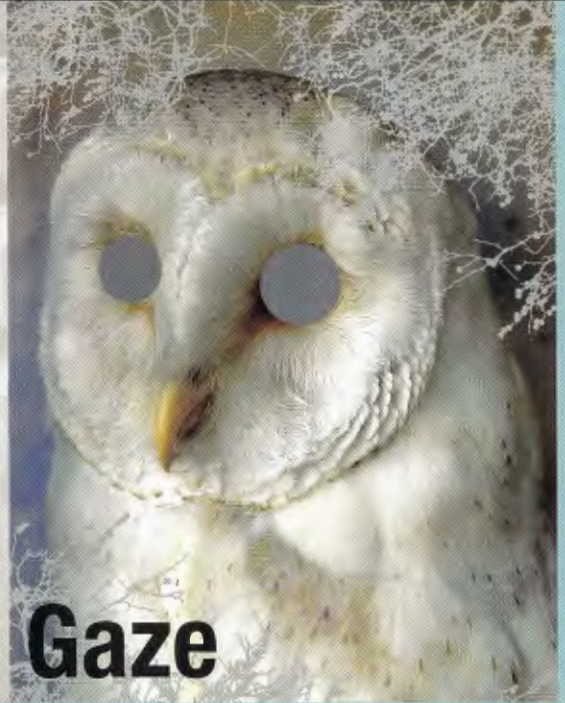


This picture  
'Second Nature'  
by Hayden  
Fowler

Right  
'Spot 10' by  
Helen Spear



## The Animal Gaze

A small arts organisation in Haldon Forest Park is celebrating the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Darwin this month

**T**he Animal Gaze exhibition at the Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World (CCANW) in Haldon Forest Park will take a close look at our relationship with other species, many of which – be it as pets, hunting game or livestock – we have depended on for thousands of years. The Animal Gaze will be shared between five venues simultaneously including four art spaces in

Plymouth, the port from which Darwin's *Beagle* set off on its historic journey in 1831.

The publication of Darwin's *The Origin of Species* in 1859 marked the beginning of our understanding of how billions of years of survival and adaptation to natural changes, phenomena and cycles produced earth's approximately 10 million species of animals. It is almost impossible to say to what degree Darwin's important

book is responsible for the shift in our thinking about other species, especially in recent years, but at the same time it is clear that without it we would not be having the same debates about our role – and responsibilities – within the hierarchy of species as we are having now.

Curator of The Animal Gaze, Rosemarie McGoldrick, explains: "The exhibition shows how animals currently appear in Western contemporary art. Work

'The refusal' by Jo Longhurst



'Dog of my Dreams' by Roz Mortimer



has been selected from a range of national and international artists for its new approach to animals, taking into account ethics, politics and aesthetics."

Running alongside the main exhibition will be films and workshops (including a children's animation workshop with artist Jenny Mellings, where children from 8-11 will have the chance to make their own video animations using forest materials).



'Ducky' by Cathryn Jiggins

There will be an opportunity to join artists Simon Persighetti and Tony Whitehead on a guided walk of Plymouth where urban wildlife, imaginary and otherwise, will be tracked before participants are whisked off to Haldon Forest to explore it in terms of its wildlife.

A new work by Plymouth artist Duncan Speakman has been commissioned by Groundwork South West which explores how we use sound to navigate different environments, and there will be a special film screening (5 March, 7.30pm) showing a selection of 15 short films by artists participating in the exhibition. □

**CHRIS LEWIS**

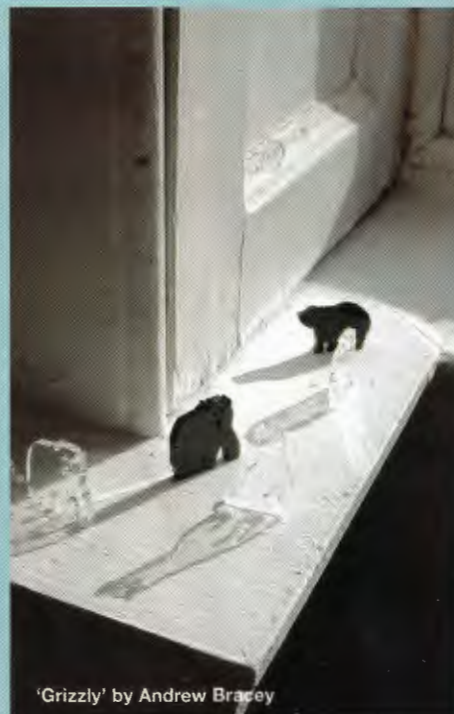
**The Animal Gaze exhibition runs at Haldon Forest Park until 5 April. Open Wed-Sun, 10am-4pm. ☎01392 832277. The film screening is on at the CCANW, [www.ccanw.co.uk](http://www.ccanw.co.uk).**

**Other venues participating in The Animal Gaze multi-site exhibition are Plymouth College of Art, Plymouth Arts Centre, Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery, and the Peninsula Arts Gallery.**

'The world is a dangerous place'  
by Kate James



*The exhibition looks at our relationship with species we have depended upon for thousands of years*



'Grizzly' by Andrew Bracey

CCANW is an innovative educational charity based in Haldon Forest Park near Exeter which focuses on exploring our place within nature through the arts. Clive Adams, the Centre's Director, explains: "The Centre's integrated artistic and educational programme provides the public with valuable insights into today's pressing ecological problems, giving them a deeper understanding of 'nature' and the importance of sustainability in their lives."

The Centre bases itself in a former deer museum which has been converted into a modern project space using recycled insulation materials and timber flooring.

Visitors to Haldon Forest Park can enjoy not only the CCANW events but also long walks, cycle rides through the forest (bikes may be hired), horse riding, high-wire adventure courses, and during holidays and at weekends tuck into delicious crêpes at the café. For more information about future projects visit [www.ccanw.co.uk](http://www.ccanw.co.uk).