

Leeds College of Art

Exhibitions

Jan - Jun 2016



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1846 - 2016

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1846 — 2016

The curatorial team presents a new programme for 2016
to celebrate the 170th birthday of Leeds College of Art

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Introduction

The curatorial team presents a new programme for 2016 to celebrate the 170th birthday of Leeds College of Art. In collaboration with our Alumni Relations Officer, this will feature a series of historical alumni exhibitions primarily based at Vernon Street, the older of our two campuses.

Meanwhile at our Blenheim Walk site, exhibitions in this cycle investigate paired notions of scale and narrative, surface and depth, practices of walking and running, painting and industry. Quarrying is an underlying metaphor for this research.

Our popular Curator's Choice series, complements and underpins these ideas. Highlights include props from Rachel Maclean's recent British Art Show commission *Feed Me* (2015), and Rebecca Lowe's painterly research into post-minimalist surfaces.

Recent acquisitions continue to reflect and celebrate the 170th birthday, especially *Portrait of Pauline Snow* (1942) by Jacob Kramer (1892-1962), a well-known, Ukrainian-born alumnus of the College. Further acquisitions include Chinese haute couture donated by Zheng Qing'er, Qing Li Apparel, and a new artwork by research fellow, Kai Syng Tan, responding to the refugee crisis across Europe.

Dr Catriona McAra
Curatorial & Exhibitions Manager

Visitor Information



The Blenheim Walk Gallery is open:

Monday - Saturday
10am - 4pm

Vernon Street Gallery is open:

Monday - Friday
10am - 4pm

(Please note Leeds College of Art is closed on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays)

Both sites are wheelchair accessible. All exhibitions are free of charge and everyone is welcome.

If you wish to visit The Rotunda and Boardroom (first floor) and The Library (second floor) at our Blenheim Walk site, please call in advance to make an appointment.

For more information, please contact the Curatorial Team:

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Blenheim Walk Building

Leeds College of Art
Blenheim Walk
Leeds
West Yorkshire
LS2 9AQ

Vernon Street Building

Leeds College of Art
Vernon Street
Leeds
West Yorkshire
LS2 8PH

The Blenheim Walk Gallery
8 January – 1 April
Preview: 7 January, 5pm-7pm

Kabir Hussain

Flatlands

Kabir Hussain is a sculptor and Leeds College of Art alumnus. Responding to the topography of local Ilkley Moor and further afield in Norfolk where he is based, Hussain sculpts landscapes in bronze and plaster. The body of work presented here investigates notions of scale. Archaeological arrowhead artefacts are collected on walks then cast to create contemporary sculptural doubles. They are maps in microcosm and explore the Neolithic to Bronze Age continuum.

A catalogue essay by geologist, Vanessa Banks, will be developed during the exhibition.

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Kabir Hussain, sculptor
Studied 1979 - 1980

Image: Kabir Hussain, *Grimston to Knights Hill*, 2013. Bronze. Image courtesy of the artist.

