



MY LIFE AS A DOG

Whether perched up a tree like a hawk, crawling through forest shrubbery with a dead deer strapped to his back, or galloping like a stoat on special stoat stilts, performance artist Marcus Coates takes his relationship with nature very seriously indeed. Through his work as artist in residence at Grizedale Forest, Coates has tried to close the gap between nature and man, whilst emphasising the pathetic romanticism and futility of such attempts. "It's humorous and horrific," he enthuses of a project that at one point saw him buried in soil whilst emitting a series of calls from indigenous British mammals ranging from grey seal to red squirrel. Pictured here in a Grizedale B&B, it may look like Coates has just engaged in some exotic role play, but he is in fact demonstrating the emptiness of holiday forays into the unknowable wildness.

A book of Coates' work is now available from Grizedale books. For further information contact marcus.coates@virgin.net or publications@grizedale.org.uk.



MARCUS COATES
text SKYE SHERWIN