



## PRESS RELEASE

### SEEDS OF CHANGE

SATURDAY 20  
NOVEMBER  
14:00 – 18:00

PRESENTED BY  
MIRANDA CHANCE

Sapling is delighted to announce *Seeds of Change*, a phantasmagoric group exhibition featuring performance and audiovisual works by April Lin, Jenna Sutela, Xiuching Tsay, Rafal Zajko, and others, which will take place on Saturday 20 November from 2pm to 6pm.

Still there are seeds to be gathered, and room in the bag of stars.  
Ursula K. Le Guin, *The Carrier Bag Theory of Fiction*, 1986

*Seeds of Change* presents work from contemporary artists that help the viewer to reimagine their relationship with the natural world, to destabilise anthropocentrism and highlight plant intelligence. Many of the participating artists use storytelling as a strategy of activism, manipulating and inventing narratives taken from the plant world.

Rafal Zajko's performance will cast the well-known Slavic folklore figure Chochol as a symbol of community and awareness. Made from straw-sheafs, Zajko invokes a character traditionally associated with passivity and national apathy, as a warning cry for the ecological crisis.

A collaborative film between April Lin 林森 and ecologist Dr. Nalini Nadkarni, 'TR333' (2021) is a speculative construction of a new species of tree for the year 2040, that recasts the ecological crisis from a multispecies and affective gaze.

From the plant world to our gut, Jenna Sutela's 'Holobiont' (2018) zooms from outer space to the gut, where *Bacillus subtilis*, the nattō bacterium, plays a leading role.

Created especially in response to the exhibition and exhibited here for the first time, Xiuching Tsay presents 'Fertilizer to the Future Body' (2021), a confessional and interactive performance work that highlights our ability to manifest futures, bringing a more hopeful outlook for what's to come.

*Seeds of Change* hopes to dismantle the centrality of the human subject in the popular imagination, and upturn the animal-plant hierarchy to humble the human experience in favour of plants. Discover work that awakens the cellular consciousness and reconnects you within the larger ecosystem.

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**APRIL LIN 林森** (b. 1996, Stockholm — they/them) uses video as a self-reflexive and cathartic tool, interweaving strands of auto-biography, world-building, documentary, performance, and the post-Internet, topped off with an inevitable garnish consisting of the other matters dialoguing with their brain and heart during the making process of each piece. Uniting their genre-fluid body of work is a commitment to centring oppressed knowledges, building an ethics of collaboration around reciprocal care, and exploring the linkages between history, memory, and interpersonal and structural trauma.

Their films have been shown and screened at, including but not limited to: the Victoria and Albert Museum, the British Museum, HOME, Royal Art Institute of Sweden, LA Filmforum, MADATAC, Botkyrka Konsthall, Arebyte Gallery, Konstfack, Camden Arts Centre, Beijing International Short Film Festival, Tunis International Feminist Art Festival, Floating Projects, Underwire Festival, Chinese Arts Now, Lausanne Underground Film & Music Festival, NOWNESS Asia, and 4:3 Boiler Room. April Lin 林森 lives and works between Stockholm and London.

**JENNA SUTELA** (b. 1983, Finland) works with words, sounds, and other living media, such as *Bacillus subtilis natto* bacteria and the “many-headed” slime mold *Physarum polycephalum*. Her audiovisual pieces, sculptures, and performances seek to identify and react to precarious social and material moments, often in relation to technology. Sutela's work has been presented at museums and art contexts internationally, including Guggenheim Bilbao, Moderna Museet, Serpentine Galleries, and, most recently, Shanghai Biennale and Liverpool Biennial. She is a Visiting Artist at The MIT Center for Art, Science & Technology (CAST) in 2019-21. Jenna Sutela lives and works in Berlin.

**XIUCHING TSAY** (b. 1993, Thailand) is interested in exploring the interplay between colours that form dynamic narratives, creating energy and rhythm in her painting. Tsay is concerned with developing a personal and unique visual language, both meaningful and abstract, to clarify an unclarity, to question clarity. She uses her practice to find meaning within the painting process, whilst seeking the otherness (the alien self) outside this logic. Xiuching Tsay lives and works in London.

**RAFAŁ ZAJKO** (b. 1988, Poland) lives and works in London, UK. His work deals with themes of architecture, monuments and the relationship between body, technology and folklore. He holds an MFA in Fine Art from Goldsmiths, University of London and a BA (Hons) in Fine Art from Chelsea College of Art, London, UK. Recent solo exhibitions include *Amber Waves* at Public Gallery, *Resuscitation*, *Castor Projects*, London, UK (2020); *We Were Here/My Tu Bylismy*, Galeria Im. Slendzinskich, Białystok, Poland (2019); *Unputdownable*, *White Cubicle*, London (2018). He has participated in numerous group exhibitions including shows at X Museum, Beijing, China (2020); TJ Boulting, London, UK (2020); *Bold Tendencies*, London, UK (2020); *Goswell Rd*, Paris, France (2019); *Ashes/Ashes*, New York, USA (2019); *EXILE*, Vienna, Austria (2019); *Vitrine*, Basel, Switzerland (2019); *Litost*, Prague, Czech Republic (2018); *Focal Point Gallery*, Southend, UK (2016). His work will be on show in *New Contemporaries 2021* and *Whitechapel Open 2022*.

**SAPLING** A young gallery founded on Mount Street Mews in June 2021 by Charlotte Call, Sapling aims to showcase contemporary talent and provide fresh perspectives onto art history through investigating the potential for art to mediate humanity's relationship to nature.

Visit:

Sapling  
124 Mount Street Mews London W1K 3NR  
Mon - Sat, 12-6pm

No appointment necessary

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