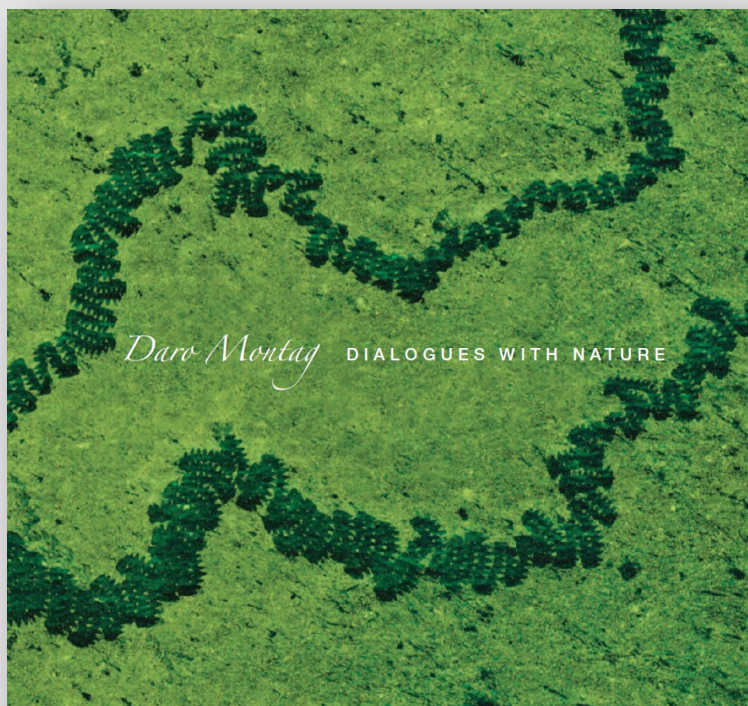


**Title:** *Daro Montag: Dialogues with Nature*, Noosa Regional Gallery 30 May-30 June and contributing to Floating Land: Nature's Dialogue, 31 May-9 June.

**Creator:** Lisa Chandler

**Year:** 2013



## Research Background

This research addresses contemporary ecological art practice through its presentation of digital and photographic drawings by prominent British environmental artist Daro Montag. It considers how ecological perspectives, which conceive of the artist as interconnected with the environment, can be manifest through works involving collaborations with nature. It examines how drawings co-created with animals, wind and rain, can reflect a concept of nature as constituted by dynamic processes rather than as discrete objects.

## Research Contribution

The research facilitates increased understandings of contemporary ecological art through a series of works exhibited in Australia for the first time. By examining Montag's practice over a 20 year period the curatorship reveals how Montag's work contributes to ecological and art historical thinking by focusing on process, exploring boundaries between media, artist and subject, and challenging notions of originality and authorship. It shows how the artist's work engages with the ecology of a specific site while also highlighting wider environmental interrelationships.

## Research Significance

The research is significant in employing curatorship to explore ecological philosophy and provide new insights into Montag's long-standing international practice. The exhibition received over 4500 visitors and was accompanied by a suite of public programs. It was included as evidence in a UK Research Excellence Framework exemplar. It was a key component of the major environmental art event Floating Land 2013 and the international conference Balance-Unbalance, all of which received extensive media coverage. Floating Land was identified in the Creative Australia: National Cultural Policy as a role-model for regional projects attracting national and international attention. The related catalogue was shortlisted for the Art Association of Australia and New Zealand's Best Small Catalogue Award.