

Eyes as Big as Plates

An exhibition by Riitta Ikonen and Karoline Hjorth.

Welcome to *Eyes as Big as Plates*, at An Lanntair. This is an exhibition of photographs made by artist duo Riitta Ikonen and Karoline Hjorth.

This gallery pack is made for you and your family to take with you as you go around the exhibition.

There are some activities for you to do if you like. You can try as many as you like and stay as long as you want.

In this exhibition we will be looking and thinking about the photographs Riita and Karoline have taken. We will ask ourselves questions about what we are seeing and about what that means to us.

Riita and Karoline work with the people in their photographs to choose locations, make wearable pieces of sculpture and make a one off, piece of art.

They describe these people as being 'modern humans belonging to nature'. Sometimes when they are making, they explore old folk tales and find new ways of telling them.

Sometimes one photo shoot can take three hours of lying buried in mud or in the sea with bull kelp being stuck up your nose, so the people in the photographs are both hardy and curious!

Start by walking around the gallery.

What do you first notice as you look around you?

There are lots of photographs aren't there?

What do you see in each picture that is the same?

What do you see in each picture that is different?

Which is your favourite?

Why?

Have a look at the photographs on the table.

These photos show how the big ones on the walls were taken.

They look good fun don't they?!

Now have a look again at the photographs on the wall and choose one you would like to write about. Your answers can be real or made-up.

What is the name of the figure in your picture?

What are they?

What is the name of the land they are in?

What is the figure doing?

What is around or on them?

Why are they here?

What would you feel if you were walking in that land and met them?

What would they say to you?

How would you feel?

Write or draw about what would happen next....

The artists invite all sorts of people to take part in their artworks.

They want to see if art can change the way we think, act and live.

Our view of the world can shift a little by looking at things through others' eyes.

"We need to learn to see not just with Western eyes but with Islamic eyes and Inuit eyes, not just with human eyes but with golden-cheeked warbler eyes, coho salmon eyes, and polar bear eyes, and not even just with eyes at all but with the wild, barely articulate being of clouds and seas and rocks and trees and stars." ROY SCRANTON

Let's try and see if we can look through another's eyes right now!

Choose something in nature. Anything!

It could be a bear or a worm, the sea or a cloud.

Spend a few minutes imagining what it might be like to be your chosen animal or object.

Take two paper plates and draw on them what you see when you are your chosen animal or object.

Have fun! Imagine being the animal or object you have chosen while you colour or draw your plates.

You can give other people a turn of your nature eyes and let them see what it feels like to be your chosen nature being too. They might want to hold up your plates close to their face so that they can see and feel everything you've seen and were feeling as you made them.

The two artists like to work with people who are curious about nature and are willing to have fun with them in making these artworks. Each of the people in the photographs chose to be in the photo and worked with the artists to make the things they're wearing.

Why not try making a nature headdress!

Start by making a headband with the thin strip of card and tape it in a band so that it fits on your head.

Cut or rip shapes out of the paper and tape them to your headband building up layers to create height and shapes.

It does not need to be neat and tidy, or pretty.

The paper can be folded, rolled or curled to create more shapes. The headdress can be tall and narrow or long and shaggy, perhaps like a crown of a bird or the mane of a lion.

For the final layer of paper forms, draw nature shapes that you like best, like wavy seaweeds, wispy grasses or prickly needles.

Cut these out and add them to your headdress.



The artists feel that we are all connected to nature and that this is important.

Some of our favourite things to do often involve nature, like jumping in puddles, exploring rock pools, building sandcastles, climbing trees, toasting marshmallows on open fires.

There are some things that we get to do here in the Hebrides that connect us to nature in special ways like seeing the bog cotton bobbing in the wind while we cut peats, watching new born animals on the crofts in Spring, looking up to the skies to find sea eagles, spotting seals in the sea or feeling the deep moss under our feet in the castle grounds.

The artists and the people they have photographed show us it's important to remember as we grow up how to enjoy being in nature and having fun with the world around us.

Thank you for exploring and thinking about this exhibition at An Lantair.