

## Artist Statement – James Aldridge

James Aldridge is a visual artist, based in Wiltshire. James graduated in 1996 with a BA (Hons) in Fine Art (Sculpture) from UCA, Farnham and is an Associate Artist with CAS (Andover) and MK Gallery (Milton Keynes), and an active member of Climate Museum UK.

James' practice has three main parts, individual research and making, participatory practice and consultancy/training. Each element informs and feeds into the other. Together they form a body of practice-led research into the value of Artful Knowing as a means of learning, which engages the individual in a dialogue with their environment through their whole being – body, emotions, imagination and intellect.

Underpinning all areas of James's practice, is a belief in the urgent need to develop new ways of seeing and being with the world, in a time of climate breakdown and ecological collapse.

Walking often acts as a starting point in James' making and writing. On a walk or cycle ride he stop and notices, recording through text, found objects, photographs, sound or drawing what is shown to him. Objects and imagery emerge out of his experience and are layered with other forms of knowing that place (research into its ecology, history etc). James offers a similar approach to those with whom he works, enabling them to pay attention to their senses and emotions, to what they notice both about themselves and their locality.

James has carried out residencies and commissions for a number of organisations including 5x5x5=creativity and The Hampshire Cultural Trust, and curated exhibitions at venues including MK Gallery and Salisbury Art Centre.

James has also provided professional development for artists and educators in schools, arts and heritage organisations, facilitated community consultation projects for English Heritage and National Trust, and worked as a visiting lecturer at a number of Universities, including with student teachers, medical students and doctoral candidates researching artful approaches to facilitating organisational change.

In addition James has extensive experience in Early Years Settings and Primary Schools, working with children and providing professional development for staff, or engaging creatively with parents.

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