

Review of 'Seedscapes: future Proofing Nature' by Professor Liz Wells Thursday 24th June 2021

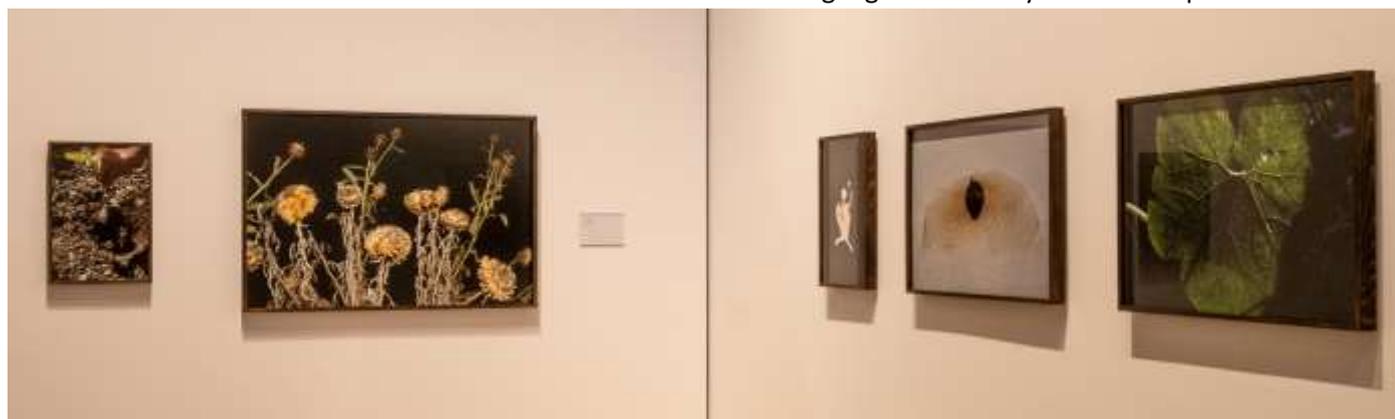
Liz who is one of our own members is Emeritus Professor at the School of Art, Design and Architecture at Plymouth University. Liz is one of the UK's foremost photographic scholars, specialising in landscape and the environment. She has curated numerous exhibitions in the UK and across the world and her latest 'Seedscapes: Future Proofing Nature' at the Royal Albert and Memorial Museum (RAMM) <https://rammuseum.org.uk/seedscapes-future-proofing-nature/>

runs from 3rd July to 5th September 2021. Delayed in the first place because of Covid, storm damage has delayed it further. So we were very fortunate that Liz could give us a preview of what we could expect at the exhibition through her well-chosen illustrations and informative talk.

Liz gave us a fascinating overview of the work of the likes of William Henry Fox Talbot 1800 - 1887, <https://talbot.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/> a scientist, inventor and photographer showing us his wonderful botanical prints of leaves and veronica in bloom. Definitely worth a look at online. Liz also showed us the inherently pleasing work of Anna Atkins 1799 – 1871 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anna_Atkins with her cyanotype photograms captured so well in those very early days of photography. Seeing her brilliant results with plants on light-sensitized paper cleverly exposed to the sun to produce an image, it certainly inspired me to find out more about Atkins' work. Indeed throughout Liz's presentation we were given an insight into the work of pioneers in their field, all very interesting and giving us plenty to think about and to look forward to at the RAMM.

It was great to hear about places such as the Global Seed Vault at Svalbard. Reassuring too to know that there is a well-planned facility for the long-term storage of duplicates of seeds conserved in gene banks around the world.

Liz made reference to another exhibition at the RAMM called 'A Language of Seeds by Leonie Hampton.



A lovely mix of Leonie's photographs of plants alongside some of the museum's collection of dried seeds.



Altogether Liz gave us much to think about and prompted much discussion about biological diversity, its conservation, and sustainable use and what we can do to make a difference such as how much water we put in a kettle to thinking about bee friendly plants. Thank you Liz.