



Spells

SPELLS is a series of processions directed by Janet Laurence, choreographed by Lizzie Thomson, and performed by Dirt Witches and Tree Venerators. These performances draw on a history of movement as a language to communicate care and oneness with the natural world; rituals are a powerful healing gesture for a world in crisis.



Clockwise from left: SPELLING SEEDS at Powerhouse MAAS Ultimo; dance students at Fespitalhaus Hellerau performing a heliolatry ritual dance; SPELLS FOR WEATHER at the Bundanon Art Gallery.

Photos of SPELLING SEEDS by Anna Hay.



SPELLING SEEDS was performed at the Powerhouse Museum Ultimo as part of the Eucalyptusdom program. **SPELLING SEEDS** is a procession as a lament, of and for the trees, an artistic performance that creates beauty, love, and wonder.

Dealing with our relationship to trees is an urgent matter. Deforestation is contributing massively to climate change and reforestation will be one of the ways to heal our earth.

This work is underpinned by an interweaving of nature and science. Immersing us in the ritual of care and using a language and aesthetics of empathy, love, and respect. The work is something between a performative poetry installation and an ancient pagan ritual; it relies on the sacred practice of spelling.

As spell-poems are vehicles of change that take us beyond the borders of the rational into a place where the right words and gestures can influence the universe.

The procession will become a kind of incantation that lures people into caring for and healing our ailing world and precious forests.







SPELLS FOR WEATHER was performed at Bundanon Art Gallery as part of its 'Weather Station' program initiated by Artangel. This work is agitated, disrupted, and formed by a tempestarius, Dimitri Kleioris.

SPELLS FOR WEATHER drew on Janet Laurence's Antarctic research with the meteorology department at Casey Station and the work of meteorologist Barend Becker. In Antarctica critically important observations of weather are communicated to the whole planet using multifaceted and sometimes traditional methods of forecasting.



Weather observing is conducted through instruments which sense the environment. Though some weather forecasting has been automated, the remoteness of Antarctica still leads to releasing weather balloons, reading instruments which manually record conditions, and communicating findings through a shared symbology. Combining the performers' connections to nature and the site of Bundanon, movements based on these forecasting gestures are created as spells.

Rituals and processions bring us in touch with elemental forces of nature, they tie into contemporary environmental and relational thought while also drawing upon ancient knowledges and connections. **SPELLS** are cosmological and ecological - putting us into conversation with each other and the universe.



Clockwise from left: SPELLS FOR WEATHER performed at Bundanon Art Gallery; Barend Becker letting off a weather balloon in Antarctica; an Antarctic explorer leaning into the wind, photo by Frank Hurley.

Photos of SPELLS FOR WEATHER by Karina Pires.





