



THE EXPLORER

Beatrix Calow - Holly Drewett - Rachel Gibson - Ruth Smith

Worlds End Studios
132-134 Lots Road, Chelsea

The Explorer considers the individual in a vast, ominous, diverse, and surprising world. It is about the negotiation between self and universe, about disambiguation, the process of making sense of the world and a search for understanding and meaning. The precursor to this exhibition, *Material Transcendence*, related to ideas about experience being rooted in physical matter, questioning whether this ever goes beyond the purely material. In a sense it focused on the '-geography' in 'psycho-geography' while *The Explorer* now reflects on the 'psycho-'.

Rachel Gibson's photographs are the diary of an explorer. She finds and shares the beauty and wonder in both mountains and moss, the transient and unchanging, and the footprints of other explorers, both past and present, overgrown and reclaimed by nature. Although we are presented with Rachel's discoveries, the photographs contain a strong sense of the discoverer's eye, inspiring others to likewise explore.

Beatrix Calow's prints and paintings reflect on the spiritual and physical explorations of travellers along pilgrim routes and in sacred spaces. A sense of the mythological in her imagery renders the figures and their relationship to the landscape both specific and overarching as a metaphor for the self in the world.

Holly Drewett records and documents places through sound and uses these soundscapes as a catalyst for her work. Recently her work has been generated whilst blindfolded, aiming to allow a more direct response between what is heard and the gestures of drawing. Holly's drawings and installations bring attention to the connectedness of the body to the world mediated through the senses.

Ruth Smith's installations *A Very Slow Walk* present the findings from re-enactments of the walk of a small child who takes seemingly forever to get from one place to another, not only due to little legs, but mainly because everything is interesting and requires pausing for close examination. Hanging from quadrats, used for studying a unit space as a representation of a larger area, she displays her findings from these walks.

The works are distributed irregularly throughout the buildings at Worlds End Studios where they lie in wait for explorers to discover. While this may cause the visitor to double back, go around in circles, see the same works twice or more, or even miss some altogether, frustration at getting lost is balanced by the joy at coming across a work they are looking for, or not expecting to find. Each visitor's experience will be different, mirroring the ways we individually explore our world.

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