

# [K]NOTTING

Correspondences across three ecologies

Corinna Dean, Deepta Sateesh, Duarte Santo

23.10

08.11

**We do not inhabit a static world of isolated points, but a dynamic weather-world, a swirling, generative medium of light, air, moisture, and sound.**

This exhibition invites us into an ongoing practice of correspondence across continents. This transcontinental dialogue asks how we can know this world not by looking at it from afar, but by weaving our lives into its very fabric.

The work is drawn from collaborative walks, field recordings, and microbial engagements with students in Bangalore, Ithaca, NY, and London, led by Deepta Sateesh (Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology), Duarte Santo (Cornell University), and Corinna Dean (University of Westminster). They are ephemeral records of an encounter<sup>1</sup> or traces of life lived in active, sensory participation with the world, where walking is a way of listening to the ground, breathing is a continuous exchange with the atmosphere, and knowing is a skilled craft of intimate attention.

The exhibition itself is a knot: a gathering point where countless threads of inquiry, from student

research to artistic practice, are drawn together as an open matrix of connections, predicated on the idea that true understanding is formed through entanglement and relation.

The knot, then, is method and metaphor. It is the mended darn that repairs and strengthens, the woven net that holds and sustains, and the grafted join that creates new life in acts of care that bind the knower and the known, the seeker and the unknown.

To know the world is to become entwined with it in correspondence with its rhythms. It is to feel (its textures), and to acknowledge that we are conscious participants within a breathing, changing, aqueous ecology.

[K]NOTTING is an invitation to perceive the world as a fabric of lines to be followed. It is a call to walk, breathe, and know, to tie a knot that is both a question and an answer.

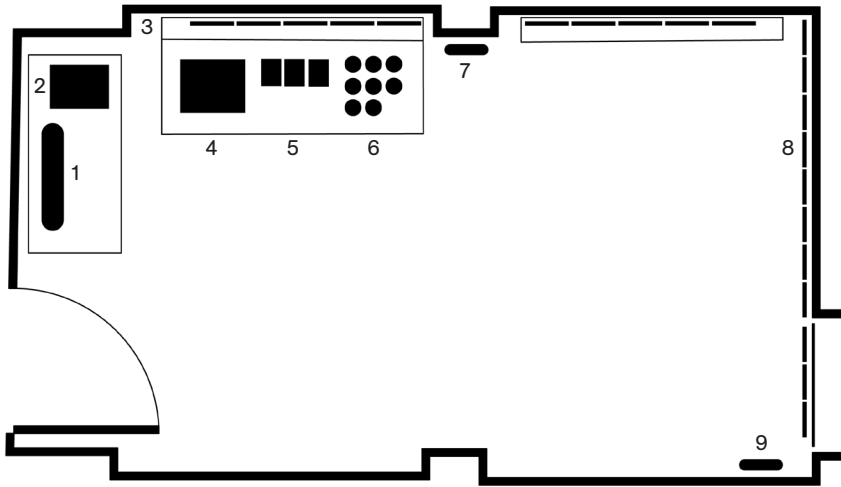
1 footprints, in the sense proposed by Tim Ingold

**microscope**

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**Deeptha Sateesh** is Head of Manipal Centre for DWEIPA, and Professor at Srishti Manipal Institute, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India. She is a design researcher, educator, architect and planner, working in contentious landscapes. Deeptha's design activism, towards synchronous nature-culture futures, is focused on creating new pathways in design, eco-pedagogies and policy.

**Duarte Santo** is an architect, landscape and urban designer, educator and researcher advancing the agency, responsibility, and accountability of design in addressing socio-environmental challenges. Working across professional practice, research, and teaching, his work bridges design, ecology and technology to address more-than-human mobilities. Based at Cornell University, he leads studios and seminars on the sensorium, translocal ecologies, and landscape futures.

**Dr Corinna Dean** is a senior lecturer at the School of Architecture + Cities, University of Westminster. Her current work looks at the intersection between ecologies, landscape and buildings. Recent field work through the project, Gender Ecologies funded by the British Academy, Pakistan, sought to uncover more than human justice, between colonial, and industrial landscapes. She is a member of the Emerging Landscapes Research Group.

- 1 Ripstock printed bag with natural woad dye, miscellaneous teal heads, birch
- 2 Limited edition Zine
- 3 Zine pages
- 4 Cyanotype print exposed under the Hunter's full moon 7/10/2025 7pm to 6am
- 5 3 no. site samples (Bangalore)
- 6 8 no. petri dish samples (River Lea)
- 7 Woven grass
- 8 A4 descriptors of the correspondence collectors
- 9 Wool and unspun sheepswool tapestry

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**Microscope** is a tiny testing ground for art and ecology. Hosted by Periscope, curated by Kirsty Badenoch and Daniel Rea.