Exceeding Algorithmic Description: The Practice of the Wild

What--Makes & Elica Masuya

We begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which this film was created - the Ainu people - and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future. We extend this regard to all Indigenous peoples, valuing their vast knowledge of ecology, and skills in sustaining the natural environment. Knowledge and skills we require for the survival of people and nature into the 21st century.

In many cultures and traditions around the world, deer are messengers.
What is the message of the deer?

"When you are on wavelength with animals, you can see the landscape from their point of view." Professor Mikako Yamaguchi

What does it take to be on the wavelength of an animal? To hear their message? Are we not animals? Is it habit that stops us from hearing nature?

Every habit is taught before it becomes unreflective.
What were we taught about our ability to connect to plants, animals, the wind?
What were we taught about the potential of our minds and bodies?
Where do we put our attention daily?
What algorithms take our time, our attention?

Is it possible we could re-discover, re- innovate, realise our natural instinct to be in balance with the planet's ecology? Could it be normal again, to be on the wavelength of a Yezo deer, a lake, a Fir tree. A state-of-mind from which we could develop new practices. New habits. What might our lives be like then?

In this exhibition space you are invited to quiet the mind and open the senses.

We invite you to touch the skull of an animal – once living and breathing.
To smell the oil of the Hokkaido Todo-Fir forest.
To hear the sound of the wind, Shikotsu lake, the Yezo deer.
To watch the world – to see and see beyond.
We invite you to be still. To listen.
To take your time. Notice.
To hear your body, your natural Self, your message from an animal, a plant –
simple or profound.

Project title 'Exceeding Algorithmic Description' from JENNY ODELL, *How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy*