

DECAY – Crash/planted

On 16/09/2021 I happened upon a car crash in the forest near Sheen falls. It was just off the main road, so the car must have driven off the edge of the road and rolled down the embankment about 20 feet before settling into the forest floor. No telling how long it had been there, but it was still there the last time I went out to see about four months ago. I've been going back periodically to take photos and document the slow creep of fungi and other elements of the forest as they take over the vehicle. Meanwhile, it slowly disintegrates in a process analogous to organic decay. Insects appear to show little engagement, leaving plants and fungi to colonise and consume it. If I come back once a year for twenty years I might have something to show. I include it here as another example of an iterative sub-project drawn from the forest, not one that can produce work for this project, but one with resonances to grief and ecology. The material of the car in slow transformation, (re)wilded in its own static way, haunted with the uncertainty of what happened during the crash and to those who were in the car at the time. In the car's presence, there is an affective heaviness, not only in the mystery but in the juxtaposition, the strangeness of a machine designed for a specific function dislocated from that context. And the asymmetry of organic life's adaptability. The forest is adapting to the presence of the car, but the car can only persist, temporarily, in defiance of time.

From a process perspective, because the ambitions for this situation were initially high, I early on created several videos incorporating my engagement with the vehicle. But nothing really stuck. Those original videos decayed into their component parts, and I have re-used certain stills in conjunction with fiction, and fragments of clips in other video projects currently in development.