Gaylene Gould: Across 5 episodes of REWORLDING, a Serpentine Podcast series with me, Gaylene Gould, we’ve been looking for tools that can help us remake a more beautiful, resilient, sustainable world for all. At the start of the series, I was feeling pretty despairing. There seemed to be more don’ts than dos when it comes to living well and responsibly.

Now, I’m feeling little blossoms of optimism and buds of hope and maybe part of that is that spring has sprung, but I think this change of heart began thanks to the magical REWORLDING journey that we took together. Over the last 5 episodes I was lucky to speak to a range of remarkable artists, curators, writers, and design-thinkers who were able to offer precious clues as to how we might transform our worlds, starting today and from where we find ourselves now.

Tai Shani: Any of the things that do have that idea in them, of what the world could be (are) casting a stone into darkness, but that stone gets met at some point. Well, that’s the hope, isn’t it?

Irenosen Okojie: You can create worlds that people don’t recognise. You can create worlds that feel familiar, but suddenly you take somebody somewhere completely new and recalibrate a universe. The power of what the imagination can do...

Gaylene Gould: We remembered...

Samson Kambalu: For me, remembering is like a creative exercise – to try to get back to the present moment by the way of the past. It’s not so much about being remembered in history, but how remembering structures the present. A good piece of history can empower.

Zing Tsjeng: What if we just thought a little bit bigger here, and we came up with an alternative view of the future and what it could be like?

Gaylene Gould: We replayed...
[reflective tones stop: a bleeping video game start sound, followed by playful, offbeat melodic sequences]

**Child:** It’s playtime. Whee! Ba ba! Ba ba! [sounds of children playing in the background]

**Penny Wilson:** Play is as important as oxygen, nutrition and love.

**Riley Teahan:** Our creativity is powerful. We’re building worlds. We do this every day. Through the stories we tell, the words we speak, the materials we work with, the community we keep, how we spend our time. It’s all a choice...

[a shuffling sound like a character landing in a video game; the melody stops and is replaced by the buzzing of bees, and a set of ascending, high-pitched melodic sequences]

**Gaylene Gould:** We regenerated...

**Apichatpong Weerasethakul:** Locate an animal, mimic his expression and movement for two minutes. If there are no other lives around, observe an object and be it for two minutes and do it regularly.

**Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg:** The living world around us is completely sublime. We don’t need to look at all the other stuff we make all day long to have that experience of seeing how extraordinary everything around us is.

[bees and music replaced by mysterious percussion like bells, and the thrum of a city]

**Gaylene Gould:** And we related...

**Sumayya Vally:** We need to ask ourselves if the world around us is being made in our image. If it isn’t, whose image is it being made of and how do we start to make our own?

[sound fades and is replaced by melodic synth flourishes with a majestic, questing atmosphere]

**Richard Sennett:** Nobody can survive without the cooperation of other people. No country can survive without cooperating with other people.

**Carina Murray:** For a raft to stay afloat, you have to put the right materials together and you have to use the right tools for the right purpose, so you build a sturdy support. So, when you’re building your support system, make sure you’ve got the right people and the right tools.

[music gradually replaced by sparse, slow reflective tones]
Gaylene Gould: By the end, my heart had blown open and my mind was swirling with so many new ideas. Now, I’m not gonna lie, some of them were very rich and pretty complex. So, I wanted to take a moment to sit and soak it all in for this final episode of REWORLDING which is all about reflecting. Personally, my changes have been subtle but deep and the reverberations keep rippling out. I’ve found myself seeking out other transformative thinkers who can continue to grow my understanding of what could be possible. And since taking part in a club night as an octopus in our Reimagining episode, my awareness of the world beyond myself as a human is forever changed.

I’ve even gone from being a little scared of dogs to chatting up them up in the park...

... and saying thank you (or more likely, perhaps, sorry) to my plants. I’m playing more seriously too now, creating moments just for being – as a way to observe how I naturally do things. Since the series ended, I’ve been working on my own site-specific art project – Black Mary – working with a community in Kings Cross London to revive an ancient and forgotten 17th-century healing well, run by a mysterious Black woman well keeper called Mary Woolaston.

Every aspect of what I’ve learned on the REWORLDING journey has woven into how I’m now shaping and how we’re experiencing this project. We are imagining and remembering differently – so we’re going from a simple historical re-enactment into an imaginative collective remythologizing. We are letting go of our schedules and freeplaying more and when we launch, we’ve decided we’re going to create a full-blown playground for adults. And, luckily for us, the project is situated in a beautiful community garden so we are getting our hands in the soil as an act of regenerating.

And the echoes of Rory Pilgrim’s beautiful RAFTS project, which featured in our last episode on Relating, continues to resound as we gather to listen more deeply to each other. And now, I always make sure there are pencils on hand so we can capture our stories.

Basically, thanks to this series, I am convinced again of the vital role myself and other artists can play as generous risk-takers, community-makers and imaginative problem-solvers. Before this I’d honestly began to doubt the point of my life’s work in art and culture. I was beginning to feel that the challenges of the world faced demanded more serious solutions. I know now, though, just how serious a business art can be and the kind of deep thought, reflective and responsible world creation that we
really do need at this moment. I’m taking my own practice more seriously as result and believe I could indeed help to change our world, but you don’t have to be an artist to do that – I think we all can. This reminds me of Samson Kambalu, what he says in our Remembering episode...

