

Th'Owd Towser Show
11th – 26th June 2011
Daisy Lane, Holmfirth

HOLMFIRTH
ARTS FESTIVAL



This group exhibition brings a selection of contemporary artists to the Grade 1 listed heritage site, once used as the village church lock up, mortuary, ambulance station and fire station. Perhaps the oldest building in Holmfirth dating from circa 1597, Th'Owd Towser (The House of Correction) houses some unexpected things reminiscent of the building's former uses. Artists have been selected from an international open call to show new work in response to this unique building, with the lower floor showing an artists' film programme throughout the festival.

Kristin Anderson, Lorna Barrowclough, Paul Clark & Richard Light, Alastair Cook, Angella Conte, Amelia Crouch, Chris Czainski, Michael Day, Paul Edmondson, Christopher Garcia, Maggie Hall, Christine Hurford, Ilené Jacobs, Lefty Caligari, Marius Leneweit & Rocío Rodríguez, Lin Li, Amanda Loomes, Bob Lorrimer, Fin McMorran, Charlotte Morgan, Rachael Parsons, Ellie Rees, Tim Shore, Dan Wagstaffe, Simon Warner, Donna Wood, Tobias Zehntner.

Curated by Alice Bradshaw and Vanessa Haley.

Open: Saturday 11th/18th/25th June & Sunday 12th/18th June 2011, 12-5pm, free.
Artists' Talks: Saturday 18th & 25th June, 4-6pm, Back Lane Art Space, free.

<http://www.holmfirthartsfestival.co.uk> | info@holmfirthartsfestival.co.uk

Alice Bradshaw & Vanessa Haley avavprojects@yahoo.co.uk

Upper Floor: Lorna Barrowclough, Amelia Crouch, Chris Czainski, Christine Hurford, Ilené Jacobs, Charlotte Morgan, Rachael Parsons, Tim Shore.

Lorna Barrowclough

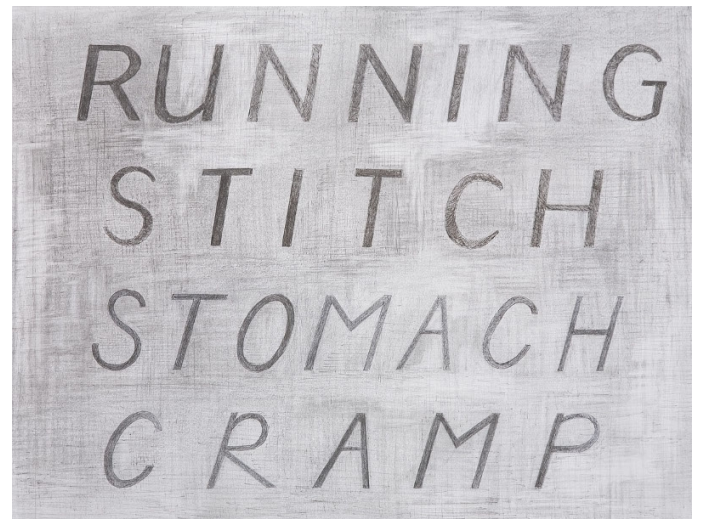
Lorna Barrowclough's work focuses on animism and anthropomorphism; the belief that intelligence and volition inhabit ordinary objects as well as animate beings. More simply, that "everything is alive" that human characteristics and qualities can be attributed to non-human beings and objects. Lorna's work is inclusive and experimental, and whilst there is a focus on the traditions of technique, she offers a refreshing open approach to the materials and methods that might be utilised. The result is that her work becomes fantastical hybrids in their basic form, unusual compositions and combinations of colour combined to give the viewer a platform for playful imagination.



Lorna Barrowclough studied Fine Art at Lancaster University and completed an MA in Design at Leeds University in 2005. Lorna has exhibited in the UK, Germany and US, recently in Home From Home in Leeds in 2011 and undertook a residency at Bank Street Arts in Sheffield in 2010 resulting in the exhibition Holding Your Knife and Fork Properly. <http://www.lornabarrowclough.com>

Amelia Crouch

Amelia Crouch is an artist whose artwork often uses words or a combination of text and image. She is intrigued by the ability of words to evoke other senses and call up myriad associations. Her work attempts to tap into what might be called a 'collective cultural imagery' – the associations and mental images that people carry with them already, that they have absorbed from the world around them. To this end she frequently copies or 'quotes' existing forms or types of language.



