

Press release: 25 April 2012

Regarding Gardens: Carolina Melis' poetic response to Ham House and Garden

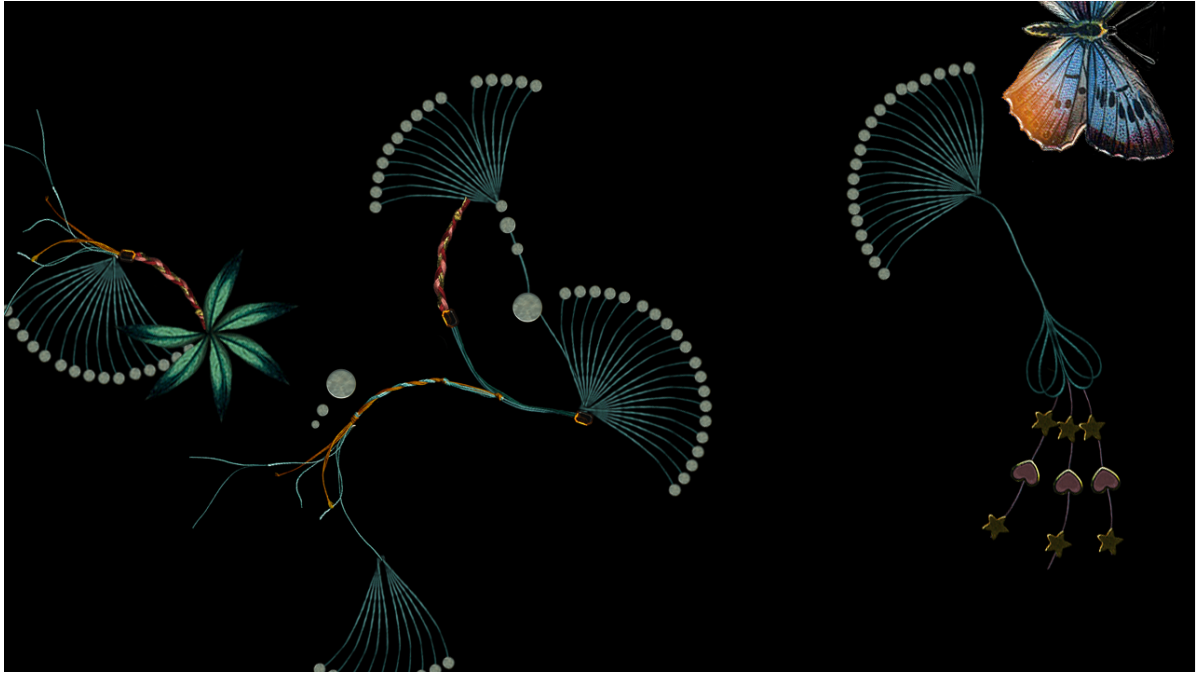


Image: Regarding Gardens © Carolina Melis

Animate Projects is delighted to present *Regarding Gardens*, a new film by Carolina Melis, now online at animateprojects.org, and in exhibition at the National Trust's Ham House and Garden, Richmond until 16 September 2012.

Carolina's animation is inspired by the historic gardens of Ham House and the estate's 17th century owner, and was commissioned by National Trust's Garden of Reason programme. *Regarding Gardens* continues her exploration of ideas of delicacy, organic development, life-cycles and living, creating a beautiful and melancholic reflection on the past lives at Ham House.

Renowned cellist Julia Kent, from Antony and the Johnsons, provides the soundtrack to the film, with her track, *Missed*, creating a stirring accompaniment to the action. The film features a specially commissioned poem, written and read by award winning poet Simon Barraclough.

Carolina and Simon worked with historical researcher Michael Ann Mullen to unlock the historical and social context of the gardens and their 17th century owner, Elizabeth Dysart who held the vision for the garden. The film features illustrations inspired by 17th century botanical illustrations, and detail from a 17th century painting of Ham House by Henry Danckerts. An essay by Michael Ann about the history of the gardens can be read online at animateprojects.org.

