



"With 'The Sharing Of Uncertainty' I wanted to share previous works that explore what we value, want and desire. I do believe that we can develop or, perhaps regain, ecologies of value that review our relationship to the environment we share. Such reviews can help in driving our social, economic and political realities; they can lead to renewed possibilities. Such possibilities will never be easy to fold into our daily lives but it is worth trying. In some ways it is a sharing of uncertainty but that, I believe, is what we need right now as we reflect on where we are."

- John Newling

Vist Us For More Information At

www.artcoregallery.org.uk

www.john-newling.com

www.sharingofuncertainty.artcoregallery.org.uk

Artcore Gallery

**Open Monday to Saturday
between 12pm to 4pm.**

**Address : Osnabruck Square,
8 Albert St, Derby DE1 2DS**

Phone: 01332 366623

Artcore



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



The Sharing Of Uncertainty

25 September- 30 October 2020



John Newling



365 days and 50 million year old leaves (2019) is made of sticks collected by the artist on his daily walks. Having dropped from a tree, each stick has been cut and painted to transform it into a wand. Gathered into piles, they include soil balls, leaf fossils, feather quills and an ink well - referencing a natural inscription that far pre-dates any written practice.

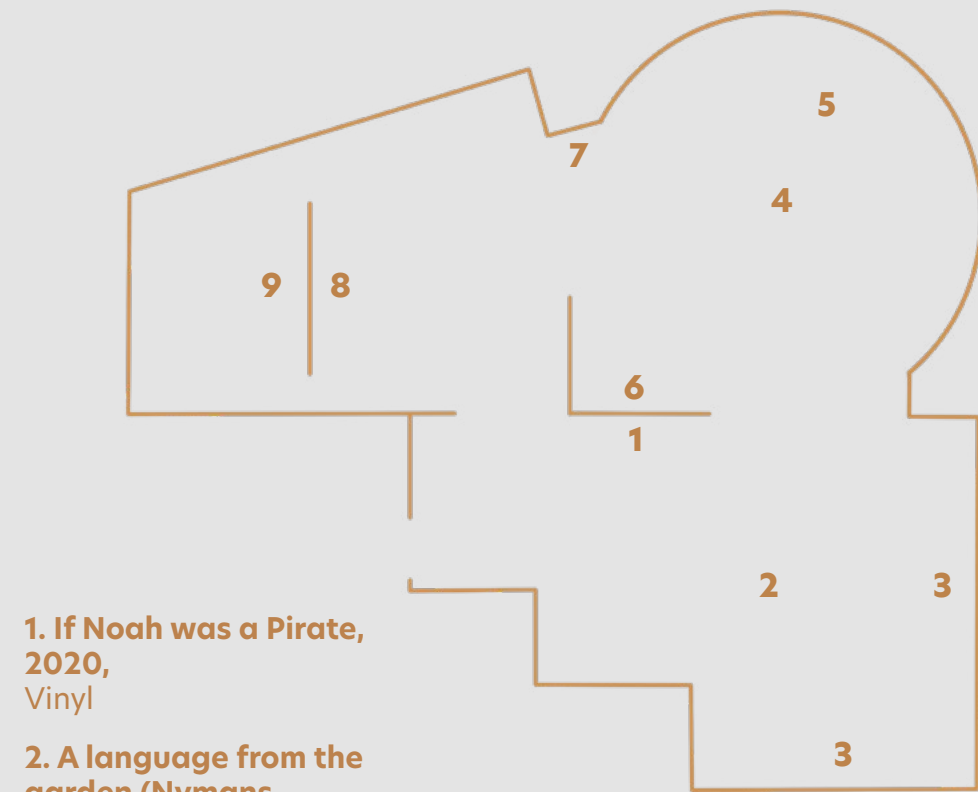
The organic matter underlying modern literature is revealed in Eliot's Notebooks (2017), which involved the shredding of several hundred copies of T.S. Eliot's poem The Waste Land. Newling added water, vegetable matter, coffee grounds and urine to the paper, which he turned in composting drums in his back garden for several months. A film reveals the process of decomposition and later construction of paper. Consisting of 80% text and 20% vegetable matter, the pages could sustain plant growth if rehydrated.

Dear Nature (2018) is the title of a book of 81 letters Newling wrote to Nature over 81 days, and also a video made with filmmaker Reece Straw shown here. In the film the letters, which explore our relationship with the natural world, are read aloud by many different voices. In one letter he writes, "Dear Nature, I have always loved the unknowns of you. But can we ever truly be together? Yours, John"

'The Sharing of Uncertainty' explores John Newling's relationship with Nature. Born in Birmingham in 1952, Newling has an acclaimed reputation, creating work in the UK and internationally. Now based in Nottingham, John is a pioneer of public art with a social purpose. His proposition is that our idea of the natural world as a limitless resource for us to use as we wish needs to be replaced with a fuller understanding of human beings as a part of Nature, not separate from it but intimately entwined with it.

Library of Ecological Conversations - Leaves and Me (2017-2019) is a series of thirty-six letters composed over the course of three years. The geology of the relationship - between the artist, the leaves, collected from Newling's garden, the garden and studio - is evident and each work responds to the season and moment in which it is formed.

Newling's plea for a closer connection to nature is evident in his new alphabet based on leaves he found at Nymans, a National Trust garden in West Sussex. Working with a designer and typographer, the leaves were pressed, photographed and then turned into a unique alphabet, forming the basis of a downloadable font, shown here in a grid of marble slabs, which can be used to decipher the printed letter on the wall nearby.



1. If Noah was a Pirate, 2020,
Vinyl

2. A language from the garden (Nymans language), 2017
Engraved marble

3. A Library Of Ecological Conversations (Leaves and Me), 2017-2019
Mixed media, 36 framed works

4. 365 days and 50 million year old leaves, 2019,
Sticks and leaf fossils

5. From a Garden of Walking Sticks, 2011-12
Jersey kale

6. Eliot's Notebooks, 2017
Mixed media

7. Eliot's Notebooks, 2017
Video

8. Burnt Sticks, 2020
Burnt sticks, elastic

9. Dear Nature, 2020
Video

10. So Sorry, 2019
Rubber stamp and mirror