

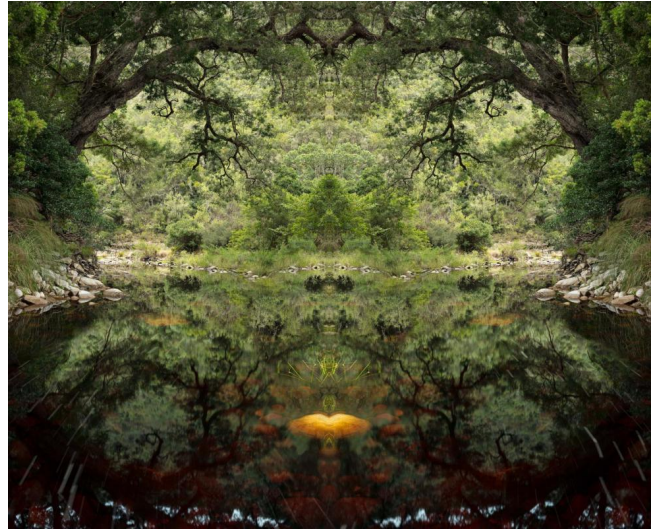
## Oliver Barnett: Small Gods

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Oliver Barnett's immersive photographic installation rescheduled for post-lockdown return

19 September - 10 October 2020

Parkside, Heath Farm, Oxfordshire  
OX7 4BN



### Private View

Friday 18 September 6 - 9pm

As lockdown measures ease across the UK, we are delighted to announce that *Small Gods*, a major solo show by South Africa-based artist Oliver Barnett will open at Parkside Architectural Tiles, Oxfordshire, on Saturday 19 September and will run until 10 October.

Presented by Flora Fairbairn and Damian Nixon, this solo exhibition brings Barnett back to his birthplace, Oxfordshire, to showcase a new series of large-scale photographs communicating the power and mystery of our natural world.

Barnett's photographs depict alternative worlds: mystical forests and spiritual landscapes that Barnett has discovered during his many explorations of the wilds of South Africa, as well as closer to home in the beech forests of Devon. In *Small Gods*, Barnett's lens leads the viewer on a metaphysical journey that throws up questions about our ongoing, symbiotic relationship with nature. The natural world is presented both as an environment that contains us and an organism of which we are an integral part. A pervasive animism that runs through the work is both a revival of an ancient respect for nature's power, and a reminder of our present responsibilities in an unprecedented era of human impact on the earth's wild habitats.

Like so many events and exhibitions up and down the country, Oliver Barnett: *Small Gods*, originally due to open in April, was postponed due to COVID-19. In the intervening period, the natural world seemed more visible as human activity retreated. As we emerge from lockdown and return to our daily lives, Barnett's work reminds us again to look deeper into the delicate beauty and wonder of the surrounding landscape.

### About Oliver Barnett

Born in Oxfordshire, Oliver Barnett lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa. Spending days at a time immersing himself in the vast wild spaces of the Western Cape, Barnett has developed a unique artistic expression to communicate our fragile relationship with the natural world. Starting out in landscape photography, Barnett's work has become more abstract with time. He has been deeply influenced by ancient tribal systems, such as animism, which is carried into the symbolism that permeates his work.

# Oliver Barnett: Small Gods

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## Notes to Editors

### **Oliver Barnett: *Small Gods***

Curated by Damian Nixon

Produced by Flora Fairbairn

19 September - 10 October 2020

Opening Hours: 9am - 5pm

Private View: Friday 18 September 6 – 9pm

Parkside Tiles, Heath Farm,  
Swerford nr. Chipping Norton,  
Oxfordshire, OX7 4BN

## Events

### **Collecting Contemporary Photography: Anstice Oakeshott, Damian Nixon and Oliver Barnett**

#### **Soho Farmhouse | Thursday 10 September 7pm**

In conjunction with *Small Gods* at Parkside, Soho Farmhouse will host an introduction to collecting contemporary photography by renowned photography specialist Anstice Oakeshott. Following Anstice's talk, Oliver Barnett will join Anstice in a conversation and Q&A chaired by *Small Gods* curator Damian Nixon, examining the work on show at Parkside and exploring the themes and symbolism that run through his work.

## **About Parkside Architectural Tiles and Heath Farm**

Through over 500 tile designs, Parkside is a trusted tile specification company with the versatility to provide solutions for any project. With a philosophy of developing thoughtful responses to the unique demands of clients and their projects, Parkside delivers a range of additional services including waterjet cutting, colour matching and bespoke digital print. Alongside studios in Chelsea, Clerkenwell, Leicester and the Cotswolds; a team of knowledgeable consultants come together in developing tile specifications with the architecture and design communities. Heath Farm is an oasis of tranquillity, hosting events and weddings. Its landscaped gardens give way to sweeping view across the North Cotswolds valley on one side and are protected by acres of deciduous English woodland to the other.

## **About Damian Nixon**

Damian Nixon is a London-based art business consultant and independent researcher. His work focuses on the construction of 'art world' value and the relationship between local cultural production and the international art world. He has lectured at the Sotheby's Institute of Art and has spoken at the African Arts in Venice Forum during the Venice Biennale and Cape Town Art Fair.

## **About Flora Fairbairn**

Flora Fairbairn is an independent curator and art advisor. Since 2000, she has produced exhibitions in various non-gallery, architecturally interesting locations, working with hundreds of artists, many of whom have gone on to become household names. She sits on various arts industry panels and committees and is passionate about identifying and supporting talented artists whose work should be seen by as wide an audience as possible. In 2017 she co-founded Branch Arts with Susie Lawson.

## **For further information, please contact:**

### **Flora Fairbairn**

T: +44 (0) 7971 572 105

E: [press@branch-arts.com](mailto:press@branch-arts.com)

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