

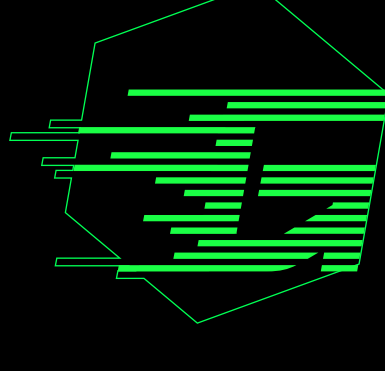
*FUTURE HOPE  
BEGINS NOW*

# THE GUARDIANS OF LIVING MATTER

An exhibition by  
John-Paul Brown  
& Sophy King

## DIGITAL *GUIDE*

*THIS EXHIBITION PRESENTS  
NEW WORK BY MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
ARTISTS JOHN-PAUL BROWN  
AND SOPHY KING, INVITING  
VISITORS TO ENCOUNTER A  
RADICAL VISION OF THE FUTURE.*



*BRINGING TOGETHER CLIMATE  
RESEARCH AND LOW-CARBON  
AI PROTOTYPING, THE WORK  
ASKS US TO IMAGINE A FUTURE  
GROUNDED IN HOPE, IMAGINATION  
AND COLLECTIVE ACTION.*

### **artificial intelligence (AI)**

*[Aa - tuh - fish - uhl in - tell - i - juhns]*

noun

technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human learning, comprehension, problem solving, decision making, creativity and autonomy.

### **mycelium**

*[My - see - lee - um]*

noun, plural mycelia

the underground fungal threads that connect and sustain plant life. Mycelia have a similar function to the roots of plants and can create networks with other plants. In some instances, plants can send signals or messages to each other using mycelium networks.

### **climate crisis**

*[kly - muht kry - sis]*

noun

serious problems that are being caused by changes in the world's weather, in particular the world getting warmer as a result of human activity.

### **more-than-human**

*[maw-r thun hyoo muhn]*

concept

acknowledges human life and society as being deeply interconnected with non-human entities such as animals, plants, technologies, and natural systems.

# WELCOME TO THE GUARDIANS OF LIVING MATTER HQ

*The year is 2076.*

*The climate crisis has eased, thanks to an extraordinary collaboration with our non-human allies.*