Over the past 2 years Amelia has undertaken a number of site-responsive commissions, including projects for Leeds Town Hall and a billboard at Leeds Railway station. She is interested in making works that create analogies between the historical context of a location and its present day situation. For Owd Towser she responds to the history of the building as a place that has housed death and other functions related to protecting or constraining the body.

Amelia Crouch's recent exhibitions have included showing at Project Space Leeds, Bradford II Gallery and The Bluecoat, Liverpool. She is currently undertaking a residency at Forty Hall in Enfield. <http://www.ameliacrouch.com/>

Chris Czainski

Chris Czainski is interested in how we ignore the histories at our feet and under our feet, and how we tend to avoid the subject of our mortality: "It is very easy to look at a river and the limited life on it but be unaware of the layers of existence, and remnants of previous lives which lie below." Chris' passion for beach combing has persisted throughout her life leading to recent assemblages and artworks using bones and found objects. Her approach is born through a passion for foraging and retrieving the spent or discarded. The beaches of the Lancashire coast, the Yorkshire coast, the river Thames, Barbados and the Western Isles become vast repositories of source material to be sifted and collated later.



Chris Czainski's practice encompasses sculpture, installation, and assemblages using a variety of media, including found objects, film, printmaking, painting, and drawing. She shares a studio with her husband artist Paul Czainski, at Luddenden, near Hebden Bridge and at Staithes on the Yorkshire coast. <http://www.czainski.co.uk/>

Christine Hurford

Chris Hurford is a Londoner whose work responds to place and time, linking ancient places, customs, lives and beliefs with contemporary times. Looking especially at lives ignored or disregarded by others and bringing them to greater prominence, she works mainly with clay, fired and raw, but also with other materials such as plaster, metal and wood.

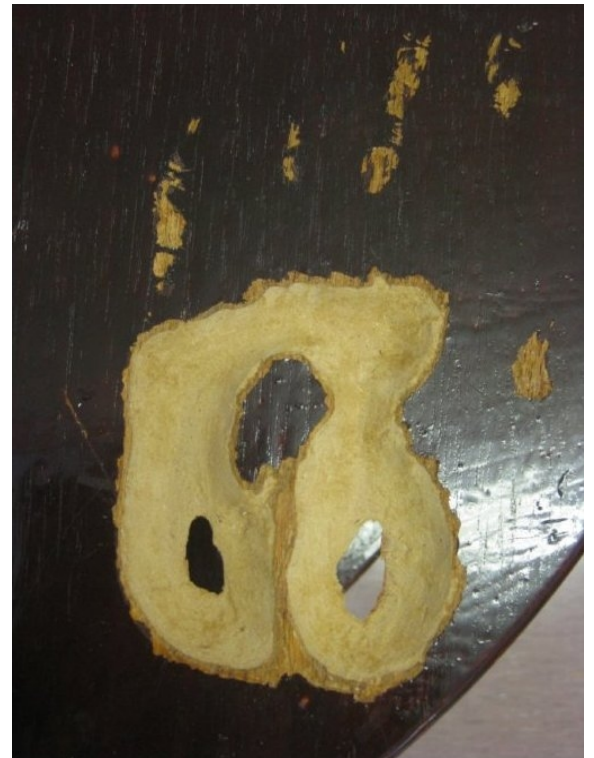


Although Chris now lives in Cumbria - her studio looking to the Pennines - roots go deep and interests are still urban based. Since graduating in 2007, she has exhibited in diverse places - from muddy ditches to a Roman fort and from empty shops to historic buildings. She is currently working on a personal response to the lives of the northern saints of the 7th century. Recent work has included two large pieces shown in the chantry chapel of Greystoke Church. <http://www.chrishurford.co.uk>

