

Overlapping species of spaces: exploiting ecotones in an urban setting and various attempts at increasing artistic biodiversity

This proposal is for a Pecha Kucha style presentation which will describe various attempts at inserting artistic practice between overlapping ecosystems within the central business district of Wrexham town centre. Georges Perec describes how space begins as lines traced on a blank page. Often lines define spaces or ecosystems by way of delineating edges or boundaries. Fine art often questions borders and encourages a blurring the “edges” of ideas or practices, and often occupies spaces *between* disciplines, ways of knowing and bodies of knowledge. This can be very fruitful and can provide new insights, allowing us to challenge our own conventions, and rethink our engagement with the world around us. It can also create new overlapping territories – referred to in this project as ecotones. Ecotones can be described as the overlapping spaces between two ecosystems. They have the characteristics of the two overlapping systems but can also contain new hybrids not found in either system. In this way they can be seen to have an increased biodiversity. This project will consider how identifying and occupying urban ecotones can contribute to new ways of artistic practice and hopefully add something useful to the conversation about how we address or negotiate adverse conditions, be they economic, social, cultural, political or artistic!

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