



# UNNATURAL

The Bomb Factory Marylebone  
206 Marylebone Road, NW1 6JQ  
**13th - 29th March**  
Open: Weds – Sun | 1pm - 7pm

**The Bomb Factory Art Foundation** is pleased to present *UNNATURAL*, a major solo exhibition by sculptor Joe Rush and curated by Pallas Citroen.

Known for his distinctive scrap-metal aesthetic, Joe Rush is a London-born sculptor and founder of Mutoid Waste Company. Since the early 1980s, he has built large-scale environments from salvaged engines and industrial debris, shaping immersive installation and festival culture internationally.

Each year, often without realising it, millions encounter his work. Rush's monumental junkyard sculptures and installations have become a defining presence at Glastonbury Festival, animating the landscape beside the iconic Pyramid Stage. Over the last four decades, Rush has transformed discarded metal into spectacles that continues to influence film, fashion and live events worldwide, while remaining rooted in independent production that exists beyond the conventions of the commercial gallery system.

In *UNNATURAL*, Rush turns this visual language towards the natural world. The exhibition unfolds as an imagined ecosystem of chimeric beings in which machine and animal collapse into one another. Engines become torsos, gearboxes rise into spines, and springs and valves suggest muscle and bone. What emerges is a speculative 'Unnatural history': a museum of creatures evolved from the mechanical remains of contemporary life.

At the centre of the exhibition stand upright engines, held as totems, as heavy machinery becomes anthropomorphic. From this mechanical core emerge new animal forms: birds, butterflies and horses reassembled from industrial waste.

One of the central works, *Insecticide is suicide*, draws on Rush's early life in a squatted house overlooking a breakers yard in the late 1970s. Watching cars hoisted and dismantled, he was struck by their resemblance to archival footage of whaling ships in the North Atlantic: bodies suspended, split open and harvested for parts. In the sculpture, an engine hangs vertically, exposed and vulnerable. The parallel between dismantled car and hunted whale is unmistakable, linking extraction to violence against the natural world.

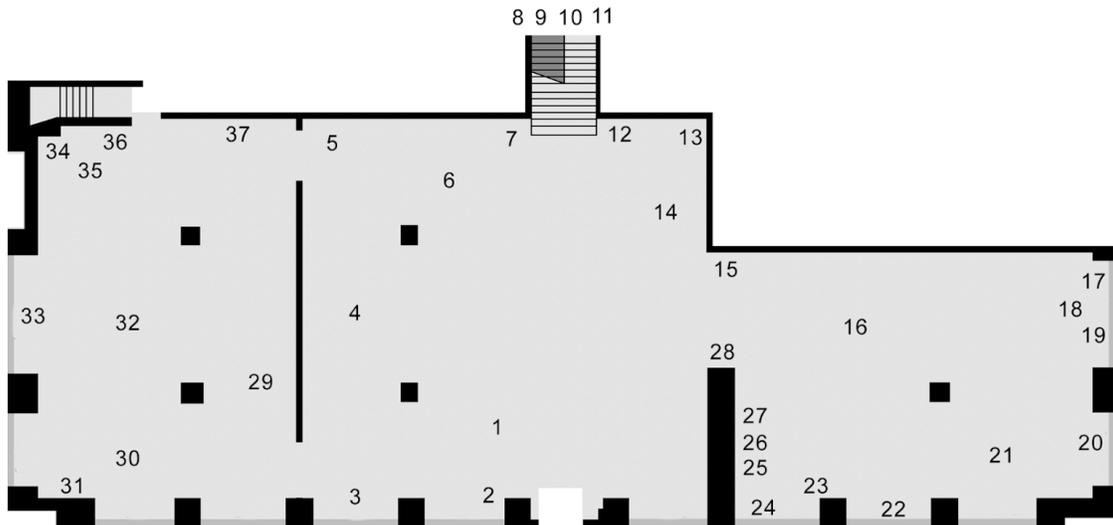
Alongside these totemic works, Rush presents *Anthropocene Fossils*, these wall-based reliefs are cast from bike chains and tool fragments. Echoing museum fossil displays, they preserve not prehistoric life but the remains of industry.

Rush's devotion to the natural world is evident, yet each sculpture confronts us with the cost of consumption. They stand as monuments to extraction and as acts of devotion, asking what survives of nature and what remains of us in the histories we leave behind.

Presented within The Bomb Factory's Marylebone gallery, *UNNATURAL* does not romanticise industry; the sculptures are not relics but warnings, asking what kind of world our machinery is building. *UNNATURAL* forms part of The Bomb Factory's 2026 programme, which focuses on collective production and material reuse. The organisation has long supported artists working outside the commercial mainstream and recognises in Rush's work a comparable commitment to independent production.

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