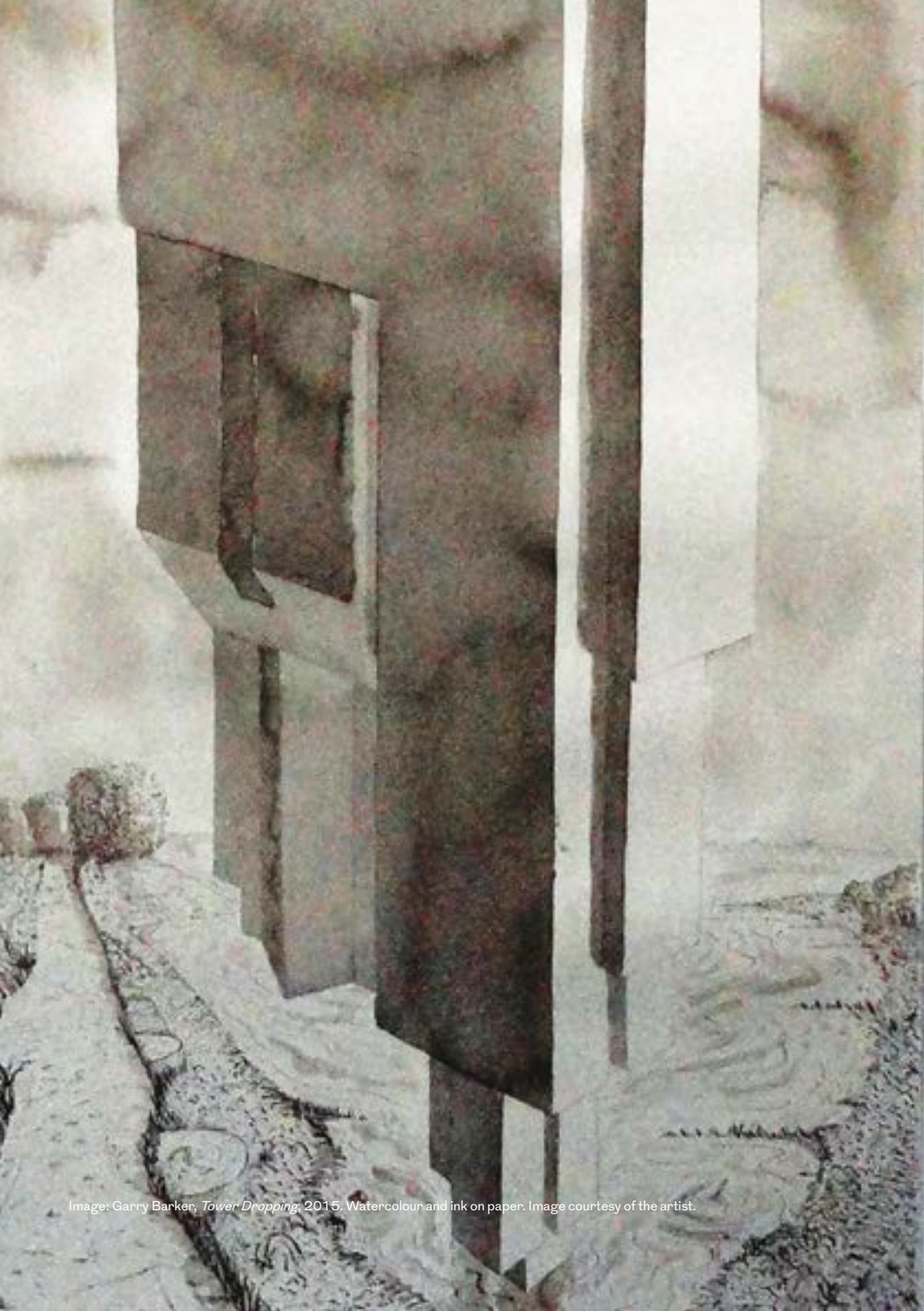


Image: Garry Barker, *Tower Dropping*, 2015. Watercolour and ink on paper. Image courtesy of the artist.

The Blenheim Walk Gallery
15 April – 1 July
Preview: 14 April, 5pm-7pm

Garry Barker

When the past overhauls the present,
you will forget that you can't remember

Garry Barker is a narrative artist who weaves found-yarns both old and new. He is one of the longest serving members of Fine Art at Leeds College of Art. Practicing in the realm of the allegorical, Barker works in a variety of media (drawing, painting, tapestry, silk scarves, ceramics, graphics and animation), and is preoccupied by a series of recurrent motifs (pigs, wind turbines, towers). His research interests revolve around political tensions between the local and the global in Leeds and beyond.

