

THE ARK - WE STAND BESIDE BY JANE FRERE



EXHIBITION

For artist Jane Frere, *The Ark: We Stand Beside* brings together the beauty of nature, a sense of urgency and shared responsibility - asking what it means to stand alongside the natural world at a moment when so much is at risk. Shaped by growing concern over the climate and biodiversity crisis, the exhibition invites visitors to pause, reflect, and choose a species to 'stand beside' in a symbolic act of solidarity.

Partnering with newly formed initiative I Stand Beside, the idea has already resonated widely, engaging almost 100 individuals including TV naturalist Chris Packham, Scottish film and stage star Brian Cox, and author Max Porter.

"It is art as advocacy to reach people and get them to understand the urgency of the situation," says Jane. "It shocked me to learn that wildlife species numbers have declined by 70% in my own lifetime according to the World Wildlife Fund. This exhibition and the linked events aim to alert people and encourage everyone to do something."

At the heart of the exhibition is a floating ark, created in collaboration with Deeside-based master craft designer Tom Addy. Within it, a sound sculpture carries the

voices of children and traditional Highland storytellers, speaking the names of threatened species in Gaelic and English - a quiet roll call of what we risk losing.

Adjoining the exhibition, will be a display of a children's ark created with Banchory Primary pupils, led by Hilary Duncan and Fiona Hope, conducted in collaboration with Deeside CAN.

The Ark does not offer easy answers. Instead, it asks a simple question: what would you choose to stand beside and why?

The Ark - We Stand Beside by Jane Frere
Thursday 26 March - Sunday 19 April 2026
Open Wednesday - Sunday, 10am - 4pm

In collaboration with Jane Frere, the Barn have created a schedule of events around the theme of the exhibition which invites participants to listen, create and contribute. To close the exhibition, we're delighted to host Jane Frere, Alan Watson Featherstone, Dan Puplett, Mark Hope, and Tom Addy for a Panel Discussion on Saturday 18th April at 7pm.

For more information on *The Ark - We Stand Beside*, please visit our website.

EVENTS

HIVE Creative Kids Workshops

17 February - 10 March, Tuesdays 4pm

Artist Anne Marquiss will explore endangered animal shapes and forms inspired by prehistoric cave drawings and Inuit animal figures.

Third Stage Art (55+)

17 February - 10 March, Tuesdays 10am

Join acclaimed printmakers Ade Adesina and Hetty Haxworth as they guide participants through various printmaking techniques.

Film: Clinging by a Claw

Wednesday 1 April @ 7:30pm

Offering insight into the journey of Scotland's wildcats from the brink of extinction.

Film: Expressing the Earth

Wednesday 8 April @ 7:30pm

A poetic and thought-provoking journey through Scotland's wild places, Expressing the Earth invites us to look again at our relationship with the planet.

Workshop: Magnificent Maerl

Saturday 11 April and Sunday 12 April @ 10am

Join artist Julia Barton in this family workshop, children and their adults will use paints and pastels to create a habitat inspired by maerl - a wonderful, fragile coral-like seaweed.

Saturday 11 April @ 2pm for 13 - 18 year olds

Young people will study maerl and translate their shapes into freestanding sculptures using theatre set design techniques.

Third Stage Art (55+)

14 April - 5 May, Tuesdays 10am

Kathleen Cowie leads a colourful series drawing inspiration around British birds; progressively develop drawing, watercolour painting and collage skills in two art projects.

HIVE Creative Kids Workshops

14 April - 5 May, Tuesdays 4pm

Clay for the Wild will be looking at ways to explore animals on the red endangered species list.

Film: Ash Rise

Wednesday 15 April @ 7:30pm

A showcase of the ash tree, its historic use in craft, and the devastating impact of ash dieback disease, highlighting how makers are transforming felled ash into new furniture.

Workshop: Bird Language

Saturday 18 April @ 10am

Join naturalist Dan Puplett and discover how paying attention to bird vocalisations can help us to see more wildlife and become aware of what is happening in the wider landscape.

Workshop: Tracking Nature

Saturday 18 April @ 2pm

Delve into the ancient art of tracking with Dan Puplett and explore what it can teach us about wildlife.

Closing Event: Panel Discussion

Saturday 18 April @ 7pm

Keynote presentation Alan Watson Featherstone, followed by panel discussion with the artist and guests.

Live Music: Salt House

Sunday 19 April @ 7:30pm

A mainstay on the Scottish folk scene fronted by Seabird Ecologist, Jenny Sturgeon.