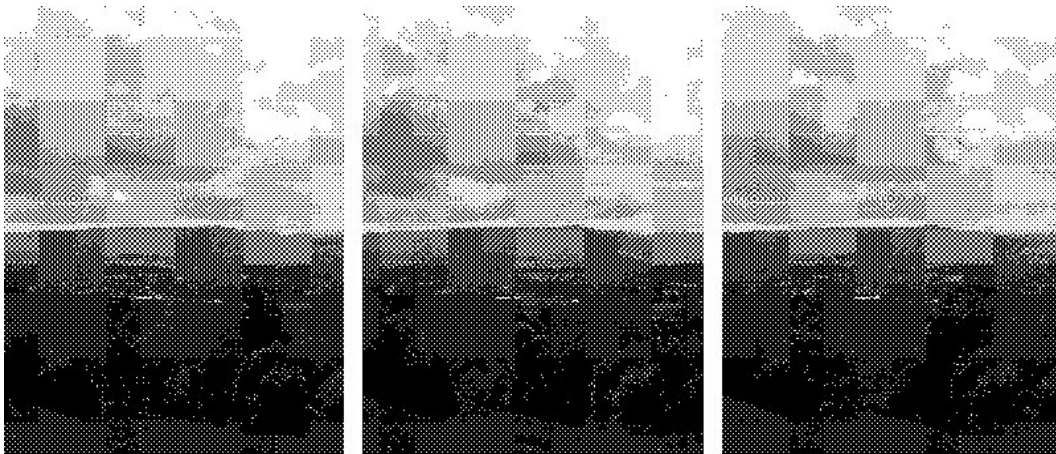
Ilené Jacobs

Ilené Jacobs' art practice involves the exploration of her "weird marriage" which investigates her relationship with the domestic through sculpture and installation. She started to view the Owd Towser cell and watch room as a strange domestic space which was home to many prisoners over a period of time. Her work alludes to both the presence and absence of human touch and the deterioration through the passage of time, drawing attention to the relationship between the interior of the space and the narratives of human interaction that surround it.

Ilené Jacobs studied Fine Art at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa and is currently based in Newcastle working towards a Master in Fine Art at Northumbria University. She has had recent exhibitions at UCA Gallery in Cape Town, Cultivaria Festival in Paarl and GalleryM in Cape Town, South Africa.



Charlotte Morgan



Charlotte Morgan works with art writing, structural propositions, archival material, moving image and events to address spatial and social conditions. Her research is particularly concerned with the interplay of history, memory and the imaginary within architectural space and the natural landscape, and the relationship between design and ideology.

Charlotte Graduated with BA (Hons) Fine Art from Sheffield Hallam University in 2007. She is co-founder of Critical Writing Collective, a network and platform for experimental writing and critical dialogue, collaborates as part of Homeland, a curatorial/research project exploring utopia and collectivity, and explores alternative educational models as part of Strategies for Free Education. She exhibited as part of Art Sheffield 2010, Life: A User's Manual and was published in RITE, a publication of experimental art writing. Charlotte is based in Sheffield and is a studio member at S1 Artspace. <http://www.charlotteamorgan.co.uk>

Rachael Parsons

Rachael Parson's practice embodies the logic of the Bricoleur, combining a methodical collecting together of her archive of obsessions, with the artist's unrestrained play in reassembling this collage of words, images and events. This approach of exploring chance processes simultaneously activates the conceptual and sensual, denotative and poetic potential of these collected works. Her curatorial practice also often explores chance, collaboration and the process of making.

Rachael received a BA in Fine Art from Queensland University of Technology in 2005 and completed her MA in 2011 which explored the potential for democratic curatorial practices within new media contexts. Recent exhibitions include a solo show at Room 60 in Brisbane and participation in Fluxfest Chicago and In a Museum Box in Sanat Fe, New Mexico. She is Director of Minute Gallery; an artist-run initiative and mobile new media space in Brisbane, Australia. <http://rachaelnp.wordpress.com/>



Tim Shore

Tim Shore's practice is concerned with the impact of technology on society and the individual, seeking to uncover and investigate its narratives and histories, embedded in the sites, places and things that surround us. Loop, his project for Th'Owd Towser Show is about the Luddites, the early nineteenth century social movement of skilled artisans who protested - through direct action including 'machine breaking' - against the changes to the textile industries of the Midlands and the North of England brought about by the onset of the industrial revolution. During the Luddite uprising of 1812-1813, Holmfirth was at the centre of Luddite activity in the West Riding of Yorkshire, with one government informant claiming that 450 men were 'twisted in', taking the Luddite Oath at Holmfirth.



