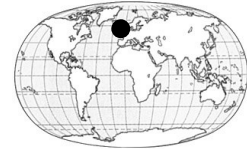


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## **WHO OWNS THE LANDSCAPE? PUBLIC OUTREACH VIA COLLABORATION BETWEEN A PLANT ECOLOGIST AND AN ENVIRONMENTAL ARTIST**

We report on a collaborative process between an environmental artist and a plant ecologist working together to produce integrated outcomes that speak to both art and science communities as well as to a wider public audience. The work we have produced in the last two years emphasises the human factor in instigating and sustaining plant invasions. Human perceptions of this role have been challenged and expanded by the work we have produced. Integral to this work is public interaction and evaluation of the public response. Responses have included a surprising strength of feeling about ownership of the landscape in which people live. This approach has extended the alien debate into different communities. Our work is receiving media attention and creating continued discussion amongst environmental organizations. We discuss specific examples of this collaborative process and future development of this work as a way forward in generating debate and awareness around the issue of the human dimension of plant invasions.

keywords: human perceptions, public outreach, art science, collaboration, landscape ownership