

WHITSTABLE 2014 BIENNALE

The 7th Whitstable Biennale 31 May - 15 June 2014

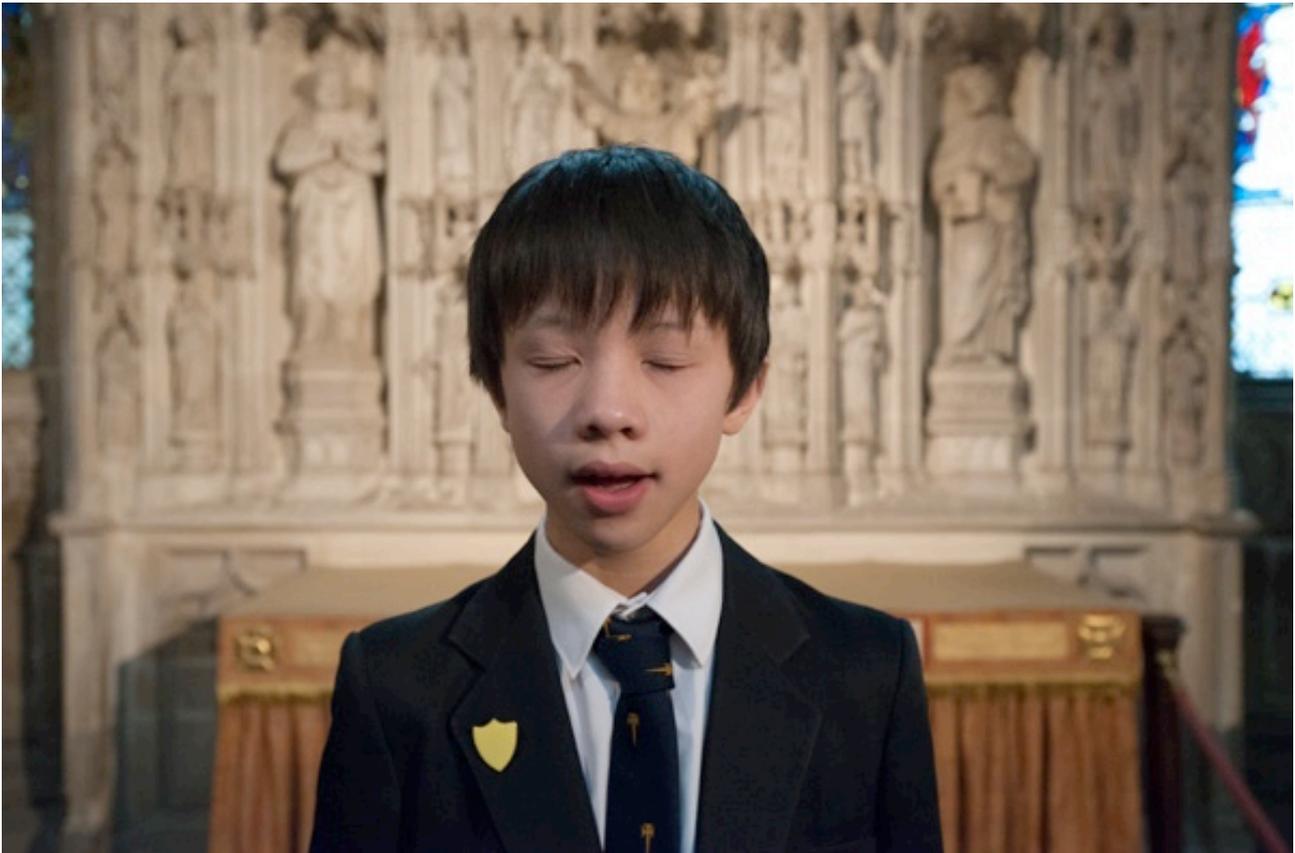


Photo: Louisa Fairclough Compositions for a Low Tide

Installations and film screenings

Rosa Ainley *Building 519*

Rosa Ainley is creating an audio and text work focusing on what was the sprawling Pfizer pharmaceutical complex outside Sandwich. The text includes quotes from extensive interview material, coupled with a narrative based on the impenetrable building 519 and uncovering remains of its secret garden.

[Read more](#)

Bronwen Buckeridge

The Sorrowful and Immaculate Fall of One Hundred Grazing Sheep

Bronwen Buckeridge's sound installation is for one person at a time, and uses layered soundscapes to transport the listener to another place - a treacherous beach with falling cliffs, powerful tides and sinking mud.

[Read more](#)

Louisa Fairclough

Absolute Pitch – Film Sculpture

Absolute Pitch is a 16mm film installation, developed out of research with composer Richard Glover and Gloucester Cathedral choristers. The work takes as its starting point a sketchbook by the artist's sister, and continues a notional collaboration between the artist and her deceased sister. Filmstrips from the projectors echo the lines of the sketchbook monoprint, criss-crossing the space, slicing through the semi-darkness and throwing diffuse colour and shadows around the space.