**Samson Kambalu:** We need more art, we need more parties, more enjoyment, *[laughs heartily]* for an ethical world.

**Gaylene Gould:** *[with a smile]* More natty clothes? Yeah?

**Samson Kambalu:** Yes, more natty clothes! You know what I mean? If people lived just for a nice glass of wine with a good jacket, the world would become better.

**Gaylene Gould:** *[chuckling]* Yes! *[claps]* Amen to that!

*[music continues in high-pitched, upbeat sequences]*

**Gaylene Gould:** Ultimately, though, it’s not just about what we make in the world is it? It’s the ways in which we remake *ourselves* that transform the world around us. Thanks to this series I have a tasty breadcrumb trail of questions, inquiries and challenges that will help to do just that.

What are the seeds I can cultivate? And how can I make peace with the fact that I may never see them grow after I cast them into the darkness? How might I approach the past as a space for imagination and discover the forgotten stories of persistence? How can I make every new thing I do start with play? And how can I face life’s knotty contradictions as creative challenges to explore? Rather than try and answer such questions, I’m gonna carry them and check in when I’m looking for ways to evolve into this new-world being. Most importantly, though, I will continue to cultivate the simple – but often difficult to do and easy to forget – act of listening attentively to another’s story.

*[10:00]*

*[music fades and is replaced by smooth, long high-pitched tones]*

I don’t think I’ll ever forget the mantra that RAFTS participant Emily offered in their final live performance and in our last episode. The performance beautifully presented a community’s response to how we might, as a human race, band together in times of challenge. Her words sit close to my heart, and have done since I sat in the audience that night and cried...

**Emily Khoury:** Some days, we just have to create our own sunshine. *[exhales and pauses]* These words are like a mantra to me. I regularly remind myself to be mindful and practice gratitude daily. Grateful for all that I’m able to do *[her voice shaking with emotion towards the end]*.
**Gaylene Gould:** After these conversations, and many mic-drop moments, that these artists and thinkers have shared with us, the way I see the outer world will never be the same again and my inner world is evolving at a pace. What about yours? [her voice distorts and repeats]

[theme music stops: *Snow* by Hinako Imori starts – a simple repeated sequence of electronic keys is heard over sparse synth tones. This is joined after a while by vocals. Layered voices make small low flourishes, then a clear, soft, delicate, feminine solo vocal comes in, singing: ‘I tried to visualise what it was like through your eyes, but all I could see closed in on me, the fragility...’]

**Gaylene Gould:** We’ve done a lot of looking outwards this series, so we feel now is the right time for us to do the opposite – to take a fantastic voyage inwards. So, in our next Serpentine Podcast series, we’ll be getting deep and personal – with six episodes exploring intimacy in all its forms... Keep an eye out for announcements about dates and guests in the coming weeks, spread the word, and subscribe now, if you haven’t already, so that you’ll be among the first to hear when our new series drops.

[the key sequence and sparse synths of *Snow* are heard continuing under Gaylene’s speech]

If *REWORLDING* has touched your thoughts and feelings, too, please do give us a rating and a review on whichever platform you’re listening on, it means a lot and really helps Serpentine Podcast to reach more curious ears. And, if you missed any of our previous episodes, I hope you seek them out after this – to dig into all those ideas and start dreaming up your own ways to reimagine, remember, replay, regenerate and relate and reworld your own world. I can’t wait to get started on the next journey with you all...

In the meantime, I’m very excited to share with you that the artist crafting our sound world for this new series will be the composer, synthesist and sound designer Hinako Omori. So, as a final gift to transport us from this series to the next – this is a piece of hers called Snow that we felt was a perfect ending to this series of *REWORLDING*... Here, she invites ‘Let me be your eyes, let me guide your light through the darkness, I promise there’s a way...’ I hope this Serpentine series of *REWORLDING* has helped show some of those ways. Thank you to all involved, and to you for listening. Until next series, take care...

*Snow* by Hinako Imori continues – a simple repeated sequence of electronic keys is heard over sparse synth tones. The clear, soft, delicate, feminine solo vocal continues singing: ‘Let me be your eyes, let me guide your light through the darkness. Let me be your eyes, let me shine a light on your darkness, ooooh... Let me be your eyes, let me guide your light through the darkness... I promise there’s a way... I promise there’s a way...’. The vocals merge into sighs and ‘oohs’ while the synth tones rise up and become more layered as they mingle with the vocals. The repeated key sequence becomes distorted and looser, eventually fading gently and meditatively to a single tone. Music stops.

Serpentine Podcast: *REWORLDING* is presented by me, Gaylene Gould. The series was produced by Katie Callin with production support from Nada Smiljanic at Reduced Listening, and curated by the
Gaylene Gould: Serpentine Editorial team, Hanna Girma and Fiona Glen. [theme music with mysterious tones returns] Thanks to all members of Serpentine’s Programmes, Communications and Audiences teams for their direction and contribution. Special thanks to Serpentine's leadership team, Bettina Korek, Hans Ulrich Obrist, and Yesomi Umolu. The music for REWORLDING was conceived and produced by KMRU. Our thanks go to all guests, contributors and advisors on REWORLDING.

[18:00]