A catalogue essay by Angela Kingston will appear alongside this exhibition.

garrybarkeronline.com

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Garry Barker, artist
Taught 1974 - present

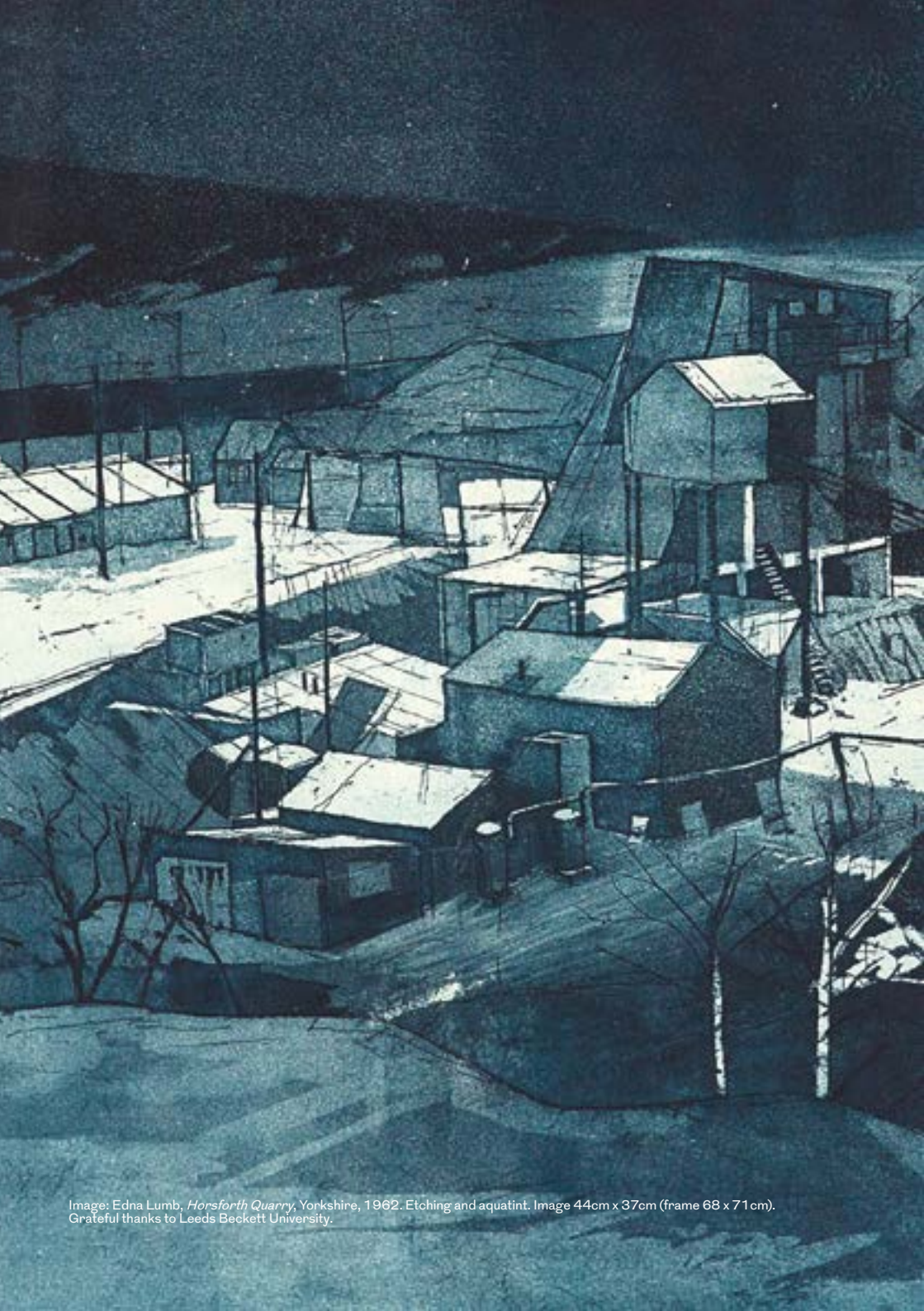


Image: Edna Lumb, *Horsforth Quarry*, Yorkshire, 1962. Etching and aquatint. Image 44cm x 37cm (frame 68 x 71 cm). Grateful thanks to Leeds Beckett University.

