Marcus Coates lives and works in London. His work questions how we define our position as a species amongst others, asking: Who are we compared to birds, plants, trees, etc. with whom we share this planet? What is the difference? Why do we project so much of ourselves onto nature, humanising it with idealism, morality and sentiment? And where does nature exist for us, does it reside as much in the imagination as it does in our places literally? It brings attention to the lives of non-human species of the hope that we can see more clearly how we relate to them, what this can tell us about ourselves and our future relationship with nature. These questions have led him to work collaboratively with many wildlife experts.

Recent work has seen him also in collaboration with primatologist, Volker Sommer to create work about definitions of difference amongst human and non-human apes as well as the subject of extinction.

Recent exhibitions and performances include: Wilkinson, Schen Knebel & Kunde, Germany 2018; Animals and Us, Turner Contemporary, Margate 2018; The Land We Live In, The Land We Left Behind, Hauser & Wirth Summer 2018; As Above, So Below, IMMA, Dublin 2017; Arrivals/Departures & Wirth Somerset 2018; As Above, So Below, IMMA, Dublin, 2017; The Trip, Wilderness, Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt, Germany 2018; Animals and Us, Turner Contemporary, Margate 2018; Trafalgar Square, London 4th Plinth Shortlist 2013; The Trip, Trafalgar Square, London 2011.

This project examines how, by encountering contemporary art in heritage locations, visitors can be encouraged to think about the property and its history in different ways. In 2018 and 2019, six new artworks were created for four heritage locations in North East England, including this work at Cherryburn. 

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For more information about this project, please visit https://research.ncl.ac.uk/mcahe/
**Conference for the Birds** celebrates the lives of the birds Thomas Bewick depicted in his wood engravings. His book ‘A History of British Birds’ first published in 1797 was a comprehensive guide to both the appearance and behaviour of birds. In Marcus’s audio installation, we hear seven different bird species discussing their lives with each other.

‘Bewick must have known these birds so well. The details in his small woodcuts demonstrate a scrutiny that is painstaking and passionate. Every detail of their plumage would have been familiar to him, but not only that, he would have known their habits, calls and so much more about their lives. I imagine these birds occupied his mind day and night, like characters in his imagination. For the exhibition I have re-imagined Bewick’s small family home, once filled with the conversation of his seven siblings, and now with seven of his birds.’

**Awards**

**Geoff Sample** is the author/producer of a series of projects including **Banaz** and he is currently working on ‘The Bird Effect’. With artist, Ralph Steadman, he attempts to reveal how we, when speaking from the position of another animal like a bird, rethink subjective experience and re方も対応することができる。