

The Environmental Exhibition:

Is there a place for it in the gallery?

The Lightbox has recently presented an environmental exhibition, 'Waste Not...', and followed this up with an anti-upgrading workshop. But what is the place of the environmental exhibition in a museum or gallery? What is the rationale? Given the threats of climate change and environmental degradation, is there a moral imperative behind this sort of exhibition, or is it instead an attempt at social engineering through the arts?

These are the issues to be explored in a 1-day symposium, 'The Environmental Exhibition: is there a Place for it in the Gallery?' to be held at The Lightbox on 19 October 2015. Speakers from local, regional, national and international organisations will be presenting their work and the thinking behind it.



Waste Not... exhibition © The [Lightbox](http://thelightbox.org.uk)

'Something & Son' is a London based practice founded by Andrew Merritt and Paul Smyth. They create popular, provocative and witty work that tackles the social and environmental challenges of our time. A keenness to collaborate has led us to working alongside all sorts of people in this country and abroad, including farmers, horticulturalists, scientists, sociologists, swift experts, scrapyards merchants and mushroom men!

Alison Pattison of Godalming Museum asks whether a high street museum with no natural history collection can make a meaningful contribution to visitors' understanding of the local environment. Should it even try? Alison takes us through the process which led to the museum's new 'Living Landscape Gallery' and shares some of the lessons learned along the way.

Alexandra Johnson, from the Science Museum, London, worked on 'The Rubbish Collection', which traced the journey of waste generated by the Museum's visitors, staff and contractors over 30 days. Artist Joshua Sofaer invited visitors to collect, sort, photograph and document the rubbish. Displays of waste materials at various stages of processing showed the value and beauty that can be found in the waste we produce.

Reading Museum has been awarded a second commission by 'The Happy Museum' for an exciting new project called 'Where's Reading Heading?' This asks questions about the future of the town, promoting debate about how happiness for all Reading citizens can be ensured in a growing urban environment, while safeguarding the town's precious natural heritage. This work clearly explores the relationship between well-being and the environment.

The symposium is open to all. The attendance fee of £20 includes lunch. To enrol, please see the 'Special Events' section of the The Lightbox website thelightbox.org.uk.

The symposium on the 19 October 2015 is part of the 'Waste Not...' programme funded by 'The Happy Museum'. Advance booking is required.

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Notes to Editor:

- **Contact Details:** For all press enquiries and a high resolution image please contact Merrin Kalinowski, email: merrin.kalinowski@thelightbox.org.uk, telephone: 01483 737819 or Pru Chambers, email: pru.chambers@thelightbox.org.uk, telephone: 01483 737810.
- **Visitor Information:** The Lightbox is situated in Woking (25 minutes from London Waterloo by train) open Tuesday – Saturday 10.30am – 5.00pm and Sunday 11.00am – 5.00pm. For more information please visit www.thelightbox.org.uk or call 01483 737800.
- **This 1-day symposium is £20 which includes lunch. Advance booking is required. The event can be booked via The Lightbox website thelightbox.org.uk. The Lightbox is free entry, entrance to Main and Upper Gallery exhibitions only with a £5 Annual Pass. Under 18s free.**
- The Lightbox provides arts and heritage services to Woking Borough Council through a service level agreement.