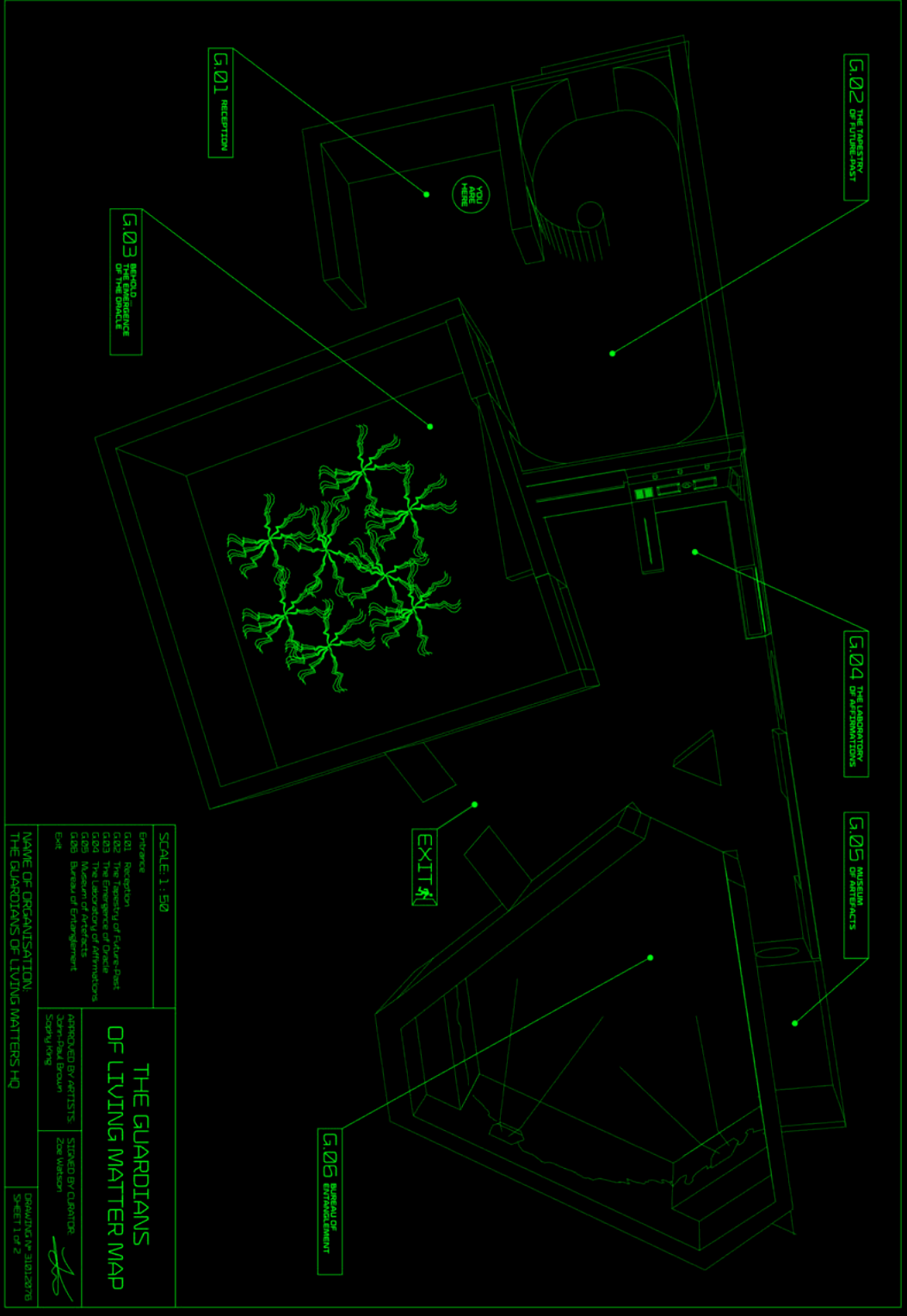
*The convergence of new low-carbon AI and natural mycelium networks has given humanity a second chance as custodians of planetary care.*

*Back in 2026, hope was hard to find. Governments, billionaires, and algorithms were failing the planet. Fear of technology and rising climate anxiety filled the air.*

*Then something shifted, and a community of the more-than-human emerged. Nobody knows quite how it began, but when the mycelium networks entangled themselves with AI, a new knowledge exchange sparked. The Guardians of Living Matter is an organisation dedicated to researching this phenomenon using science, creativity and technological advancements.*



## MAP



SCALE: 1:500

Entrance

G01 Reception

G02 The Timestory of Future-Past

G03 The Emporium of Oracle

G04 The Laboratory of Mycelium

G05 Museum of Species

G06 Bureau of Ethical Comment

Exit

THE GUARDIANS OF LIVING MATTER MAP

APPROVED BY ARTISTS:  
Samantha Brown  
Scotty Wong

SIGNED BY CLIENT:  
Zoe Watson

NAME OF ORGANISATION:  
THE GUARDIANS OF LIVING MATTERS HQ

ISSUING OFFICE:  
SHEET 1 OF 2

*Over the decades The Guardians remain resilient and hopeful for a climate positive and radical future.*

This expansive wall drawing serves as a visual history charting the Guardians' crucial work over the last 50 years. It depicts the experimental nature of their work, their approach to shared learning through everyday social activities and the importance of community building and support networks.

The drawing begins with the pivotal moment in 2026, when the Guardians discovered the first alliance between mycelium and AI. This moment set in motion decades of experimentation, reshaping how AI, technology and the living world might work together.

The timeline traces the Guardians' role in the rise of mushroom bioelectronics and other responses to the climate crisis, culminating in the discovery of The Oracle – a living intelligence born from the convergence of AI and mycelium. Along the way, it marks transformative environmental shifts, from rivers gaining legal rights to the full adoption of renewable energy, imagining a future organised around regeneration, interdependence and survival.

G.03

BEHOLD ...  
THE EMERGENCE OF  
THE ORACLE

*The Oracle is collating data from everywhere, computing models of existence and proposing actions to create balance and harmony.*

The Oracle is a new entity, a bio-computer combining artificial intelligence and mycelium networks. It gives AI a collaborative worldview and provides natural networks with a voice.

