

OUR SILVER CITY OVER 2094

Nottingham Concourse

20 November 2021 – 18 April 2022

An exhibition that travels to the end of this century,
featuring works from the last 400 million years



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OUR SILVER City 2094



Our Silver City, 2094 travels to the end of this century, featuring works from the last 400 million years. It is an exhibition-as-sci-fi-novel, or vice-versa.

Crossing the gallery threshold, we step into a possible future world. This world has been reshaped by decades of crisis and collapse: resource wars and evacuations, plastic-eating bacteria and flooding. Once known as Nottingham, the Silver City is set against a backdrop of fire seasons and widening waterways. Here, communities have embraced different forms of colour production, weather forecasting and spirituality.

This exhibition is imagined as a journey unfolding across four galleries, orientated to the cardinal points. It traces a route from change to understanding, from inner knowledge to wisdom. Along the way, we encounter a selection of artefacts, remnants and artworks connecting the long 21st century with what went before. All exhibitions invite us to travel in time, but this one insists on it.

Based on a methodology by Prem Krishnamurthy, *Our Silver City, 2094* has been developed by the artists Céline Condorelli, Femke Herregraven and Grace Ndiritu, and the novelist Liz Jensen, in close dialogue with Krishnamurthy and the Nottingham Contemporary team. It is accompanied by a novella by Jensen, and extends across the city via a programme developed with young people.

Our Silver City, 2094 asks: How might art envision, prototype and practice new ways of being in the uncertain future? Who were “we” before we became “we”? Where are we going? And how might we get there?

Selected reading list

- adrienne maree brown, *Emergent Strategy*, 2017
- Octavia E. Butler, *Parable of the Sower*, 1993
- Amitav Ghosh, *The Great Derangement*, 2017
- Peter Godfrey-Smith, *Other Minds*, 2016
- N.K. Jemisin, *Broken Earth Trilogy*, 2015–17
- Kim Stanley Robinson, *The Ministry for the Future*, 2020

For more information on the exhibition, and for a full reading list compiled by the artistic and curatorial team, visit nottinghamcontemporary.org or scan here:



Gallery 4: **NORTH**
Time to Transmit Wisdom
Femke Herregraven
Radio – forecasting – voices

For decades, the weather has dominated our lives. Some years, the Silver City has thrived; other years, it has struggled.

In the face of meteorological flux, our forecasters have honed their craft, studying ancient texts about the sky, water and earth, and observing subtle changes in animal and plant-life. Our forecasts, known as tracings, are tradeable and are in high demand throughout Britannia. Each is transmitted, flung into the wind.

