



**MIGRATING CONVERSATIONS:  
ARTICULATIONS ACROSS A NATURAL SETTING**

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# Project Proposal

Prepared for: The Walthamstow Wetlands Center and the London Wildlife Trust

Prepared by: Across RCA Working Group. Climate (Materiality) Team 10aT2

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## Introduction

The proposal for this project is to use the natural setting of the Walthamstow Wetlands and project images of residential individuals and members of the wetlands upon the trees of the reservoirs as they talk about what the notion of migration means to them. Migration means changing home. Let's consider the biosphere as the boundary of our home, then with a changing Biosphere. It is evident that we are changing our home into something that is slowly threatening species' survival. We are all in this together. Through an emergent idea and continued conversations during our time here at the Royal College of Art, we want this work to articulate how, through the arts, individuals and communities can be brought together through the mediation of nature. Recent ecological thought embraces the idea of the natural world receiving the same rights and considerations as the human world. Anthropocentric thinking has dominated how we encounter nature as a commodity for too long now or dismiss it entirely. The consequences of current thinking towards the natural world and the effects therein are commonly referred to as the Anthropocene. This term is, for now, just a name. It doesn't have to define how we move *with* nature into a new epoch. In an age of accelerated, hyper-mediated technological growth, it could be hard to recognize how we think about nature in the fight against climate change and a planetary fragility that is easily dismissed as just a theme or concept. This artwork stands to give a voice to those who care and act as an event to remind, nurture, and generate continued critical thinking about how, like art, we are informed by nature as to how genuinely civilized and intelligent we really are. Through this proposal, we want this work to act as a space for generous thinking and be an active reminder that even as we change our home, build habitats, and reside in very modern ways, our thinking should remain intelligent, considered, and vital regarding those we live '*with*.'

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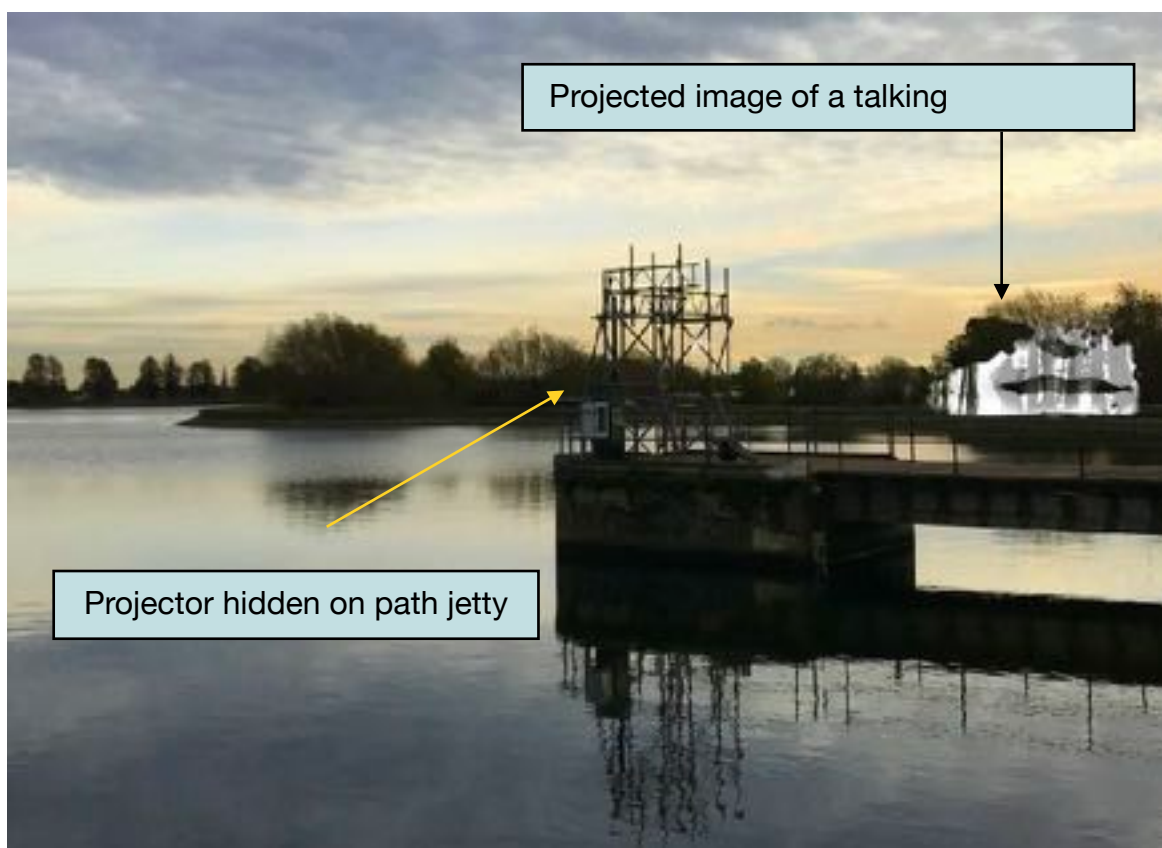
## Objective

Walthamstow Wetlands has a long-standing relationship with the natural world. We set to aim this project as a way to celebrate this unique encounter by bringing together as many voices as possible. We hope to reveal what nature means to those who use the Wetlands to help new visitors understand what nature needs from us as co-habitants. In an age of technological advancement and social change, our relationship with nature is needed more now than ever. We hope exchanging stories and experiences enriches a collective appreciation of the fragile ecosystem the wetlands support. By understanding how to care for nature, we can understand what care means outside the human-centric condition. Through video and projection, soundscape and audio, we want to celebrate the wetlands and identify their crucial role in the balance between nature and nurture. As cities become ever denser and busier and pressures build, it is not only humans who need places of care and refuge. Our neighbours include those who share these ever-changing landscapes and deserve the same considerations.

## Project Outline

As the public walk between reservoir 1 & 2 they will hear a low audio of birdsong. Over the top of this sound will be the narration from each projected person talking about how they understand migration, any relation to home and what a habitat means to them. These contexts invite us to consider our role in the wider community alongside the animal kingdom and how it is important to reassess our relationship to nature.

Below are working ideas put to mock ups of how the project may look.



Mock up of a projection into the islands.

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View from pathway between reservoir 1 and 2

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**Mock up of a projector sited on an angler jetty**

### **Rationale:**

We feel it is crucial to engage the local community in this project and invite others who may not come into contact with nature in the way the wetlands provide to celebrate this special and unique part of London. Asking users of the wetlands to have themselves recorded and projected onto the islands will give others - who may not regard the benefits of having such natural communities living beside us - a more enlivened experience of the wetlands. We hope that the project will foster an appreciation of the space through the medium of art and creativity. We would like this event to be passive and in consideration to the space, non invasive and gentle. We would like to invite you to take an advisory role and help facilitate this happening. We believe that highlighting the wetlands in this way, allows those that may not otherwise consider the importance of spaces like the Walthamstow Wetlands to receive a richer understanding of the balance between nature and our role in fostering a stewardship as opposed to seeing nature as something to be owned, harnessed, or commodified. We would love for you to be part of something simply beautiful in a simply beautiful setting.

We look forwards to hearing from you.

Regards The Across RCA 10aT2 team

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# Proposed site of art work infrastructure

