

Ruderalia: The Way of Weeds

Pati Starzykowski

12.09

27.09

“**Ruderalia: The Way of Weeds**” presents an ongoing research and meditation on value, resilience, and the subversive power of ruderal plants. This exhibition shows works in progress, and utilises the inherent symbolism and materiality of resilient flora, often dismissed as weeds, to explore the tangled histories of trade, power, healing, and ecological resistance.

Suspended in the vitrine window is **The Gossamer Thistle Routes**, a delicate ephemeral form woven from thistle seed parachutes. A map-like or skin-like layer charts a speculative and stochastic plant’s dispersal.

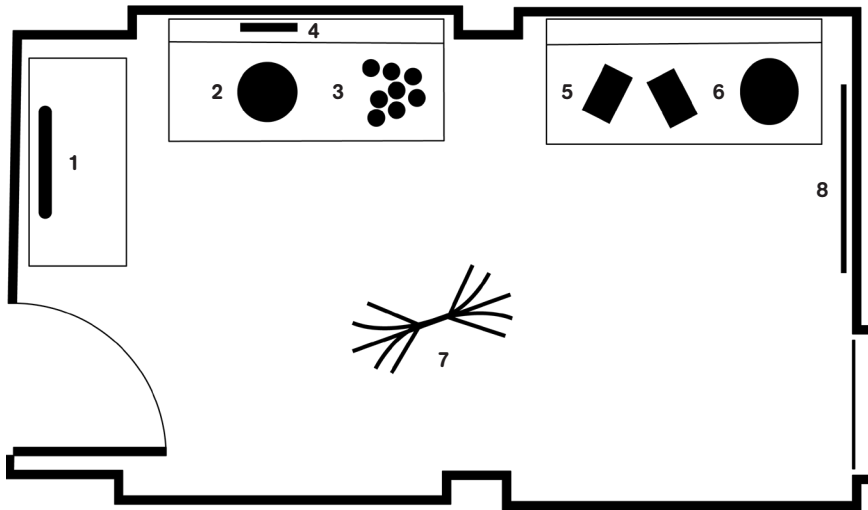
Burrls and **FauxBurrGè** seek to subvert notions of value. **FauxBurrGè** is an egg-shaped object made of Burdock flower heads and seed pods, evoking both opulence and decay. **Burrls** threads seed pods into a string of wild pearls — a ruderal parody of refinement.

ECO – Ecological Currency Obligation is a series of hand-minted clay coins embedded with seeds of weeds, produced during a participatory event. Visitors traded seeds for **ECO** coins; those without seeds minted two — one to keep

with a planting obligation, one for the archive. The piece reimagines the economy as ecological care, intertwining value and germination.

Against the Grain (32 Grains) adopts grenade silhouettes formed from raw clay, embedded with Wall Barley seeds. This wild relative of cultivated barley was once a foundational unit of mass and trade value, enforced by the empire. Its growth on these weapon-forms embodies a refusal to be standardised or reduced to a commodity.

Ruderal Shield bears imprints of nettle and yarrow in clay — plants embodying both harm and healing. Nettle deters yet nourishes; yarrow staunches wounds and was carried into battle.



Arrested Propagator explores Ragwort, a proscribed weed in the 1959 UK Weeds Act due to its toxicity to livestock. Like all ruderal species, it persists despite eradication attempts.

Accompanying the works, **Ruderal Zone Watch** is a film meditation on militarised landscapes. It documents life resisting erasure within a NATO training zone in Poland, where military exclusion created an accidental sanctuary. Resilient plants and silent memories thrive at the margins of power, revealing a profound irony: where artillery falls, tenacious life quietly persists.

Pati Starzykowski is an artist and transdisciplinary researcher who works and produces at the intersection of art, science, ecology, and politics. Pati is currently a PhD candidate at the School of Design and Architecture, University for Creative Arts Canterbury researching weeds as affective ecologies, contextual and queer ecological models of resilience for socio-spatial practices. Instagram: @mother_matter
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1. The Gossamer Thistle Routes Hanging: Thistle seeds, 800mm x 500mm

2. FauxBurrGè Burdock flowers, 400mm x 200mm

3. Ecological Currency Obligation (ECO)
25 parts: Unfired clay, soil, seeds of nettles, yarrow and poppy, 50mm each

4. Burrls Hanging: Burdock flowers strung on copper wire, 600mm

5. Against the Grain (32 Grains) Pair: Unfired clay, soil, Wall Barley seeds, 150mm x 100mm

6. Ruderal Shield Unfired clay, soil, sawdus, Yarrow and Nettle, 800mm x 500mm

7. Arrested Propagator Ragwort umbels, circa 600mm.

8. Ruderal Zone Watch Film, 11'10'

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

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