THE WORLD OF THE W



eco-art

Charlotte Edwards unearths artistic responses to the environment



1 Thomas Albdorf. Typical Alpine Flora at the Hochschwab Area, 2014. at Foam. Amsterdam. 2 Abel Rodríguez, Terraza Alta II, 2018, at Baltic, Gateshead. 3 John Newling, Eliot's Note Books, 2017, at Ikon, Birmingham. 4 Robert Smithson, Spiral Jetty, 1970, Great Salt Lake. Utah, at Dia Art Foundation, NYC, Marian Goodman, London and UMFA, Salt Lake City.

BALTIC, GATESHEAD ABEL RODRIGUEZ Painstaking drawings of Colombian Amazon flora and fauna by Rodríguez, formerly Mogaje Guihu, an elder of the Muinane tribe. Displaced from his homeland by conflict and deforestation in the 1990s, he moved to Bogotá, where he began to make pictures to preserve his ancestral knowledge of a vanishing ecosystem. His tender act of recording and remembering amounts almost to taxonomy; botanists value his work as much as art-lovers do. His Tyneside survey can now be visited online. balticplus.uk CAMDEN ARTS CENTRE, LONDON THE BOTANICAL MIND: ART, MYSTI-CISM AND THE COSMIC TREE This exhibition juxtaposing ancient artefacts, rare manuscripts and work by visionary, Modernist, Surrealist and contemporary artists asks us to dig into diverse cultures and alternative world-views to reassess our relationship with the plant kingdom. Podcasts, films and music launch the show on the gallery's website this month before it opens in reality later in the year. camdenartscentre.org

DEPAUL ART MUSEUM, CHICAGO THE WORLD TO COME: ART IN THE AGE OF THE ANTHROPOCENE Frank Thiel's heroically scaled glacier photographs are among works by 40 artists measuring the breadth and depth of the human footprint on our geological epoch. An impressive online research guide keeps the ideas afloat pending the museum's reopening. resources.depaul.edu DIA ART FOUNDATION, NEW YORK, MARIAN GOODMAN GALLERY, LONDON & UMFA, SALT LAKE CITY SPIRAL JETTY Did Robert Smithson intend his famous earthwork, created 50 years ago, to be permanently preserved – or to be transformed, even swallowed up, by its environment? Either way, the 450m black-basalt coil endures. Dia, which owns the site, and the local art museum are planning a season of events to celebrate, while Smithson's gallery will stage his first British solo show. diaart.org; mariangoodman.com; umfa.utah.edu

DITCHLING MUSEUM OF ART AND CRAFT & IKON, BIRMINGHAM JOHN NEWLING Works by this public-art pioneer have included writing an apologetic letter to na-

ture every day for 81 days, and creating a font (downloadable from his website) based on pressed plant forms. An online edit of a recent exhibition in Birmingham, his home city, will be followed by another major solo show in Sussex, where he'll install a steel text work in the branches of a beech on Ditchling's green. ditchlingmuseumartcraft.org.uk; ikon-gallery.org; john-newling.com E-WERK, LUCKENWALDE GREY ENERGY 2020 This art centre based in a reactivated 1913 power station now produces renewable electricity to supply the national grid and fund its programme - which, this year, will include a 'social sculpture' in the form of a zerowaste public bar, and the opportunity for the public to charge electric vehicles using repurposed fuel pumps. kunststrom.com FOAM, AMSTERDAM ON EARTH: IMAGING, TECHNOLOGY AND THE NATURAL WORLD The 21st century's landscape photographers take a less passive, more proactive approach to recording their environment, using new technologies and social media to expose how filtered and artificial our experience of nature can be. foam.org >













eco-art





1 Studio Morison. Mother.... 2020. New Geographies at Wicken Fen. Elv. 2 Omar Abduljawad, Wahidah, 2020, at Jeddah Arts. 3 Formafantasma, still from Quercus, 2020, at the Serpentine Gallery, London, 4 Snøhetta. Vulkan Beehive, 2014. at Schlossgut Schwante. Oberkrämer, 5 Ximena Garrido-Lecca, Botanical Insurgencies: Phaseolus Lunatus, 2017, at the São Paulo Bienal.

JEDDAH ARTS I LOVE YOU, URGENTLY Named after the port city's longitude and latitude, Jeddah Arts' '21,39' festival has always been anchored by a sense of place; this year, curator Maya El Khalil asked artists to focus on its identity as a global trading hub specifically in relation to climate change. Take a virtual tour to see works such as Omar Abduljawad's collaborative sculptures, made up of soil spheres shaped by visitors' hands. thesaudiartcouncil.org NOTTINGHAM CONTEMPORARY DANIEL STEEGMANN MANGRANE Work by this Catalan artist, who creates environments representing our entangled, interdependent relationship with nature, was set to be a highlight of the now-cancelled Liverpool Biennial. But the internet can take you to this 2019 show, a meditation on the loss of (and impossibility of resurrecting) the Mata Atlântica rainforest, with its installation of glass 'branches' in which orchids, ferns and mosses grow. nottinghamcontemporary.org; danielsteegmann.info

sao Paulo Bienal Ximena Garrido-Lecca Interested in relationships between agriculture, architecture and natural resources, Peruvian Garrido-Lecca re-stages her work *Botanical Insurgencies* (2017) at the world's second-oldest art biennial in October. A kind of experimental workshop, it features a hydroponic structure planted with lima-bean seedlings, and works that reference the use of the beans in a pre-Incan communication system. *bienal.org.br*

SCHLOSSGUT SCHWANTE, OBERKRAEMER SCULPTURE & NATURE Twenty-five sculptures responding to the great outdoors – including works by Ai Weiwei, Richard Serra and Carsten Nicolai, whose 'meditation space' is based on the Angkor Wat echo chamber – comprise the opening show this summer at a new sculpture park, a castle estate 25km from Berlin. schlossgut-schwante.de SERPENTINE GALLERY, LONDON BACK TO EARTH For its 50th anniversary, the Kensington institution announced 'a year of active ecological thinking', kicking off with 'Cambio', Italian design duo Formafantasma's against-thegrain investigation into the history of wood as a commodity. Stay tuned for 'Back to Earth', an artist-devised series of environmental initia-

tives. cambio.website, serpentinegalleries.org
SOLOMON R. GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM, NEW YORK COUNTRYSIDE, THE FUTURE Already installed in the famous rotunda, architect Rem Koolhaas's headspinning survey of life outside cities – exploring radical changes to the rural landscape caused by climate change, migration and new kinds of agriculture – can now be experienced via an online audio guide. guggenheim.org

WICKEN FEN, ELY MOTHER... Modelled on fenland hayricks, and inspired by Richard Mabey's writings linking nature and our mental health, Studio Morison's thatched pavilion on this 2,000-acre reserve is part of New Geographies, a programme to install art in unexpected places across east England. newgeographies.uk ■











