

The Machine Stops

Artist statement

Darren O'Brien

The Machine Stops, is a temporary outdoor art installation, inspired by the 1909 E.M. Forster short story of the same name, which explores our relationship with wild spaces.

The story suggests a future in which Earth's inhabitants are isolated in sealed underground dwellings, connected only by a two-way screen and voice communications system, managed by a omnipotent, global *Machine*. In an insightful prediction of our screen obsessed, globally connected, data driven present, the inhabitants of earth become completely disconnected from nature.

Taking snippets of overheard conversations, collected from his regular commute from Leicester to Birmingham, the artist has taken the individual narratives of his fellow travellers and set them free within the new context and space, as if floating from the train to settle in the surrounding landscape. Beyond the confines of the metal box of the train, each phrase takes on a new meaning, and read together (in any order) suggest new fictional narratives.

The Leicester to Birmingham train line intersects Burbage Common, making it the ideal site for this temporary installation.

The tags can be found in and around the circular seated area behind the visitors centre.



Feel free to contact the artist if you have any questions or comments about the work:

darren.obrien.art@gmail.com The work will be in situ from 12/06/17 to 17/06/17.

With kind permission of Hinckley and Bosworth District Council Green Spaces Team.