

Chrystel Lebas statement Fermynwoods:

The 2 pieces displayed in Fermyn woods forest are drawn from past series of images:

The most recent series of photographs from my publication *Between Dog and Wolf*, were taken in forests in Germany, Japan, France, Finland and England during the twilight hours:

'We do not have to be long in the woods to experience the always rather anxious impression of 'going deeper and deeper' into a limitless world. Soon, if we do not know where we are going, we no longer know where we are (...)

'Forests, especially, with the mystery of their space prolonged indefinitely beyond the veil of tree trunks and leaves, space that is veiled for our eyes, but transparent to action, are veritable psychological transcendents.'

The forest is a fascinating space; one can feel attracted to its grandeur or scared by its depth and darkness. This space of immensity echoes our childhood memories, through fairytale or play.

Walking through the forest of my childhood in France, after many years, I remembered when we used to build a hut, and slowly the light would disappear, and darkness would surround us. The excitement of being inside this small shelter overturned our fears, and instead we felt protected.

During the school visits I would like to invite the class to get involved in looking at the forest through the photographic eye, and getting absorbed in this particular atmosphere and possibly recording things that could not be seen in a usual way by using the cyanotype technique. I will talk about the colour shift that happens when using long exposures during the magic hour. We would also look at the way we use the forest as a playground, building a den or hiding in places encouraging games and play, things that are reminiscent from our own childhood.

The Hut:



Hidden within the forest the hut is made of branches and twigs found around the area.

A light inside the hut suggests a presence or absence, and questioning, is someone living there? Or is it an optical illusion?

The Banner Image:



The photograph on the banner was taken at twilight recording light slowly disappearing in the forest, the multi exposure time of 45mn record the unseen, things which we cannot perceive with the naked eye and the Aura of the forest. A light appears in the centre of the image suggesting a presence or a magical moment.

The image was influenced by the reading of fairy tales and in particular *The Coming of the fairies* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Works from the publications *Time in Space* and *Between Dog and Wolf* can be seen on my website:  
[www.chrystellebas.com](http://www.chrystellebas.com)

Works from the Twilight show at the Victoria and Albert Museum on:  
V&A past exhibitions: *Twilight: Photography in the Magic Hour*, at  
[http://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/photography/past\\_exhns/twilight/lebas/index.html](http://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/photography/past_exhns/twilight/lebas/index.html)

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