



**BIRCH TREE GALLERY**  
THE FINE ART OF CRAFT

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## THE WHISPERS OF PLANTS AT DUO EXHIBIT IN EDINBURGH'S BIRCH TREE GALLERY

### 'Ethereal Whispers'

August 4<sup>rd</sup> – August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017, at Birch Tree Gallery, Edinburgh

Private View: Thursday, August 3<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm

'Ethereal Whispers' is an exhibition of highly delicate work by two artists who create using very different media, but rely heavily on the study of plants. **Laima Dzigaitė** – an artist from Lithuania – exhibiting in the UK for the first time, uses plant materials as graphic elements to create collages on pastel backgrounds. **Cathrine Holtet** – originally from Norway, now working in Dundee – chooses to show plant forms in her very delicate relief patterns on cast and thrown translucent porcelain pieces.

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**Laima Dzigaitė** creates graphic works that transform wilted and dried vegetation into ephemeral structures that emerge like Fata Morgana in subtle pastel backgrounds. Metaphoric gates, boats and natural landforms are often populated with clearly recognizable human figures that are created through an unaltered form of a single petal. Her work is deeply poetic and spiritual, yet, very easy to relate to. It could be compared to a dream - one minute seemingly real another, vanishing into uncertainty with emotion that is often difficult to verbalize.



*Photo: Laima Dzigaitė (left);  
'Loneliness' (pastel, collage), photo: D. Vytas*

Laima collects her plants long after their prime – when they have given up their beauty or finished their life cycle. She creates mainly in the winter, when vegetation is dormant and focuses on giving a second life to plants that, in her words, are „visible symbols of beauty by the invisible Creator“.

**Cathrine Holtet** is fascinated by the properties of porcelain – its' purity, whiteness and translucency. She gathers inspiration in the natural world – photographing everything from majestic mountains to macro images of flowers and seashells – and ultimately embodies them in the technique of water-etching (or shellac resist) on cast and thrown porcelain pieces. Using this technique she makes objects from small tea-lights to large pots that are brought to life as light passes through the porcelain walls.



*Cathrine Holtet in her studio (left);  
Fern-bowl, water etched porcelain;*

Upon studying arts and crafts at high-school and beyond in Norway, Cathrine had various hands-on internships in ceramic and glass studios. Ultimately she received a degree in Ceramics at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design at the University of Dundee and remained there, upon opening her own studio.

Both artist will attend the opening event and are available for interview/photos.

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