ironys, its collective amnesia, its hypocrisies, its stubborn-ness, its ill-logics. The idea came about through encounters but the urgency was prompted by Palestine and England's involvement and response to - the brown body.

What emerged are 'correspondences' - less imaginary conversation and more triggers to unearthing a deeper wisdom, meaning-making and openings for conversation. Personal, facetious, melancholy, crass, intuitive, reactive slowly-metabolised the Muntjac has helped me traverse GIANT themes of British imperialism, invasive species, nativism, border control, nationalist conservation projects and more. They have helped me re-encounter place, awaken the theory, make the headlines tread-able and make the abstract, material.



Becky Lyon is a London-born and based English-Jamaican artist and researcher. She uses art practice to come into relationship with and elicit insights from nature about how to live well alongside each other and explore how our socio-political worlds are and could be shaped with a focus on 'urban' ecological sites. Recurring themes in her work are sensing bodies, tactile processes and the touchy-feely; earthly curriculums and counter-currents; power relations and possibling; softness, oozing and slippery edges; intimacy and quiet resistance. Her work manifests as installations, rituals, photographic objects, handmade moving images and text. She is founder of Ground Provisions - an artist-led, schooled-by-the-forest for grown ups and the Squishy Sessions research collective. She has an MA Art & Science from Central Saint Martins and an MA Art & Ecology from Goldsmiths University of London. In September she will start her PhD under The Centre of Art and Ecology at Goldsmiths. She is a volunteer London National Park City Ranger. She side-hustles as a consultant and trends researcher for global brands.

Please feel welcome to take a seat at the table and touch, leaf through the correspondences.

- A
Ghost prints, xerox print, mirror
- B
Assorted publications, handmade bronze-cast charms, photo transfer on ceramics, handmade wooden table
- C
Silk screen, ceramics, paper, mirror, gold foil
- D
Ghost print, wood

Programme
 Thu Aug 1 - A cosy chat with Becky Lyon and Barney Pau
 Sat Aug 3 - A Pesty, Pesky Tea Party
 Tues Aug 13 - Songversations with Hiranya de Alwis Jayasinghe

