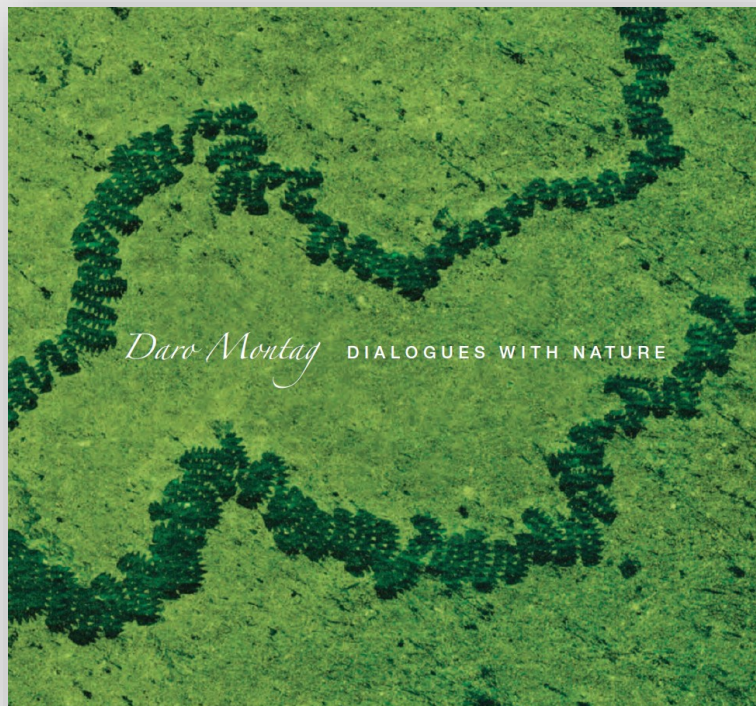


Title: *Daro Montag: dialogues with nature : exhibition catalogue*

Creator: Lisa Chandler

Year: 2013



Research Background

This research addresses contemporary ecological art practice through its investigation of digital and photographic drawings by prominent British environmental artist Daro Montag. It considers how ecological perspectives, conceiving of the artist as interconnected with the environment, are manifest in Montag's creative 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 its examination of Montag's practice in the context of an exhibition of his work presented in Australia for the first time. The essay reveals how Montag's practice contributes to ecological and art historical thinking by focusing on process, exploring boundaries of 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 providing fresh insights into Montag's manifestations of ecological philosophy within his long-standing international practice. Scholarly merit is evidenced by the catalogue's shortlisting for the Art Association of Australia and New Zealand's Best Small Catalogue Award recognizing 'originality and rigour of scholarship'. The catalogue and related exhibition were included as evidence in a UK Research Excellence Framework exemplar. They contributed to 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.