

# bitforms gallery



*Breathing with the Forest*, installation view, bitforms gallery, New York

## MARSHMALLOW LASER FEAST

### *Entwined*

January 25 - March 8, 2025

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 25, 4-6 PM

*Entwined* is the first US solo presentation of artworks by Marshmallow Laser Feast (MLF) and their first exhibition with bitforms gallery. The exhibition traces the artist collective's focus on human relationships with natural environments through the growth cycles and natural rhythms of plant and animal life. *Entwined* opens with a visual analogy for the cyclical harmony of nature. In *Breath Cycles*, a pair of lungs form onscreen with the cadence of an inhale and exhale. As they disappear, a tree takes shape, extending from trunk to branches. Humans exhale carbon dioxide while trees exhale oxygen—a biological exchange the artists identify as a poetic testament to the interconnectedness of all living beings. *Breath Cycles* gestures towards the intricate likenesses of tree branches and lung bronchi, highlighting the delicate link of interdependence that sustains life.

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*In the Eyes of the Animal* invites viewers to experience the forest through the sensory perspectives of woodland species. Each generative composition highlights the unique ways creatures such as a mosquito, dragonfly, and owl perceive their surroundings. These species have evolved heightened senses to navigate their environments: the owl's binocular vision, the mosquito's ability to detect CO<sub>2</sub>, and the dragonfly's UV-sensitive, 360-degree compound eyes. The series portrays these animals in a timeless exploration of the forest, offering a glimpse into their extraordinary sensory worlds. Even with our most advanced tools, we cannot fully uncover how these remarkable beings perceive their world. The artwork serves as an invitation—a bridge between our imagination and their *umwelt*.

In the book *Radical Botany*, Antonia Szabari and Natania Meeker write, "Plants are alive, yet they do not present us with the same impression of life that animals do. Are we, as the victims of plant blindness, simply unable to notice their liveliness, or are they so different from us that we have to invent new ways of seeing and apprehending them?" This question resonates deeply with MLF, inspiring their exploration of the unseen worlds pulsating within vegetal life and their efforts to make this hidden vibrancy visible through their work. *The Sanctuary of the Unseen Forest* is centered around a Ceiba Pentandra tree growing in the Amazon Rainforest. In 2020, the MLF team traveled to collect volumetric data, field recordings, and ecological surveys of a Ceiba tree. *The Sanctuary of the Unseen Forest* galvanizes this captured information into effervescent layers of the circulating nutrients, carbon, and soil that make up the tree. These interconnected systems and cycles demonstrate how a stable climate is maintained. However, the Amazon is a threatened biome, and when these systems and cycles are threatened, so are we.

Our collective future depends on an understanding of the natural world —, a step beyond human senses — and *Breathing with the Forest* continues the synergy set forth in *Breath Cycles*. The work acts as a guided meditation that illuminates the reciprocity of the ecosystem. In a recreation of a real plot of Amazonian forest in its full majesty, surrounded by the rainforest's pulsing rhythms, visitors are encouraged to synchronise their breath with the audiovisual cues born of the forest. Through each inhale and exhale, *Breathing with the Forest* nurtures interdependency with the more-than-human world.

In the age of climate change, reveling in the simple act of breathing can be a thought engagement with the Anthropocene. Exhibited works seek to make visible the link between plants and humans through breath. In the mirroring of our cardiovascular systems, reflected symbiosis, and attuned perceptions, Marshmallow Laser Feast offers a shift of daily perception and a reminder of our reciprocal relationship within the web of life.

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MARSHMALLOW LASER FEAST (Barnaby Steel b. 1978, Ersin Han Ersin b. 1984, Robin McNicholas b. 1979) is an experiential artist collective. They believe in the power of stories to tickle senses and shift perceptions. Their work takes people on a multi-sensory journey to where imagination and information collide.

From coders to poets, chemists to ventriloquists, brands to institutions, they collaborate with specialists in all disciplines. To explore new forms of culture, interrogate our relationship with the world around us and leave a glittery slug trail as they journey through the cosmos. They tell stories that untangle, entangle and flavour our reality, blurring the lines between art, immersive experiences, XR and film.

Alive in galleries, museums, public spaces, parks, nature reserves and the metaverse, their work is grounded in research. Designed to carve out space to expose, explore and expand our relationship with the living world.

MLF has exhibited internationally at institutions including; ACMI, Barbican Centre, Saatchi Gallery, YCAM, DDB Seoul, Sundance Film Festival, Aviva Studios, Quartier des Spectacles, Montreal, SXSW, Phi Centre and Lisbon Architectural Triennale.

Their works have been featured in publications such as; the Guardian, New Scientist, Wired, Independent, Creative Review and more.

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Founded in 2001, bitforms gallery represents established, mid-career, and emerging artists critically engaged with new technologies. Spanning the rich history of media art through its current developments, the gallery's program offers an incisive perspective on the fields of digital, internet, time-based, and new media art forms. For press inquiries, please contact [info@bitforms.art](mailto:info@bitforms.art) or call (212) 366-6939.