



MK CALLING 2020

Derek Walker Gallery Guide

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15th Feb - 17th May
130 Artists
Free entry

1

For The Vorrh, 2020
Graphite on paper

Dave Ronalds

Dave Ronalds is an artist based in Milton Keynes. *For The Vorrh* was made shortly after the artist read B. Catling's *The Vorrh* trilogy (2012-18). It represents a composite image of mental impressions formed through the story's narrative, which revolves around an ancient, sentient forest.

This work is part of a broader series seeking to revitalise images from historical artworks, in this case *The Ecstasy of St Teresa* (1647-52) by Gian Lorenzo Bernini (1598-1680). In this series of works Ronalds re-contextualises and manipulates historical images through the use of photocopiers and printers. The stuttering and bent images are then arranged and carefully copied in pencil, making the resulting work a simple drawing of a collage.

10

Blossoming White, 2013
Paper

Elizabeth Walker

Elizabeth Walker is an artist working in Milton Keynes. *Blossoming White* combines light, reflection and colour in creating an illusion. Through the specific placement of only six colours, a whole array of subtle shades, tints and hues becomes apparent.

The idea for this work originated when the artist noticed how a coloured pencil lodged between two pages of a sketchbook was reflected onto the curve at the opposite page, due to sunlight hitting the pencil at just the right angle. She began to experiment with colours and their refracted glow onto paper. To create *Blossoming White*, Walker took a section of one of her paintings, enlarged it and mimicked each of the predominant colours, pixel by pixel in red, green, blue, yellow, cyan, magenta and lemon yellow. Her method was based on the same theory as computer screens: that slight variations in a restricted set of colours can create a near infinite selection of tones. Although the majority of each pixel is white, our perception of their colour is affected by its reflections, demonstrating how much colour really does influence its environment.

9

Growing a House, 2020
Steel

Permindar Kaur

Permindar Kaur is an artist working primarily in sculpture and installation, based in Hertfordshire.

Growing a House consists of a number of vertical steel beams randomly and organically 'growing' out of the floor, centred around a fully grown structure of a house. The surface of the beams is covered with pruned steel branches, which are trimmed in such a way that the structure remains but its potential is restricted. For Kaur, the growth and alteration of the shape and surface of a habitable structure subtly changes its identity, reflecting the hybrid organic/non-organic growth needed to adapt and conform.

"There is a sadness about the pruned house as it is not allowed to grow and reach its full potential identity. Looking abandoned, bits of itself have been removed even though it is made from hardened steel."

2

Residuum 0.1, 2017
Charcoal on paper

Verity Millest

Verity Millest is an artist from Milton Keynes. The references found within her work are sourced from architectural forms, landscapes and the artist's immediate surroundings. Millest frequently revisits compositions, visuals and sequences as they undergo a refinement process.

Residuum is a series of drawings exploring what remains after something is removed. The compositions are highly edited and utilise atmospheric mark-making alongside contrasting areas of intense detail. By varying how much material is present or absent, Millest's work creates a sense of uncertainty around what is real and what is fabricated. The drawings represent the ever-changing boundaries and limitations affecting our place in the world.

3

Where Do You Live?, 2020
Kinetic installation

Anna Berry

Where Do You Live?, 2020, Postcards of Milton Keynes, Tyvek, steel, carbon fibre, cable ties, copper pipe, solenoid valves, rubber hose, compressor, balloons (plus Arduino, relays, digital components). Created in collaboration with Clive Doherty and Stuart Moore.

Anna Berry is an artist based in Milton Keynes. Berry creates socially- and politically-conscious work, often large kinetic installations, working with paper. Many of her pieces relate to the spaces and social climate of Milton Keynes, often consisting of interventions and pop-ups in public space.

Like much of Berry's work, *Where Do You Live?* creates a slightly uncanny sense of the organic, including cones that 'breathe', while exploring the nature of space, and of specific place. "The title plays on pinpointing your locality in MK, but also asks where the ghost in this particular machine is."

8

Rahel, 2020
Oil and acrylic on cotton canvas

Sayuri, 2020
Oil and acrylic on cotton canvas

Johanna Tagada

Johanna Tagada was born in Strasbourg, France and now works in London. To Tagada, a safe space is the embodiment of intimacy, passed back and forth in meaningful conversation with a like-minded person. "It's a whispered confession, or a common concern; it's temporal and spatial; at once ephemeral and everlasting."

