



**Joseph Beuys – 'Richkrafte' – Directive Forces – Bahnhof Museum – Berlin - 1980.
The work lives in the Museum of Modern Art New York.**

'FOREST LIKE' - DIRECTIONAL FORCES

@ THE FAIRHURST & GREENHOUSE GALLERIES - Norwich
Monday 19th - Wednesday 21st May 2025

Forest Like: A term used by Joseph Beuys to describe an urban environment, in which the inhabitants of all cities would exist within a living system, in harmony with Nature.

The Greenhouse - Gallery is inviting artists to create one of 100 - Nature & Climate Emergency Chalk Boards, which will inform the thinking of how Norwich becomes 'Forest Like'. Joseph Beuys created 100 boards for his social sculpture *'Richkrafte'*. We have constructed 100 boards to create a visually cohesive art-action for all. Your work can take any form you choose **on the blackboard** – drawing, poem, prose, etc.

INTRODUCTION: JOSEPH BEUYS AND 'RICHKRAFTTE' (DIRECTIONAL FORCES) – Social Sculpture

Joseph Beuys died in 1986, he continues to be celebrated as one of the most influential European conceptual artists of the 20th century. Beuys's drawings are eloquent scripts for reuniting elements that life in the 21st century has separated. This invitation encourages you to consider how art, culture and science, private thought and public action can inspire actions that protect nature and engage with the climate crises.

Joseph Beuys' development from performer to political activist and social reformer, can be traced through the drawings of the late 1960s and 1970s. His concern with social and intellectual reform led him into green politics in the 1970s, and a new artistic territory of drawings both diagrammatic and emblematic which he used to illustrate his thoughts for a green future.

Beuys's drawings provide a key to his writings on 'social sculpture', a phrase which he used to describe both his own mission and his wider conception of society and the world as a vast work of art existing in a process of constant transformation. "Beuys designated all of life as a creative activity." (*Thinking is Form: The Drawings of Joseph Beuys*, Bernice Rose, Ann Temkin, Dieter Koepplin)

Your creative engagement with the issues, politics, actions, design, writing, council policy and declaration are vital.

The drawings of Joseph Beuys were undertaken in various media: pencil, watercolour, oil, and collage, hare's blood, beeswax, chocolate and chalk on blackboard. His drawings (approximately 10,000) diagrammed his ideas and constantly provided outline scores or plans for his performances and actions. Beuys often likened his drawings as an energy bank, a vital source of ideas for future action.

Placing your art practice in the context of the Nature and Climate Emergency is a central aspect of this invitation. Significant work always addresses the challenges of the time in which any artist lives their life
As humans we find ourselves in the 6th extinction of life on Earth. Unlike previous extinctions, we are both responsible for and conscious of the crises engulfing us
How we engage as artists with the emergency is THE significant cultural question of our time, and inevitably a personal one

REGISTER FOR 'FOREST LIKE' RESOURCES

- *Register and collect your blackboard(s) plus chalk/pencil (from the Greenhouse - Saturdays 11- 4pm)*
- *A donation of £10 per board administration fee will be requested on collection of your board(s). In collecting the board, you are then entered for the exhibition.*
- *50% off all environment books in the gallery - Recommended Reading section.*

We are not going to solve these problems by hoping that the political system will produce enlightened leadership. It might, but the majority don't believe this is likely. It is perhaps easier to imagine the end of the world, than it is the end of Corporate Capitalism. The survival of our species requires us to believe that the world is worth saving and to act on our vision of the future

Christina Figures: Former CEO of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

EVENTS TO INSPIRE - FUTURE DIRECTIONS:

For Norwich University of the Arts students:

Wednesday 2nd April 11.30am - 12.00: An introduction to the 'Future Directions' and invitation to submit. Bank Plain, Norwich University of the Arts

WORKSHOPS: Saturdays at the Greenhouse 11-4pm - 26th April, 3rd May, 10th May, 17th May

Drawing and workshops in the courtyard of the Greenhouse. Work directly onto your board, or work on paper to be inspired for your final artwork.

Further details for workshops to be announced [online](#)

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATING:

- Registration of artwork
- All work included in the exhibition will be recorded and stored electronically on the Greenhouse Gallery website after the exhibitions at the Fairhurst and Greenhouse.
- By entering your work, you are agreeing to donate your image/design/text in order to promote 'Forest Like' exhibitions and art-actions.

KEY DATES:

- 10th May 2025 - Final submission date
- 'Forest Like' Directional Forces - at the Fairhurst & Greenhouse - Open Monday 19th May 2025 - Closes Wednesday 21st May 2025 - 11 - 4pm. Elements of the exhibition in the Greenhouse Gallery will remain in place after to further develop the work across time.
- The exhibition will move online thereafter.

FAQs:

- What is suitable?
All 2D work - Drawing, text (prose or poem), or sculptural diagrams created by you
- Is all work wall based?
Yes, for this show the chalk board have been framed ready for hanging. The aim is to create a thematic, cohesive and professional display.
- Can I enter more than one board/image?
Yes, you will be expected to donate £10 per board
- Do I need to be present during the exhibition?
No, the Greenhouse will arrange invigilation of the shows.
- What is required when registering?
Email, name, website url or social media handles (if applicable) and a max. 50 word artist/artwork statement (optional).

Thank You - Tessa Fox

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