

Space, Nature, Nurture: artists announced for Dance Base and Jupiter Artland's dance residency programme

Images & Captions: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/pu8ghisix1uhtuc/AAACG4yLcwrG-2eugc5zL5nDa?dl=0>



Dance Base, Scotland's national centre for dance, and Jupiter Artland, a contemporary sculpture park and art gallery just outside Edinburgh, are thrilled to announce the five artists selected for the Space, Nature, Nurture | Winter Residency Series – a new collaborative residency programme which offers dance and movement artists a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in and work with the natural and sculpted outdoor surroundings of Jupiter Artland.

Scotland is a hugely diverse and varied landscape that is not only an incredible source of inspiration, but which can also act as a creative collaborator and be a central element of performance work for artists. Jupiter Artland encapsulates the richness of the Scottish landscape, incorporating wild woodland alongside sculpted spaces, and is a hugely inspiring and creative environment for artists to engage with. Space, Nature, Nurture is the first collaboration between Dance Base and Jupiter Artland and both partners are thrilled to be able to provide an opportunity for artists working in dance and movement to bring their practice in to this unique environment.

The five artists selected were chosen based on their genuine interest in developing material in, with and in response to the unique natural environment and in collaborating with ecologies as a central part of their work. They are **Thomas Goetz, Hamshya Rajkumar, Kate E Deeming, Jennifer Paterson (All or Nothing Aerial Dance Theatre) and Simone Kenyon**. Please see below for more information.

Each of the *Space, Nature, Nurture* artists will receive a fully funded 1-2 weeklong residency at Jupiter Artland over November and December when the Park is closed, providing them with full and unlimited access to the

Artland. As part of their residency, they will each present an element of audience engagement, reconnecting or establishing a link with their audience. These will be delivered in person and online.

This Residency programme has been made possible thanks to funding from the Performing Arts Venue Relief Fund and is part of a wide programme of artist support that Dance Base are delivering to support Scotland-based dance artists to return to their practice after this very difficult 18 months.

MEET THE ARTISTS

Thomas Goetz is an Edinburgh-based choreographer, performer; movement facilitator who draws inspiration from themes related to nature, philosophy and science. His recent work is concerned with emergence, behaviour, and (eco-)systems in nature and the role we play as part of these systems.

Talking about his residency, he said: "All living organisms occupy specific ecological niches which describe the role they play in an ecosystem. Animals & plants evolve unique adaptations to survive, live and thrive in a specific habitat under certain environmental conditions. In this residency I will be exploring how we can evolve into creatures which occupy the natural and artistic habitats of Jupiter Artland. These evolving imaginary creatures will differ in the way they move, are able to perceive the environment, communicate (with sound/voice or movement) & interact with one another."

Hamshya Rajkumar is an inter-disciplinary artist who navigates through embodied movement, intention and ritual.

She said: Through movement I will be exploring various human interventions within the Jupiter Artland estate in the form of Gardens, Woodlands and Land artworks that reflect the human need for beauty versus the understanding of the ecological community. An element of my practice involves embedding within Land +| Sea:scapes who are devoid of my ancestors. I am curious about forming an intra-species alliance with the much debated invasive Beech Tree and introduced ornamental exotic Plants. An extended focus will include the relationship between manicured foot and manicured grass. As Heavy Rain is likely during November, I will be experimenting with using second hand clothing as an extension of the bodily self as well as skin that absorbs and moves with Weather.

Kate Deeming. With decades of outdoor dance experience, Kate E. Deeming describes herself as an 'artist who uses dance to make good stuff happen'. Kate E. creates public facing work largely in urban environments and outside of traditional arts hierarchies.

Kate said: 'I am interested in creating moments and reminders that build empathy and connect us to our individual and collective power, to reinforce and manifest a joyous and loving world.'

For the Space Nature Nurture Residency Kate E. is to create a week-long durational dance piece inspired by the Jupiter Artland Landscape. Utilising costume and wearable speakers, she will create giphys of wee dance moments which will feed into her wider community practice.

Jennifer Paterson is an aerial and dance director and Artistic Director of All or Nothing Aerial Dance Theatre, Scotland's leading aerial dance company. She trained at London School of Contemporary Dance before discovering aerial and that she could overcome her fear of heights, going on to perform worldwide with several companies and directors.

For her residency, Jennifer will be working with other dance and aerial artists: Chrissie Ardill, Beverley Grant, Marie Williamson and Freya Jeffs. She said: "Starting within the woodland at Jupiter Artland, taking movement from the ground, and moving it up into the air and around the trees, the woodland and back into the landscape, utilising our aerial dance harness skills and how we can play and create together in this environment. Our audience engagement will be through 2 workshops within the environment, allowing participants to play and explore both in and out of harness, just as we are doing. One for adults and one for children. Being so close to the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena at Jupiter Artland we will look to connect with climbers there, as well as recreational aerialists from the Scottish aerial dance community."