Vernon Street Gallery
12 February – 11 March
Preview: 11 February, 5pm-7pm

Edna Lumb

Industrious Pioneer

The machine aesthetics of Edna Lumb (1931-1992) are unique in the male-dominated heavy industry of the mid-twentieth century. Educated at Leeds School of Art in the 1950s, she was awarded a travel scholarship to France, and later made a paint record of aid programmes in West Africa. Engines, pylons, quarries, cooling towers, and wheels (gear wheels, rail wheels, flywheels, water-wheels) were her perpetual subjects. This long overdue solo exhibition enables a reassessment of her pioneering output.

This exhibition features a catalogue essay by science writer, and close personal friend of the artist, Angela Croome.

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Edna Lumb, painter
Studied 1948 - 1953



Image: Ralph Wallis, *Headrow*, Leeds, 1950s, 35mm film. Courtesy of Ralph Wallis and Bianca Wallis-Salmon.

Vernon Street Gallery
25 March – 20 April
Preview: 24 March, 5pm–7pm

Ralph Wallis

Is This Seat Taken?

Curated by Bianca Wallis-Salmon

Guest-curator and alumna, Bianca Wallis-Salmon, has researched the life and work of her great-uncle, Ralph Wallis who worked as a technician at Leeds College of Art in the early '60s and set up darkrooms to provide photographic facilities for Fine Art students.

Wallis now resides in Canada and has imparted his work to his great-niece Wallis-Salmon, who has used them to produce an autobiographical photobook.

A photobook by Wallis-Salmon will be launched at the preview event.

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Ralph Wallis
Taught 1961 - 1965



Image: Eric Bainbridge, image courtesy of the artist and Workplace Gallery.

Vernon Street Gallery
16 March – 20 April
Preview: 24 March, 5pm-7pm

Alumni Exhibition

Celebrating 170 years of Leeds College of Art

Throughout 2016 Leeds College of Art will be celebrating 170 years of art education in Leeds. In recognition of the history of the College and the achievements of our alumni, the Vernon Street Gallery in the College's historic 1903 building will host a series of group exhibitions celebrating the diverse and ground breaking careers of past students and staff.

Founded in 1846 as the Leeds Government School of Art and Design, Leeds College of Art has contributed significantly to the development of art education in Britain. By 1946 no less than fifteen past students had been appointed as principals of schools of art and from the 1950s to the 1970s, under pioneering Head of Art, Harry Thubron, the College stood at the epicentre of a revolution in art teaching in the UK. The Basic Design Course, largely founded in Leeds, became a new model for art education. At the same time the University of Leeds' new Gregory Fellowship brought numerous practicing artists to Leeds, many of whom helped out and taught at the College.

In the educational reforms of the 1960s and 1970s the College was re-named Jacob Kramer College (1968-1993) with Damien Hirst, Marcus Harvey, Eric Bainbridge, Clio Barnard and Georgina Starr studying during this period.

The first group alumni exhibition of 2016 includes examples of work by: Deborah Bowness, Eric Bainbridge, William Neil and Janet Rawlins.

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Deborah Bowness, wallpaper artist. Studied 1994 - 1997

Eric Bainbridge, artist. Studied 1973 - 1974

William Neil, artist. Studied 1962 - 1966

Janet Rawlins, artist. Studied 1947 - 1952



Image : Hilary Readman, *Valle Lacrimarum*, 2015. Image courtesy of the artist.

The Boardroom
20 February – 20 April
Artist's Talk: Thursday 3rd March, 5pm

Hilary Readman

Valle Lacrimarum

Readman recently graduated from the MA in Creative Practice at Leeds College of Art. Combining wax, ceramics, burnt wood, and lighting, Readman's practice draws on themes of the sacred, the profane, and the folkloric in contemporary culture.

This ethereal installation was selected from her degree show at Trinity Church (November 2015).

