

## **You Can't Make Trees, exhibition by ReRooted Residency artists Rachel and Ray Attfield.**

**Arbeit Studios is pleased to announce the upcoming exhibition, You Can't Make Trees, by the 2nd ReRooted Residency artists, Rachel and Ray Attfield.**

**Exhibition Dates:** Friday 3 May - Sunday 2 June 2024

**Exhibition Opening Event:** Tuesday 7 May, 5pm to 8pm

Trowbridge Gardens Gallery, 1 Trowbridge Road, Hackney Wick, London, E9 5LD

Ray and Rachel's practices find inspiration in locally foraged natural materials, which guide the outcomes of their art, using a combination of skills from traditional craft to architecture. The artwork, a series of wooden and woven structures, will respond to the physical potential and cultural significance of these different materials, exploring nature and urbanisation, and humankind's need to formalise and civilise nature, exposing the contradictions as well as the supposed benefits.

During the residency period we held; a talk led by Ray 'Inside Outside: a discussion about civilisation and nature', a Silent Walk to Hackney Marshes led by Rachel and the workshop Knotted Structures: craft-making workshop to create a collective work.

During the opening event, there will be food made by Thingy Cafe.

**ReRooted Residency:** In November 2023, Arbeit launched the second of three open calls for a ReRooted residency programme aimed at local artists, designers and makers working with nature, ecology and sustainability. The residency, located at the new north garden designed by Architect Richard Brown, is a fully funded 4 month long residency culminating in a public exhibition onsite. The garden will become an extension of the Trowbridge Gardens Gallery, as a space to host community led incentives.



Arbeit Studios (Arbeit Project Ltd.)

Existing Sites: Trowbridge Gardens: 1 Trowbridge Road, E9 5LD (Registered Address) | 117 Wallis Road, E9 5LN | 778-782 High Road Leyton, E10 6AE | Unit 41 Uplands Business Park, E17 5QJ | 9 Martel Place, E82FR | Unit OH, East 10, Enterprise Park, E10 7DQ | Basement, Baring House, Canton Street, E14 6JW | 232 Hornsey Road, N7 7LL | 8a - 10a Kilburn Bridge, NW6 6HT | Unit 11, Redif House, Wantz Road, Dagenham, RM10 8PS | 182 New Cross Rd, SE14 5AA | Stroud Green Road N4 3ED | 210-218 Trafalgar Rd SE10 9ER | 1 - 6 Pintle Place, Hancock Road, London, E3 3UP



**Ray and Rachel Attfield** (father, daughter) collectively explore the transformational potential of natural materials, exploring how to give meaning to the ordinary, and revealing how people relate to nature particularly in urban environments.

Ray is an artist, architect and musician with an ongoing fascination with the relationship between urbanism and the natural world. Trees offer a sense of fascination, their life span, revealed in a cross-cut, or death expressed in discarded or burnt fragments. His recent exhibition at No 20 Arts shared a decade's work where chosen raw materials became objects with their own physical identity and meaning awaiting to be interpreted by the viewer.

Rachel works with natural fibres gathered near her home in Hackney, exploring traditional weaving crafts and their relationship with culture, identity and the natural world. A fascination with everyday movements, walking, gestures and touch have influenced her choreographic work, which has been presented as large-scale performances, soundscapes, photography and film. This established movement practice influences her work as a craft artist exploring how embodied memories connect with the crafts that are passed on in early life highlighting potential connections between generations and forgotten cultural traditions.

The open call for the third residency will be open soon on :  
[www.arbeit.org.uk/rerooted](http://www.arbeit.org.uk/rerooted)

## **ReRooted Residency and events is funded by the London Legacy Development Corporation.**

### **Notes to editors**

Contact:

For further information, images and interview requests please contact Gallery Curator Hannah Ayres,  
[Hannah@arbeit.org.uk](mailto:Hannah@arbeit.org.uk)

Trowbridge Gardens Gallery, 1 Trowbridge Road, Hackney Wick, London, E9 5LD

Nearest transport: Hackney Wick Overground Station

Gallery Open: Daily, but please check ahead of arrival during the Christmas break.

Instagram [@arbeitsstudios](https://www.instagram.com/arbeitsstudios) | Facebook [/arbeitsstudio](https://www.facebook.com/arbeitsstudio)

'Arbeit' means work in German, and this is what we do. We Make Space Work. Arbeit Studios is a mix-use creative workspace provider, creating spaces for artists, designers, small businesses and start-ups, alongside business support, event/gallery space and a shared environment for innovative collaboration and community involvement. About Trowbridge Gardens: Trowbridge Gardens is 10,000sq. Ft mixed-use site in Hackney Wick, launched in partnership with Hackney Council and with support from the Good Growth Fund in response to the increased loss of affordable workspace in the area and to create long-term spaces for the local community. The site is home for 27 studios, a cafe, community gardens, Trowbridge Gardens Gallery, a fitness club, a local Men's Shed and other facilities for the members and local community.

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