Simone Kenyon is a Scotland-based artist, performer, Feldenkrais practitioner and academic. For the past 20 years she has worked across performance and dance that embraces the complex interrelationships of movement, people and place.

Talking about her residency, she said: “The residency will focus on new research exploring the practices of drystone dyke building; including the choreographic, material agency, conservational, ecological, cultural and social aspects of wall building. Working for the first time, in-person with Master Waller, George Gunn, we will work with an existing wall in need of repair within the grounds to explore building techniques, place relational performance, creative conversations and take time to develop this new collaboration. Filmmaker Emma Dove also joins to make our collaborative trio to further explore and develop ways of working with film in the process. On the last day of our residency, we will share our findings and explorations through conversation in-situ with a small group. Post residency we will share a film for a wider audience online. Beyond the physical residency, Simone will begin new critical-peer conversations with artist Robbie Synge, to stimulate questions and ideas as a way of continuing the development of the work.”

Tony Mills, Artistic Director at Dance Base: “Jupiter Artland is an incredibly innovative arts space with a team that is forward thinking. We feel it is the perfect place where artists can be supported to explore new connections between dance and the environment within an artistic context. As we come back to working together creatively, the desire for collaboration and making things happen is so much stronger. This has resulted in this exciting cross-city partnership that will challenge the notions of what dance is and where it happens, and open up new avenues for dance artists and their work. We look forward to creating more opportunities with Jupiter Artland in the future.”

Nicky Wilson, Director of Jupiter Artland: “It is an honour to host Dance Base and their Space, Nature, Nurture residency at Jupiter Artland. Working alongside other cultural institutions creates great networks across the city, and the country, which are incredibly powerful vehicles for change. I am a huge advocate for bringing creativity outside, enjoying the outdoors, watching nature, and being inspired by art. It is more important than ever to embrace this freedom and I am so excited to see the residents flourish in the landscape.”



ENDS

Notes to editors:

Photo call images, credit Ian Georgeson: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/pu8ghisix1uhtuc/AAACG4yLcwrG-2euqc5zL5nDa?dl=0>

Artists' biographies: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/z76rk779j6fjwg3/Meet%20The%20Artists.docx?dl=0>

DANCE BASE

As Scotland's National Centre for Dance the organisation exists to get the whole of Scotland to experience dance and to build national and international success for dance artists based here. It has an open and accessible public programme of classes that attracts people of all ages and abilities. It has a professional programme providing mentoring, facilities and creative guidance to dance artists across Scotland, along with performance and partnership opportunities during the Edinburgh Festivals. It also promotes dance for health and wellbeing through its engagement projects, bringing together dance artists, charities, community organisations and funders to use dance effectively to deliver health and social outcomes. Dance Base is committed to developing audiences for dance and celebrating the success of the dance sector in Scotland. Dance Base is funded by Creative Scotland and The City of Edinburgh Council, with additional support from The Scottish Government Performing Arts Venues Relief Fund.

www.dancebase.co.uk/

JUPITER ARTLAND

Jupiter Artland Foundation is an award-winning contemporary sculpture garden, located just outside Edinburgh. Set over 125 acres of meadow, woodland and five indoor gallery spaces, Jupiter Artland has to date commissioned 36 permanent site-specific sculptures from the world's leading artists including Rachel Maclean, Joana Vasconcelos, Phyllida Barlow, Pablo Bronstein, Nicolas Party, Christian Boltanski, Antony Gormley, Charles Jencks, Anish Kapoor, Nathan Coley, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Laura Ford, Anya Gallaccio, Andy Goldsworthy, Jim Lambie, Cornelia Parker and Marc Quinn among others.

A curated annual programme of exhibitions and events from leading visionary artists and emerging talents as well as public talks, assemblies and an active live art programme, make **Jupiter Artland** a thriving location for new ideas. Among its events **Jupiter Rising**, an annual art, music and performance festival, offers an opportunity for a wide audience to explore artistic ideas across Jupiter, whilst also making the Artland their home for the weekend.

Central to Jupiter Artland's vision is to engage **Every Child in Scotland** with art through its learning and outreach programme. Jupiter Artland offers free school visits, digital projects and hands-on activities for learners of all ages. Since the programme began in 2009 over 100,000 learners have been welcomed to the collection for free. Jupiter Artland's child-led ethos to learning sparks curiosity and builds resilience, creativity and critical thinking skills in the minds of young learners. Jupiter Artland's mission is for every school child in Scotland to visit or experience Jupiter Artland.

Jupiter Artland was founded in 2009 by Robert and Nicky Wilson and since then has grown into one of the UK's most significant places to see outdoor sculpture. In 2016, Jupiter Artland was nominated for ArtFund's Museum of the Year.

www.jupiterartland.org/