[Read more](#)

Neil Henderson

Tidal Island

A video work by Neil Henderson shows time lapse footage of an artificial island off the Lincolnshire coastline. Constructed in the 1970s as an experimental freshwater reservoir, Outer Trial Bank is accessible only at low tide across an expanse of mud flats. Henderson set up his cameras at low tide, leaving them in position to capture a view normally only seen by seabirds, who nest in their thousands on the island.

[Read more](#)

Una Knox

Arising where two surfaces border each other

Shot by Una Knox in Beijing, this video follows a local tailor as he makes a traditional Chinese suit out of light-reflective material, highlighting the culture of traditional, bespoke tailoring in a country associated more with mass manufacture. As the tailor labours in his workshop with improvised tools including an old cigarette box, people from outside enter the shop, providing a glimpse of the wider world around him.

[Read more](#)

Louisa Martin

The Lighthouse: Scenes 1 and 2

Louisa Martin's new film features a shifting character, a dancer, who at once plays the part of a socially withdrawn extrovert, and a screen for the audience's own projections.

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Jeremy Millar

XDO XOL

Jeremy Millar's new film is about a place and the man who lives there, a man who may be a saint or madman, perhaps even the Last Man. Dressed in a suit and overcoat, he certainly seems out of place, but then this is a place which itself seems uncertain: a place between light and dark, between land and water.

[Read more](#)

Katrina Palmer

Did Anyone Read the Book?

In this new audio installation by Katrina Palmer, shown in a lecture hall above Whitstable Library, we hear what sounds like members of a dysfunctional reading group trying to recall the opening paragraph of an influential piece of C20 literature. The source text, in which a character moves between a state of wakefulness and dreaming, is half-forgotten and misremembered by the group.

[Read more](#)

Colin Priest

The Dance of the Neptune Plant

Colin Priest takes a seaweed known as Sea Fir as its inspiration, presenting it as an evanescent character bridging animal and vegetal existence, for this new film. The soundtrack is by Romantic Kent-born John Jenkins composed in 1650.

[Read more](#)

Kieren Reed

From the Ground up, (A) Social Building

From the Ground Up, (A) Social Building is a new social artwork by Kieren Reed, creating a unique space that is, in effect, functional sculpture – acting through the Biennale as our visitor information centre, the HQ. Reed is interested in exploring participatory practice, and the possibility of creating innovative learning environments within the public realm. Within the HQ, **Abigail Hunt's** limited edition for children will be available throughout the Biennale. Also, **Collaborative Research Group (CRG)**, an alternative education programme, will be in residence at the HQ, creating a programme of talks, tours and other events.

[Read more](#)

Margaret Salmon

Oyster

Oyster is a short black and white film by Margaret Salmon, shot on 16mm and presented on video accompanied by a flip book. The film is a minimalist documentary, or cinematic poem, exploring the form and fragility of the oyster, the oyster trade, and ultimately the future ecology of its habitat, while being experienced as an avant-garde work, bringing elements of modernism and abstraction to its natural subject.

[Read more](#)

Mark Aerial Waller

Welcome to the Association Area

Mark Aerial Waller's film programme Welcome to the Association Area presents new and classic artists' film and video alongside science fiction tv, video sharing and digital photography to explore the disjunctures that distance us, then connect us to contemporary art, and includes works by artists including Vito Acconci and VALIE EXPORT, alongside footage from video-sharer Wet Canuck.

[Read more](#)

Laura Wilson

Black Top

Laura Wilson's project, Black Top, focuses on Brett Aggregates, who have been based in Whitstable Harbour since 1936, when they sited their first tarmac plant there. Wilson's work, including film and sculptures, will be sited in the Harbour, in the shadow of the factory.

[Read more](#)

Performances and one-off events

The ARKA Group

Beginnings

The ARKA Group's Beginnings is an immersive installation that tells the story of our universe from the point of view of a meteorite.

[Read more](#)

Louisa Fairclough

Compositions for a Low Tide

As day turns to dusk, a group of Rochester Cathedral choristers will walk out with a small group of people along the line of an ancient shingle spit in Whitstable that stretches out a mile out into the sea at low tide. As the group make their way out to the distal end of the spit and back, the choristers perform a new composition, taking loss and consolation as their theme.

[Read more](#)

Force Majeure

SUM PLACES: In the real world, we've been active

Inspired by Italo Calvino's *Invisible Cities*, singers will wander through Whitstable during the day staging impromptu performances in odd, out of the way public spaces in the town, each singing parts of a whole. At the end of the day the singers will come together to perform the composition in its entirety on the beach, around a fire.

[Read more](#)

S Mark Gubb

It all began with Richard Burton...

