

BOOK REVIEW

The Wild Life:

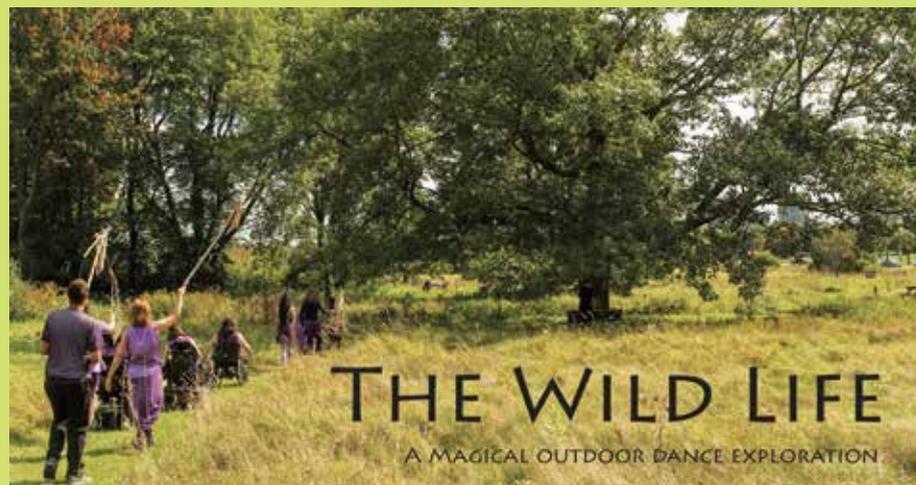
A photo book that dances magically on every page

TANIS BROWNING-SHELP

*We curved a path with our bodies
Rolling the earth with our chairs
Rubbing the scent of grass into
ourselves...*

The Wild Life is the name of an extraordinary dance performance

created by Renata Soutter, in collaboration with Liz Winkelaar, Sioned Watkins, and the Propeller Dancers, that took place outdoors in 2017 at the Canadensis Sculpture Garden with live original music by Jesse Stewart and a travelling audience.



It is also the name of a new book by Jake Morrison that captures the performance in photographic form and is now available for purchase as a fundraiser for Propeller Dance, a contemporary integrated dance company. Propeller Dance is for people with and without disabilities. They have both a professional company and recreational programs, and are renowned for defying traditional notions in the dance world.

The book, like the performance itself, is presented in four parts or “journeys” — to The Frame, to The Oak, to The Field, and to The Wings. Photographs by Jake Morrison and Andrew Alexander document the dance exploration in the wild urban space with its vistas of fields punctuated by sculptures. The performance was made possible thanks to a prestigious Canada Council for the Arts New Chapter Grant for a large-scale artistic exploration.

Artistic Co-Director and choreographer Soutter writes about artists longing for light and air and exposing her dancers to the new challenges of an outdoor venue... exploring what was possible by taking the harder path. The performance piece

was inspired by the garden’s setting and choreographed around sculptures by Marc Walter, Claude Latour, Peter Kolisnyk, and Patrick Thibert. Soutter is now looking ahead to creating a four-season version of the performance.

Soutter poses the following questions in the book: What makes art compelling and meaningful? What art needs to be said and seen? What art transforms and celebrates our human diversity? She describes the book as the answer to these questions, but also as a labour of love.

Propeller Dance is now gearing up to perform at DanceWorks in Toronto (March 14-15, 2020), a Mainstage Series of events showcasing the beauty of people of all diversities.



***The Wild Life* is available for \$25 at Singing Pebble Books; through Jake**

Morrison (Jake@withflare.ca); and on the Propeller Dance

website (<https://propellerdance.com/dance-company/the-wild-life/>). Proceeds from the sale of the book go to Propeller Dance.

The Green Door Restaurant Exhibitions

Arctic Dreams: the photographs of J.A. Lamont



Iceberg and flying ravens, 2019, 27" by 40" pigment print.

From Tuesday, December 3 through to Sunday, March 1, check out feature artist J.A. Lamont and his show entitled “Arctic Dreams,” inspired by author Barry Lopez and his environmental concerns. Lopez notes that the Arctic is “terribly vulnerable” to global climate change.

Lamont is a photographer and custom photographic printmaker who founded *PeregrinePrints* in 2003, a company dedicated to working with photographers

to make fine art quality prints at affordable prices.

He has been teaching intermediate and advanced photographic printmaking with the School of the Photographic Arts: Ottawa since 2007, and taught a variety of courses with Henry’s from 2004 until 2018. Prints of his images are in private and corporate collections across North America and Australia. Many environmental organizations have



Polar Bear, 2018, 25" by 40" pigment print.

used his images and prints in publicity campaigns and as gifts. The Canadian government has purchased dozens of his images as large prints for display in embassies and consulates around the world.

According to Lamont, his primary photographic interest is the rediscovery of the sublime in the context of global climate change.

The Green Door restaurant has engaged photographer/publisher Jake Morrison for a year, from September 2019, to curate photography for the walls in the restaurant’s north room. A new show will go up every three months. More of J.A. Lamont’s images can be viewed on his website (<https://www.jalamont.ca/arctic-dreams#1>).