Regarding Gardens is a living portrait of the historic Garden of Ham House. The film animates an organic journey of growth and reduction through time, space and cultural changes of Elizabeth Dysart's garden as seen through the words of the poem written and narrated by Simon Barraclough.

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

Regarding Gardens is now available to watch online at animateprojects.org here: <http://bit.ly/JsDtVT>

An essay on Regarding Gardens by Michael Ann Mullen can be read here: <http://bit.ly/K1PD3b>

Regarding Gardens will be in the Garden of Reason exhibition at Ham House and Garden, Richmond from 28 April–23 September 2012. For more information visit <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ham-house/our-work/projects/>

About the Commission:

Carolina Melis

Originally from Sardinia, Carolina trained in dance and choreography, developing an interest in screen-based movement and animation and illustration that led to a Masters at Central St Martins College of Art and Design. Carolina has directed music videos for artists such as Four Tet, Metronomy and Efterklang; commercial projects for MTV, Sony, BBC, Prada and Vogue. In 2010 she was commissioned by Institute of Ethnography in Sardinia to make the short film *Le fiamme di Nule*. Visit <http://www.carolinamelis.com/>

Michael Ann Mullen

Michael Ann Mullen has worked as a freelance photographer and as an arts administrator. She lectured on Arts History at Middlesex University for 13 years, and on Garden History at the Inchbald School of Design, and is a qualified garden designer. She has an MA in Garden History from Birkbeck College and now does research in garden and landscape history, specialising in the 19th and 20th century.

Simon Barraclough

Simon Barraclough is originally from Yorkshire but has lived in London for 12 years. He won the poetry section of the London Writers' Prize in 2000 and his 2008 debut *Los Alamos Mon Amour* was shortlisted for Best First Collection in the Forward Prizes. His work has been published in the likes of *Poetry Review*, *The Guardian*, *The FT* and *Magma* and he is a regular contributor to BBC Radio 3 and 4. Visit <http://www.simonbarraclough.com/>

Julia Kent

Julia Kent was born in Vancouver, Canada, and studied cello at Indiana University, Bloomington. In addition to playing in Antony and the Johnsons, she has performed and recorded with many artists including Burnt Sugar Devendra Banhart, Angela McCluskey, Rufus Wainwright, Ryan Adams and Rasputina. In 2007, she released her first solo album, *Delay*, then EP, *Last Day in July*, in 2010, and a second full-length record, *Green and Grey*, in 2011, which the track *Missed* that is used in the film comes from. Visit <http://www.juliakent.com/>

Garden of Reason

The programme will be open to the public 28 April – 23 September 2012 and features eight site-specific artist's commissions, interactive projects, and a programme of talks and live art. The project has been designed to shift perceptions of Ham House and the National Trust, encourage new visitors and provide greater understanding of the place. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Arts Council England, Trust New Art and National Trust.

About Ham House and Garden

Ham House and Garden is a National Trust property near the Thames in the Royal Borough of Richmond. The property has been owned by the Trust since 1948 and is one of the finest survivals of 17th-century art, architecture and garden design, whose historic and artistic integrity has remained mostly intact after four hundred years of occupation. Visit <http://beta.nationaltrust.org.uk/ham-house>

About Animate Projects

Animate Projects is the only arts charity in the UK dedicated to championing experimental animation. We maintain the Animate Collection, a foremost online resource of experimental animation - animateprojects.org. We produce multiplatform projects for a range of prominent partners with internationally renowned artists including: Hiraki Sawa, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, David Shrigley and Jane & Louise Wilson. Animate Projects 2011/12 programme is supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Experiments in animation - <http://www.animateprojects.org>

Connect with us - Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/AnimateProjects> / Twitter - <http://twitter.com/animateprojects> / Blog - <http://animateprojectsobserver.com>

Further press information:

Abigail Addison at Animate Projects

abigail@animateprojects.org

+44 (0)207 407 3944 or +44 (0)778 968 6903

