

## **James Aldridge: Artist Statement**

James Aldridge researches the role that art can play in enabling an experience of connection, between self and place.

James's practice uses his own individual experiences, and participatory methods, to develop an understanding of embodied and situated approaches to learning. Informed by performance and land-art practices, crafts processes and pedagogical research, he responds to the urgent need to develop new ways of seeing and being with the more than human world, in a time of ecological crisis.

James's artwork is multi-disciplinary, comprising of intimate objects formed in the hand whilst walking, larger sculptures that echo his bodily experiences, and recent sound and video pieces that collage imagery and sound together, to evoke the experience of moving through a landscape.

Objects are either formed from materials collected on-site, or constructed in the studio from resources such as clothing, maps and natural history illustrations. Artworks may also incorporate photographic imagery, drawing and text.

James's work in educational settings, including museums, schools and universities, feeds into and informs his individual practice. Children's playful explorations of place, for instance, offer opportunities to research the innate capacities that we are born with, and the opportunities that they offer us to experience connection through making.

*James Aldridge, January 2019*