

EXCURSION - Inosculation: Assemblages of Wood and Wire

For many months, my excursions into Goblinwoode and beyond focused on sitings of pareidolia. My interest in this phenomenon and the “goblins” it produced for me began a process of heightening my focus on forest details. I began to notice that many of the sites of pareidolia (where I saw features resembling faces or parts of faces) were also sites of inosculation, where trees or parts of trees fused into one another, or where a break or wounding of the tree had caused it to scar over. There were also several instances of human-made objects inosculating with trees, most commonly barbed-wire fences. This interaction began with an injury, as when the wire would scrape against a tree. Then the scar tissue would grow around the wire and start to swallow it up.

This overlap between an ongoing fascination with pareidolia and the generative source of injury resulted in new synergies between my practice and grief—in this case, a sense of grief surrounding the wounding of trees and the extreme changes resulting from sites of rupture and processes of healing. These processes gave rise to new relationships, often tightly bound syncretic partnerships between branches, neighbouring trees, or inter-material unions of wood and stone, wood and metal, etc.

The gallery presented here is made up primarily of tree/wire mergers, where sites of wounding express features lending themselves to pareidolic interpretation.