

CAT JONES

#OLUFSENANDI #LETTHERIGHTONEIN

A multi-species study on teachers, medicine and iatrogenesis

2018. Three channel video 37 x 17.5 cm. Zine 7.5 x 5.5 cm

This reflection on care as self-care documents olufsen the eighth, a free roaming nocturnal katydid that called my apartment kitchen home, transforming a time of extraordinary illness, caring for me as I cared for them, as 'kin' (after Haraway).

Co-habiting with olufsen evoked memories of a childhood filled with the care, maintenance and protection of creatures. Hatching lizards under my reading lamp, bottle-feeding bats, spotlighting peripatetic turtles through the night, my whole family carrying an aviary inside through the middle of a cyclone. How these early practices have served me well as an adult, teaching me to care for family members through life and death, and now myself.

By contrast a recently commissioned artwork on entomophagy, required me to hold and feed, sacrifice then devour my tiny collaborators, invoking the deep trouble in being humane, an imperfection of care that is distinctly human.

*For whom do I choose to care and when?
Which pain and whose will I ignore?
Who am I today? Carer or the cared for?*

Cat Jones is an artist, writer and researcher thinking across social, biological, botanical and spiritual realms. She experiments with transformation through the subversion of science, history, language and the senses. Her investigations span ethnobotany, multi-species relationships, gender, empathy, political therapy and medicine.

Jones is an affiliate researcher at Sansom Institute, Body in Mind, UniSA, alumni of SymbioticA and Synapse and currently Create NSW Performing Arts and Music Fellow.

www.catjones.net