In a body of works exploring the concept of safe space, Tagada depicts the coming-together of women to share tea, thoughts, ideas and energy. Through soft strokes and colour palettes, she conjures the essence of her closest friends and collaborators, preserving them in a moment of power and vulnerability. These closely cropped works are accompanied by a series of corresponding three-minute audio monologues, remembered and narrated by their subjects. They touch on stories of love, decision-making and shared stumbling-blocks. Linguistically and stylistically 'imperfect', these pieces pay tribute to a series of precious moments. The canvas becomes a new safe space: here, all are welcome.

Text by Maisie Skidmore with MK Gallery

7

A Silent Hymn, 2019
Collage, paper and
found images

*To Feel The Wind In
The Trees*, 2019
Collage, paper and
found images

Untitled, 2019
Collage, paper and found images

Untitled, 2019
Collage, paper and found images

Untitled, 2019
Collage, paper and found images

Phil Carney

Phil Carney lives and works in Milton Keynes. Carney's collages create abstract narratives expressing human emotions. He is greatly influenced by cinema in his approach to images.

Carney collects old photographs, giving them new purpose through his work. A recurring theme in Carney's work is memory and the weight of human touch. The artist uses singular, figurative images, cut or torn from their original form, setting them against a backdrop of different shapes and textures of paper, signifying time as layers in which a memory can hide. Carney's work suggests memory as distant and almost lost to time; something which was once there but cannot be fully remembered.

4

Here Then, There Now, 2020
Giclée print from unique silver gelatin
paper negative. Signed.

Dovile Dagiene-Doda

Dovile Dagiene-Doda (b. 1981) lives and works in Vilnius, Lithuania. Her artistic research on time and place focuses on the eight-minute delay before sunlight reaches the surface of the Earth. Capturing sunlight, in each photograph there is an eight-minute gap between two exposures of the negative. The resulting images are experiments in representing the irreversible flow of physical time, through the limited means available in photographic space.

Here Then, There Now combines the possibilities of traditional black-and-white photography and contemporary methods, exploring the boundaries between analogue and astrophysics through unique silver gelatin prints. The photographs express Dagiene-Doda's doubts concerning the future of technological advancement, posing questions of temporality: how long an instant is, and how photography can express duration or segments of time. Her astro-photographic studies are imprints of the wide night sky, and the movement of the cosmic bodies.

5

MK Grid, 2020
Silver, oil, graphite on paper

Daniel Blumberg

Daniel Blumberg (b. 1990) makes drawings and music, sometimes with film. These drawings are about the grid system of roads that the people of Milton Keynes live within. Also in mind were the grids in Kieslowski's *Dekalog* and Perec's *Life: A User Manual*.

"The silver(point) grids will OXIDIZE, developing and changing slowly over time by the AIR. A bit like the new town of Milton Keynes. The point is, please don't demolish the Point :("

6

Between Us, 2018
HD digital video

Synopation, 2017
HD digital video

Sally Waterman

Sally Waterman is an artist based in London. Waterman's autobiographical video and photographic works explore memory, place and familial relationships through literary adaptation. The *Twenty* project (2017-18), from which the works in MK Calling are taken, serves as a reflection upon the artist's relationship with her partner in light of his treatment for heart failure.

Synopation is based on the poem *Home: A Structure on Trial* by the poet Rafał Gawin (b. 1984). The poem was originally commissioned for the *Talking Transformations: Home on the Move* project, which sought to investigate what 'home' means in relation to debates on Brexit and EU migration. This work by Gawin became, to Waterman, symbolic of her partner's recovery, with the home representing a place of safety, though also claustrophobic. The flickering sunlight reflected upon floors and doors suggests an irregular heartbeat. Correlations are drawn between the structural dwelling and its human presences.

Shot one year on, *Between Us* celebrates the recovery of Waterman's partner, while recognising his vulnerability, viewed through a loving, female gaze. Based on the poem *Loving You* by Frances Horowitz (1938-1983), the video acts as a love letter to Waterman's partner, comprised of 21 photographs to signify their 21 years together.