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Hilary Readman, artist
Studied 2013 - 2015

HappyChat Beast



Smile Inc.®

Blenheim Walk Building
January - June 2016

Curator's Choice

Curator's Choice is a series of sample displays with work selected by the Curatorial and Exhibitions Manager. Dispersed around our Blenheim Walk campus, this surprising trail of cabinets of curiosity highlight a selection of innovative research-practice, often work-in-progress, from a range of internal and external colleagues.

Highlights for January - June 2016 include:

Rachel Maclean

Maclean is a Scottish video and performance artist recently included in the British Art Show. Her work parodies capitalist advertising strategies and the absurd world of the commercial fairy tale. The curator has worked with Maclean since 2012, and is delighted to exhibit two props, Happy Chat Beast and Happy Chat Baby from Feed Me (2015), Maclean's most epic and ambitious green-screen composite film to date.

rachelmaclean.com

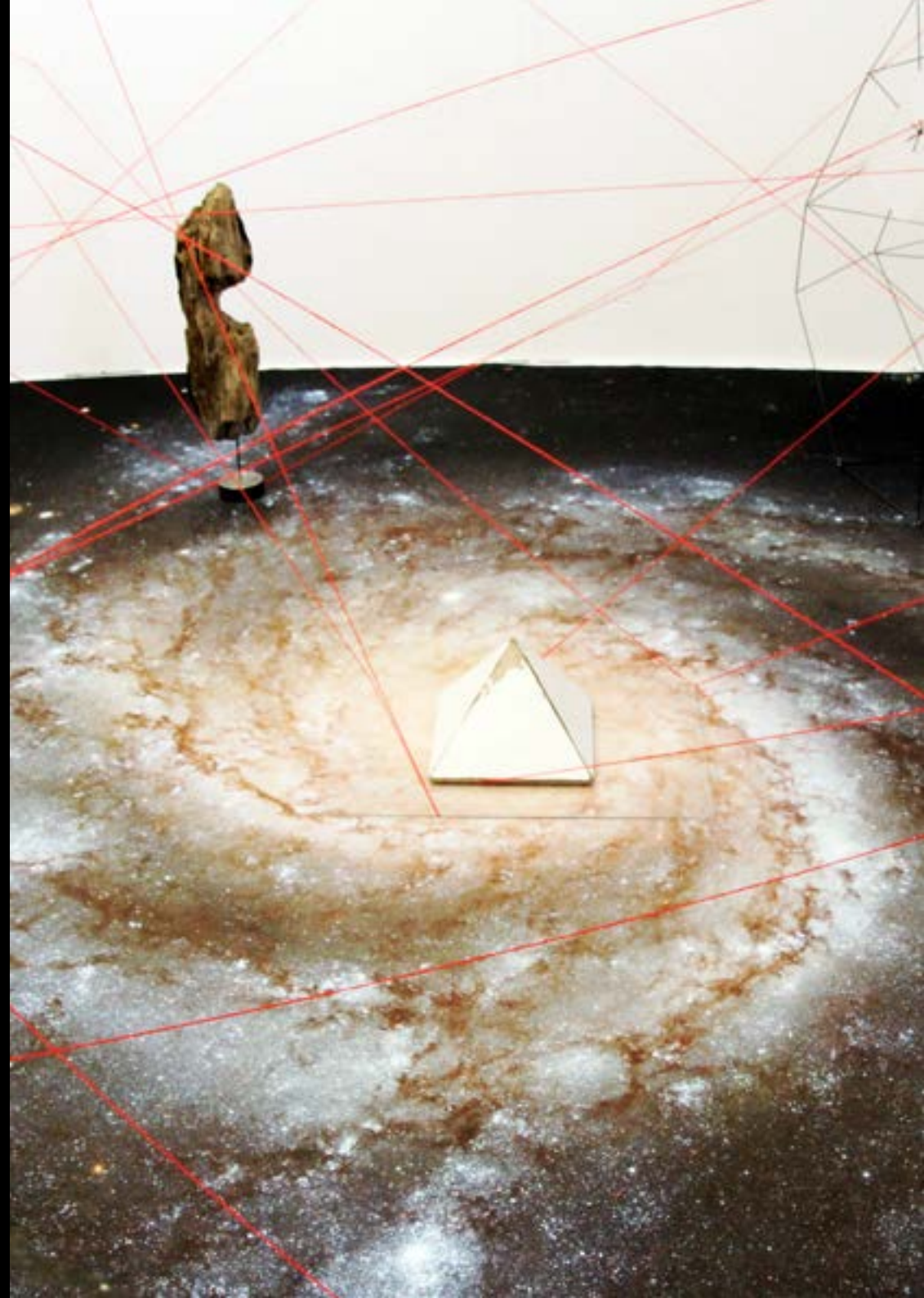
Previous page: Rachel Maclean, *Happy Chat Beast* 2015. Mixed media props from Feed Me, 2015. Green screen composite video. Images reproduced with kind permission of the artist.