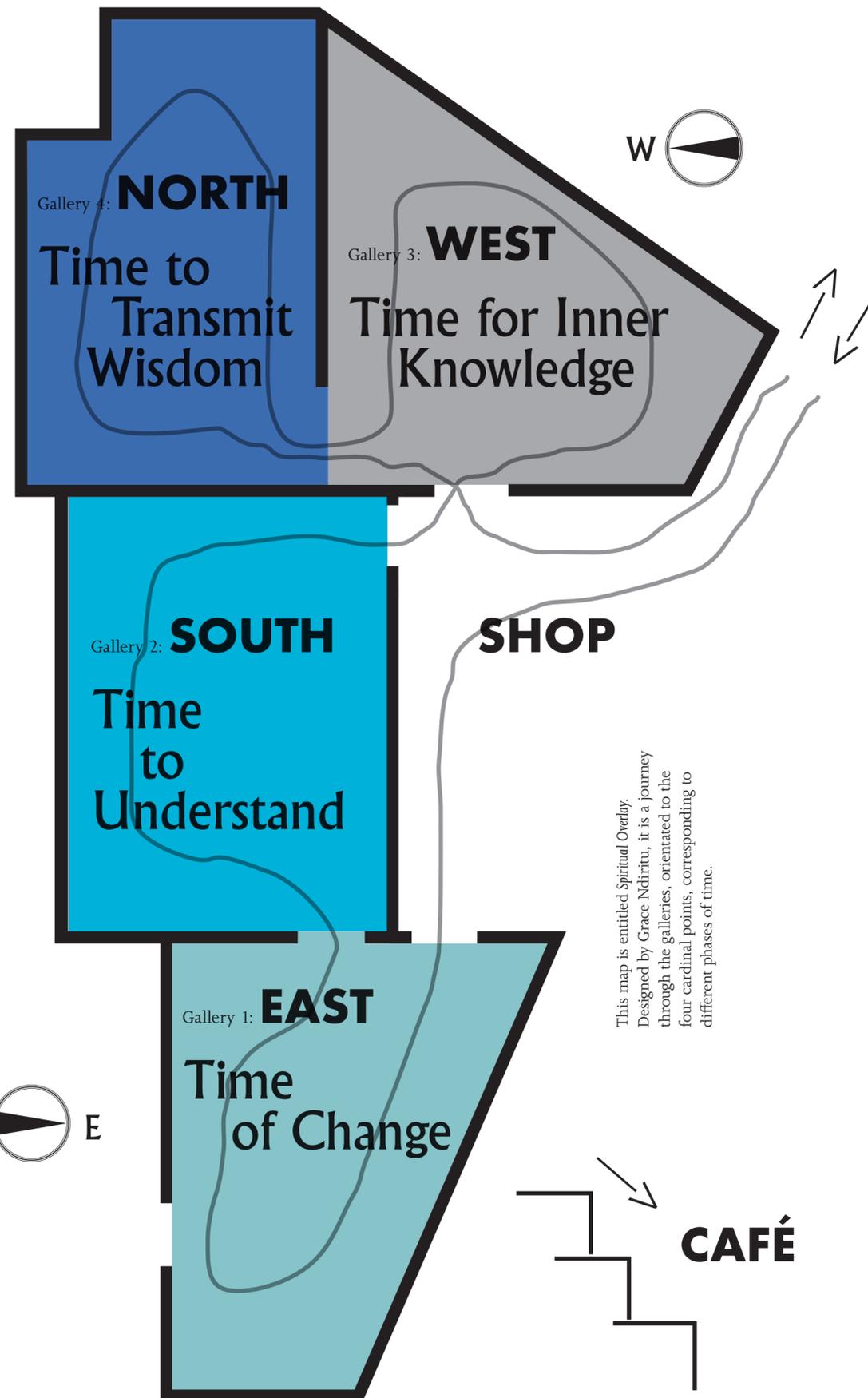
Weather is cyclical. The cycle has changed, and we must change with it.

Gallery 2: **SOUTH**
Time to Understand
Céline Condorelli
Colour – animals – communication

In the mid-2070s, citizens who had fled to the forest during the Great Flood began to return. Over time, the Silver City’s long-ago craft of textile-making was slowly revived and transformed.

Coloursmiths experimented with pigments and light at the city’s Colourworks. New techniques were invented. Some drew inspiration from cephalopods, who produce ink and change colour for camouflage. Their bodies chromatically co-exist with the world around them.

In this gallery, the traces of ancient life-forms share space with experiments in colour and reinvented materials.



Gallery 3 : **WEST**
Time for Inner Knowledge
Grace Ndiritu
Temple – weavings – conversations

The Silver City has many spirits and gods. But the faith of those who visit this temple is characterized by a respect for the wild.

Animistic and shamanistic, it is closer to the beliefs of our distant ancestors than to that of the organized religions of the more recent past. Here, families, pods and clans bring foraged offerings to set around the shrine, offer prayers for the Ancestors, and give healings.

This space hosts conversations and rituals. Weavings and handmade objects become entangled with lost visions of future communities. All are welcome.

Gallery 1: **EAST**
Time of Change
Artefacts – time capsules – landscapes

Before the Great Flood and the Great Freeze of 2071, this city was called Nottingham. It was re-christened the Silver City by those who stayed, locked in by ice. Water and cold were not the only threats to our survival in that decisive era. Sherwood Forest had suffered severe damage in the Fire Season of 2068. The woodland has been regenerating ever since, though some tree species never returned. It remains at risk between the months of June and October.

When those who fled to other parts of the Sherwood Sector began to return, they revived the textile industry using new pigmentation systems. Meanwhile, local weather forecasters were developing their craft, combining the study of sun, wind and water with the observation of wildlife and plants. This era was also marked by an intensification and deepening of spiritual understanding, leading to the creation of the Temple, where regular gatherings are held to this day.

This gallery hosts artefacts marking the passing of time. Shaped by the elements, these remnants from the past show how each era has its own vision of its place in history.