S Mark Gubb will be giving a performance lecture on a coach winding its way through east Kent, revealing a peculiarly personal relationship with the place the artist grew up in. The work, titled *It all began with Richard Burton....* will feature a landscape of strange connections and events, hearsay, C-list celebrities and coincidences. It's the kind of history that exists anywhere, but one that can only be gathered over a lifetime of being somewhere.

[Read more](#)

Fiona James

The Incident, A Diagram for Whitstable

Fiona James works as an artist and choreographer, and this new performance will take as its starting point enacted simulations of disaster situations that beach lifeguards use as training exercises. Taking place on the beach at 1pm on the first day of the Biennale, accompanied by flares and whistles, the work will examine how attention plays out in heightened, stressful, situations where individuals have to think for themselves and, at the same time, act as a team.

[Read more](#)

Ben Judd

Vast as the Dark of Night and as the Light of Day

Ben Judd's *Vast as the Dark of Night and as the Light of Day*, is based on research into collectivity and ritual, such as the annual Blessing of the Waters ceremony held annually in Whitstable associated with St James, patron saint of oystermen. This new performance will take place at sea, on a traditional Thames Sailing Barge, with audience members and performers creating a temporary, fragile community.

[Read more](#)

Hannah Lees

Everything That Happens Simply Happens

Wine and home-made bread will be served by Hannah Lees for *Everything That Happens Simply Happens*, to be consumed at a long communal table. A 1970's rock

music film will play in the background – an alternative ritual of communal gathering, excess and worship.

[Read more](#)

Samuel Levack & Jennifer Lewandowski

Das Hund & the Pilgrim Shells

In a large, old boatshed full of Harbour equipment and paraphernalia of fishing boats, Samuel Levack & Jennifer Lewandowski will present a new multi-disciplinary work including a performance by their band, Das Hund, video projections and an elaborate stage set.

[Read more](#)

Rachel Reupke

Letter of Complaint

Known for her films, Letter of Complaint will be Rachel Reupke's first live performance. Formed of three tableau vivant (living pictures), each pose will be held for ten minutes, allowing the audience time to scrutinise the scene down to its finest detail. A live narrative will feature a bitter, neurotic voice, drawing from Reupke's research of complaint letters.

[Read more](#)

John Walter

Turn My Oyster Up

John Walter is transforming a beach hut on the seafront into a 'slang bar' where he will act as host, serving gin and tonics and (local delicacy) gypsy tarts. Featuring videos, special wallpaper and flooring, and including special performances by **Max Leonard Hitchings** and **Susannah Hewlett**, Turn My Oyster Up will use the local oyster culture as a linguistic hook upon which to engage the audience in verbal and visual games addressing slang.

[Read more](#)

Richard Wilson and Zatorski + Zatorski

51° 21' 45" N, 1° 01' 13" E: Whitstable Sounding

Beginning in the last hour of light on 21 June, the longest day of the year, 51° 21' 45" N, 1° 01' 13" E: Whitstable Sounding is a special event by Richard Wilson and Zatorski + Zatorski. Taking place offshore, and designed to be viewed from Whitstable's beaches, a number of historic vessels will paint the seascape with steam, smoke and light, as the sounds of ships' steam whistles, bells, horns, hooters, flares and sirens drift back to shore.

[Read more](#)

Special events, workshops & talks

Martin John Callanan *Wars During My Lifetime*

Martin John Callanan's *Wars During My Lifetime* is Whitstable Biennale's first permanent online commission. The digital work gathers together wars that have taken place all over the world during one individual's lifetime so far. Read by a newsreader, the film makes no comment, but quietly and forcefully brings the long list to our attention.

[Read more](#)

Trifarious Projects *Foreign Agents: Jonathan P Watts in discussion*

Talk: Jonathan P Watts chairs a discussion with Clunie Reid and John Walter, about the relationship of contemporary fine art practices to design, advertising and fashion.

[Read more](#)

Jeremy Millar, Rachel Lichtenstein *Estuary Talk*

Talk: exhibiting artist Jeremy Millar in conversation with writer Rachel Lichtenstein in conversation about their new works, both of which are set in the Thames Estuary, and about some of the characters and myths that inhabit this complex body of water, where the river meets the North Sea

[Read more](#)

Laura Wilson *Black Top talk*

Talk: exhibiting artist Laura Wilson talks about her new work, in the Harbour, in the shadow of the aggregate factory, Bretts.

[Read more](#)

Children's Workshops

Two workshops for children in response to **Margaret Salmon's** new film *Oyster* run by the artist together with children's reading expert and storyteller, **Emily Guille-Marrett**.

[Read more](#)

Kent Students Open Call

Students studying film, or recently graduated, from the University of Kent, the University for the Creative Arts and Canterbury Christ Church University, were invited to enter short films by open submission. Competition was fierce, and six entries were selected to be screened at a special evening.

[Read more](#)

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