Ryoko Minamitani

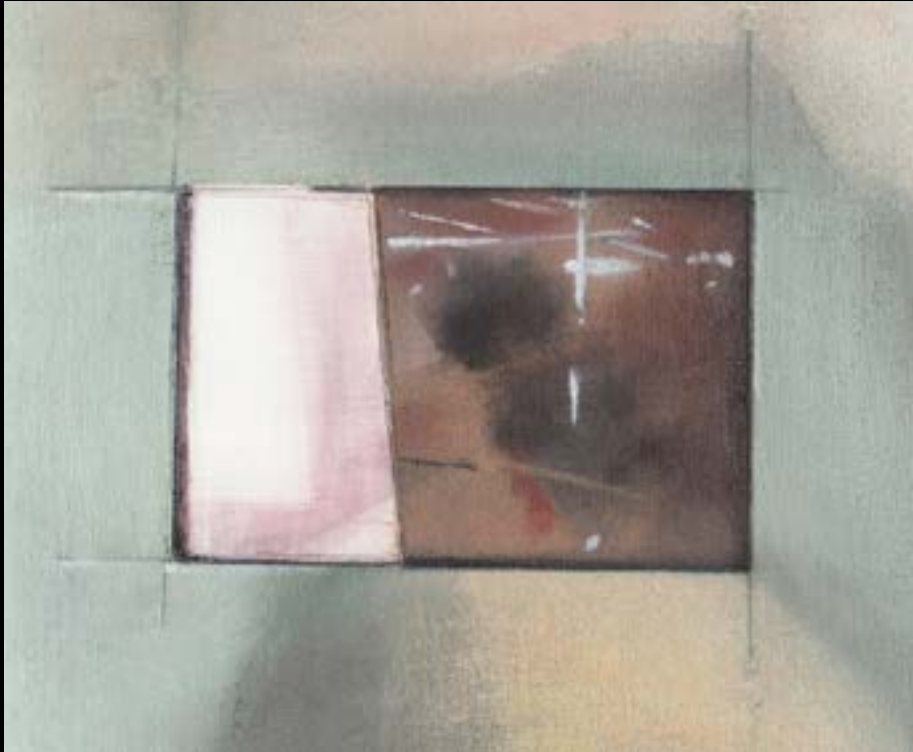
Minamitani recently graduated from the MA in Art and Design at Leeds Beckett University. Cosmic imagery appropriated from NASA is used to represent the complexities of the human mind. The universe becomes a memory box, compartmentalising knowledge and the vast expanses of Outer Space.

minamiryoko.jimdo.com

Right: Ryoko Minamitani, *The Source*, 2015. Mixed media installation. Credits: NASA, ESA, K. Kuntz (JHU), F. Bresolin (University of Hawaii), J. Trauger (Jet Propulsion Lab), J. Mould (NOAO), Y.H. Chu (University of Illinois, Urbana), and STScI), Pyramid (plaster and wood by Dan). Image courtesy of the artist.



Richard Baker



Baker's research investigates methods of recording in Fine Art practice. His gallery in miniature allows us to dwell on aesthetic issues pertaining to modernist scale and ambition within the white cube. What does it mean to make abstract colourfield painting on the scale of an A6 sketchbook page? Moreover, what does it mean to curate in miniature?

