

Danielle Eaby-Lomas (LMSDAN002)

November exam PDF

Artist statement

My name is Danielle Lillian Eaby-Lomas, I was born and raised in Cape Town. My practice forms part of sustainability praxis, bee activism and the theoretical field of care, empathy and vulnerability focusing on the artistic practice of beekeeping.

Having had grown up with both my father and grandfather being beekeepers, I was seamlessly drawn to the vocation and assumed a position of an apiary apprentice under my father. I quickly became aware and realized, not only through my work, but the growing awareness in recent years for the importance of these creatures, the necessity of promoting a more bee conscious culture and alternative beekeeping praxis. Through my relationship with the bees (more specifically *Apis Mellifera Capensis*) I have become more aware of the practices, the care and vulnerability that is necessary in these activities. I have developed empathy for their suffering as a result of climate change interrupting their food supply, pesticides, unethical commercial beekeeping needing improved management, and diseases like American Foulbrood (AFB) and Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). As a result of these concerns, I have become very conscious of the way I handle them.

I understand that the bee is an extremely complex creature which many people have different experiences or histories with. What I have chosen to investigate in my work, however, is my own relationship with them, recording my experience.

My exhibition comprises of artworks that relate to my central concern. These are *my Indigenous and Bee Friendly garden* on campus located outside of the Michaelis Gallery. This was done with the intention of creating a space on campus for city bees who seldom have ease of access to food supply as a result of the built-up environment of the city and also for us to admire and appreciate. *The Last Harvest* comprises of six prints created through passive work from the bees. Sheets were placed at the bottom of a beehive where it spent several months collecting debris and other matter creating a drawing, the sheets were then removed during the last harvest and translated into prints. For this work I merely served as a mediator between the bees and the gallery space. *One Another*, my photographic work, captures the movement of a swarm of bees gathering outside a hive, when I think of bees I do not think of static creatures but ones that move and are always busy for the benefit of the hive, for one another. *Together* is a video work comprising of two smokers used for beekeeping having a 'conversation' together as my husband and I's hands puff them to release a bout of smoke against a backdrop of green shade cloth. This 'conversation' fluctuates between calm and dramatic builds. It has not been determined what this conversation may be about. *My ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture* consists of 4 large panels showing scanned and compiled pages of a book titled *ABC and XYZ of Bee Culture*. Amongst this compilation are my own images of fieldwork I have done this year, writing myself into the history that has been written and providing personal insight into the knowledge represented. *Field* comprises of 5 sound works being played from beehives scattered throughout the exhibition space. These works have been compiled from recordings taken during my fieldwork this year. The viewer is encouraged to walk amongst them, drawing closer, to be welcomed into the 'field'. *Touch* is a print showing my workings of melted beeswax onto a lithography stone making use of the nature of this medium.

Indigenous and Bee Friendly garden



The Last Harvest



One Another



Together (video stills)

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My ABC and XYZ of Bee Keeping



Field (soundwork)

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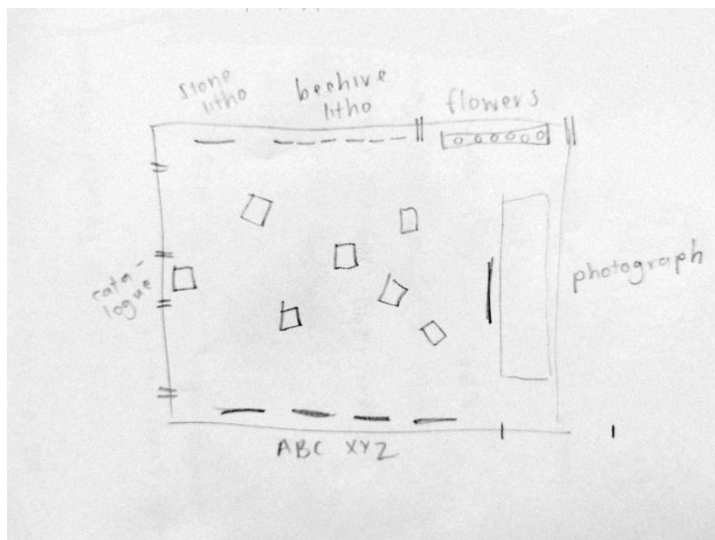
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Touch



Proposed Layout



*Within my space I will also have a collection of flowers placed in jars on the windowsill overlooking my *Indigenous and Bee Friendly garden* outside, thinking about the outside inside.