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Art installation proposal for Blenheim Estate**Title of work: 'INTRUDER (younger brother is killing us)'**

Sculptural installation, dimensions variable. Location to be decided, woodland, Blenheim Estate.



The idea: To create a memorable, dramatic and immersive, large-scale artwork at Blenheim Estate to highlight issues of deforestation, sustainability, climate change and the Anthropocene in general.

The work: The installation comprises (immaculately) wrapping flexible, mirrored sheet around tree trunks in a woodland setting. The material would be approximately 1.5m in depth and be (harmlessly) fixed to as many trees as possible; imagine these rather as 'tubes' of mirror surrounding a tree trunk and they all sit at *exactly* the same height/level. From a distance this

would create a dramatic 1.5m 'slash' through the trees, through the woodland, creating an illusion of separation between trunk and tree which would in itself be visually striking. However, seen close-up the mirrors will create a totally 360 degree immersive experience for the viewer. People would be encouraged to walk among the trees and experience the reflections in the mirrors, which would naturally include a fascinating curved reflection of the surrounding woodland but, more importantly, they would encounter reflections of themselves and any other people wandering among the trees too - hence the title, ***Intruder***.

This new installation forms part of an on-going investigation and fine art research project into the Anthropocene; the current geological epoch denoting the time that man's influence has been affecting the planet. The second part of the title, in parenthesis, '***younger brother is killing us***' is a reference to a phrase used by the **Kogi** tribe of Colombia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kogi_people . The Kogi are one of the most remote indigenous peoples in the world and they refer to the Earth as 'The Great Mother' and themselves as the 'Elder Brothers'. The outside civilisations, in particular the modern, capitalist societies, the 'west', they call ***younger brother***. In their (far wiser) environmentally-aware world we are seen as naive and uncomprehending of the Earth's needs and so continue to inflict harm on the planet with mass deforestation among many other things leading to disastrous global warming.

The reading and meaning of this work will be apparent to anyone making the link between the title and their viewing experience. The planet we inhabit has been around considerably longer than human beings have been in residence; we are *temporary*, we are indeed **the intruders**.

From a visitor's perspective I hope the experience of walking around and *within* **Intruder (younger brother is killing us)** will encourage a profound reflection on the issues of deforestation and how it contributes to the consequences of global warming and the problems we *all* face with the task of looking after the planet for all our children's futures. It will also be wonderfully 'instagrammable' so wider promotion and awareness is all but guaranteed.