Baker was recently shortlisted for the prestigious Lynn Painter-Stainers Painting Prize.

richardbakerpainting.com

Above: Richard Baker, *Desktop*, 2015. Oil on calico, 15cm x 20cm. Image courtesy of the artist.

Rebecca Lowe



Lowe's research interests include the surface aesthetics of post-minimalism. These paintings were recently included in a London-based exhibition, *Lines for Agnes* (2015), curated by Ruth Philo and Terry Greene parallel to Tate Modern's concurrent exhibition of the work of Agnes Martin. Lowe describes her own worked surfaces as being built up through "rhythmic process of layering." They offer a subtle translucency and hint at the impression of human touch.

axisweb.org/p/rebeccalowe/#projects

Above: Rebecca Lowe, *Intervals series (White Jar II and III)*, 2012. Oil on gesso on canvas, 60 x 50 cm ©Rebecca Lowe. Installation shot from a solo show at The Bowery Gallery, Headingley, Leeds, 2012.

Lesley Eleanor Wood



Wood is currently studying for her MA in Creative Practice at Leeds College of Art. Her practice involves walking, collecting, and experiments with liquid light. Here she presents a series of photographic prints on stones collected from walks on the shores of the north west of Scotland. Surface and place, content and support become intimately condensed.

lesleyeleanorwood.com

Above: Lesley Eleanor Wood, *Untitled*, 2015. Silver-halide gel on stone. Image courtesy of the artist. Photo by Anne Wyman.

The Studio Theatre Gallery

January - June 2016

Research Clusters



In our continued commitment to the exhibiting of research-practice from across the College, our four research cluster leaders have been invited to curate current examples of research-in-progress from select staff members.

We begin the year by showcasing select examples from the Technology cluster curated by Annabeth Robinson, followed by a research display from the Pedagogies cluster curated by Karen Tobias-Green.

Above: Annabeth Robinson, *Ya Devi (Shawl Visual)*, May 2015, Digital Media (unity game engine). Image courtesy of the artist.

Recent Acquisitions

Kai Syng Tan

Certainly the Toughest Ultramarathon of Your Life (2015)



Research Fellow, Dr Kai Syng Tan, presents a new artwork, her contribution to a recent research forum at Leeds College of Art, *The Vanishing Woman: Thoughts on Female Visibility*, for *Being Human: A Festival of the Humanities*. *Certainly the Toughest Ultramarathon of Your Life* utilises her extensive research on running to explore the challenges and physical hardships faced by refugees across Europe. The image will appear in a forthcoming publication *Critical Atlas* (2017).

Above: Kai Syng Tan, *Certainly the Toughest Ultramarathon of Your Life*, 2015. C-type Fuji Gloss. 119 x 83.5 cm. Image reproduced with kind permission of the artist.

Zheng Qing'er

Qing Li Apparel (2015)



This garment was donated to the College by Chinese designer Zheng Qing'er of Qing Yi Apparel at an East Meets West fashion show organised by The Business Confucius Institute at the University of Leeds for Light Night October 2015. Qing Yi Apparel use traditional Chinese techniques to produce pure cotton garments, reflecting the designer's ethos of purity and peacefulness. The garment took two months to complete by hand, and is consistent with QING'S ethos of returning to the nature.

Above: Zheng Qing'er, *Qing Li Apparel* (2015). Cotton. Photo by Anne Wyman.



Blenheim Walk Library
& Vernon Street Library
7 April 2016

Library Interventions

Creative Disruptions

The 2016 Library Interventions programme begins in March and will be celebrated in the gallery on April 7th. The artists who are exhibiting in this cycle are Barrie Tullett, Claire Potter, Nicola Dale, Rob Lycett and Tom Pope.

Library Interventions are creative disruptions which explore the library's collection; research becomes performance, the library becomes a poem, and typewriters turn around a Mobius Loop...



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