



## Jacques Nimki

### *I want nature*

On my first visit to Sudborough Green Lodge, I walked across endless fields, and forest, eventually arriving at a cottage in the middle of nowhere. At first everything during my journey appeared as if it just happened to be there: a particular tree, a clearing, a certain flower, and the birdsong – everything seemed to be in its right place and none of it was for me. It simply existed, as if it had always been there, forever.

But this is not quite true. If we look closely and pay attention to detail we start to see the signs, the defined boundaries, the subtle paths that lead us in a certain direction or a seat placed in a carefully chosen spot to draw our attention to a particular view.

We all experience nature in various ways, on a screen, in holiday brochures, in the packaging and promotion of toiletries, visiting a zoo, a country park, buying eco goods, or going on a nature trail, but our contact with nature is on the whole predetermined.

The idea of escaping, of getting away from it all, being in touch with nature, is a dream made for us to consume, and, as we all know, it never is quite how we dreamed it would be.

Nature as it is, is never enough: it needs to be other than what it is, cleaned up, cut, altered, tamed, arranged and remade into a more sanitised version, in order that we can interact with it, either as an experience or as a product - Something to own.

Once there was a nature to be explored and conquered, but that's all done and dusted. Under the guise of saving nature we place it in cages, fence it off, tag it, extract, modify and spray it. In truth conservation and bio anything are just our attempts at controlling and domesticating nature.

Why do we need to preserve it? Certainly not for its own sake, but in order that we can look at it and flatter ourselves that we really do care; not about nature of course, but about ourselves.

I want nature; the trouble is, I don't know if I want it that much.

Jacques Nimki

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