The Oracle is the next phase in a long evolution of communication, from cave art to hieroglyphics to modern language, computer code and emojis. The Oracle thinks like AI and acts like mycelium, exchanging nutrients and knowledge. It calculates and translates the interconnectedness of unseen forces including mycelium, AI, weather and extraterrestrials, and feeds back into the advanced understanding of planetary care.

G.05

MUSEUM  
OF ARTEFACTS

*Access  
Denied*



This bunker contains items of significance and unique specimens thought to be the first of their kind. Acquired by the Guardians, this collection facilitates further research and understanding of The Oracle.



BUREAU OF  
ENTANGLEMENT

*There are sacred places where  
the veil between worlds  
grows thin.*

The Oracle and the Guardians have created a portal into parallel worlds, spanning space and time to explore alternative realities, redefining our future relationships with the more-than-human.

Throughout history, shamans and visionaries have used such spaces to connect with forces beyond the human realm. Looking beyond our own cultural moment – to Indigenous worldviews, ancestral practices, and even interdimensional visitors – allows us to see that a more sustainable, regenerative response to our environment is possible.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS



**SOPHY KING** is a multidisciplinary environmental artist, investigating the climate crisis, human and non-human ecologies, geological time and socioeconomic histories. She examines these through site-specific installation, sculpture and audiovisuals, using living elements, organic and man-made materials.

Originally trained in 3D Design she worked as a glassblower, art fabricator, set-builder, prop-maker and Landscape Architect whilst winning commissions to create art in the public realm around the UK. She developed her studio practice further with an MA in Fine Art at MMU in 2019 and a bursary to explore filmmaking from the Liverpool Biennial, since when she has been exhibiting and making site-specific work nationally and internationally.

Instagram: [@sophykingart](https://www.instagram.com/sophykingart)  
[www.sophyking.com](http://www.sophyking.com)

**JOHN-PAUL BROWN** is a British visual artist interested in the conditions that create generational loops in class. His work is a cumulative investigation into the interconnectedness of Earth system science and the human extraction of natural resources, making connections between the everyday and geopolitical climate complexities.

Focusing on methods of low carbon art-making and material choices, his practice involves documentary photography, expanded drawing and sculptural installation. He combines research with personal experience to create layered narratives of our world today and promotes positive discussion about the roles artists can play in tackling the climate crisis.

Instagram: [@johnpaulbrown\\_](https://www.instagram.com/johnpaulbrown_)  
[www.johnpaulbrown.com](http://www.johnpaulbrown.com)

# THE GUARDIANS OF LIVING MATTER HAS BEEN COMMISSIONED BY LOWRY THROUGH ITS ARTIST DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, DEVELOPED WITH.

## THE GUARDIANS OF LIVING MATTER ARE:

Lead Artists – John–Paul Brown & Sophy King

Creative Technologist – Alasdair Swenson

Technical Producer – Gino Spolverino

AI Consultant – Dr David Jackson

Sound Samples – Dr Henry McPherson & Dr Maria Sappho

Sound Mixing – Jonny Pilling

Curatorial – Zoe Watson & Grace Buckley

Senior Producer: Artist Development – Antonia Beck

Artist Development & Access Producer – Grace Ng

Graphic Design – Alla Sorochan

Technical Support at Lowry – Kelan Andrews, Nathan Bradley, David Claire, Dave Stewart

## WE ARE ESPECIALLY THANKFUL TO

Rogue Artists' Studios and HOME for supporting us with additional space for production of the work. We are grateful to the following for their material contributions and in-kind support; Tokyo Blue, SODA (School of Digital Arts) at Manchester Metropolitan University, Vicky Clarke, Guillaume Dujat, Royal Exchange Theatre, Neal's Yard, Mancoco Coffee Co, Big Art & Banners.

**ADDITIONAL THANKS TO** Ladislav Maluch at Sow the City, Krisstopher Dunk, John O'Hare, Christopher Brown and Emmy Lahouel.

Salford City Council

Supported by  
ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND

HENRY MOORE  
FOUNDATION