Tim Shore studied animation at the Royal College of Art. His films have been screened at many international festivals, including Rotterdam, Edinburgh and Los Angeles. He won second prize at transmediale07, Berlin. Group exhibitions include; Oriel Mostyn Gallery Open, Llandudno; Recontres International, Paris; Site07, Stroud Valley Arts Spaces; Multichannel, ArtSway; Closer, Wolstenholme Projects, Liverpool. He is Head of Animation at the London College of Communication. <http://www.timshore.co.uk/>

Lower Floor: Kristin Anderson, Paul Clark & Richard Light, Alastair Cook, Angella Conte, Michael Day, Paul Edmondson, Christopher Garcia, Maggie Hall, Lefty Caligari, Marius Leneweit & Rocío Rodríguez, Lin Li, Amanda Loomes, Bob Lorrimer, Fin McMorran, Ellie Rees, Dan Wagstaff, Simon Warner, Donna Wood, Tobias Zehntner.

Kristin Anderson

Kristin Anderson is a multidisciplinary conceptual artist based in New York City and exhibiting nationally and abroad.

Communication of concept is of primary importance, and media, space and presentation are selected exclusively per project. Her work creates an oscillation between the role of the image and the role of the viewer. The intention is to make the viewer aware of their thoughts on the subject, and of their reaction to the awareness, ideally putting them in a state of mind to contemplate both.



She explores the origins, interrelations, interpretations and influences of the concepts of identity, human nature, and society via the similarities and differences in personal experiences. <http://www.kanderson.tv/>

Paul Clark & Richard Light – Outside Artists

Each coming from a background of painting, Paul and Richard's collaborative working began with the Full Circle installation in the River Kent estuary in Morecambe Bay as part of the FRED 2007 art in the landscape programme in Cumbria. They have continued to develop projects, and evolve their collaborative process. They bring together different perspectives and skills and this combination is the crucible from which their ideas and problem solving emerge. Attention to process, place and timescale has been a significant element throughout their collaboration. Projects are allowed to develop during the process of making/delivery. Each question posed in the process of 'making' requires an answer and often this can often only be found within the context of the landscape or the site-specific situation. They developed their joint practice to include land art, performance, sculpture, installation and digital art (film and sound).



Richard Light is a professional artist who lives in Kendal, Cumbria. Paul Clark is a professional artist who lives in Arnside, Cumbria. Their current art practice is in collaboration as Outside Artists. <http://www.outsideartists.co.uk/>

Alastair Cook

Alastair's film and photographic work is guided by his knowledge, skill and experience as a conservation architect. His work is rooted in place and the intrinsic connections between people, land and heritage.



Alastair Cook grew up in the south west of Scotland, trained at the Glasgow School of Art then fled the country. He returned after a dutiful spell in London and a more relaxed time in Amsterdam to follow his interests in photography, film and art. He now lives and works in Edinburgh. <http://alastaircook.com>

Angella Conte

Angella Conte is an artist who collects things. At first, she collects by looking at the objects around her; in the city and its breathing and waste; at what people leave behind them, marks on objects and cities. As the artist collects, in practice she gathers things; she takes in things, takes photos, and photos and photos. All these things she gathers, she gives them back to the world with a new status these things that were worthless suddenly have a new meaning.



Angella Conte lives and works in São Paulo, Brazil. <http://www.angellaconte.com>

Michael Day

Michael Day's practice is interdisciplinary and uses a wide range of media and technologies, including digital media, sound, installation, electronics and photography. Often, his practice positions itself between new media art and fine art, opening a conversation between the similar but often divergent approaches of these two related areas of art activity. His work is characterised by a visual economy and sense of displaced distance from the viewer, often highlighting moments of transit, stasis, solitude in space, and the passage of time.



Michael Day is a visual artist and curator based in Sheffield. Previously based in Cardiff, South Wales, he has exhibited and screened work in venues across the UK and in Europe, Mexico and the USA. <http://www.michaelday.org.uk/>

Paul Edmondson

Paul Edmondson is a conceptual artist living and working in Pendle. He has exhibited his film and video work in Japan, New York, and London. He has had several exhibitions of paintings in Spain and has received four Arts Council Awards. He is currently working on a sound/video project "Requiem For A Northern Town" of which "Canal Bridge" is part.

<http://blackwithers.blogspot.com/>



Christopher Garcia

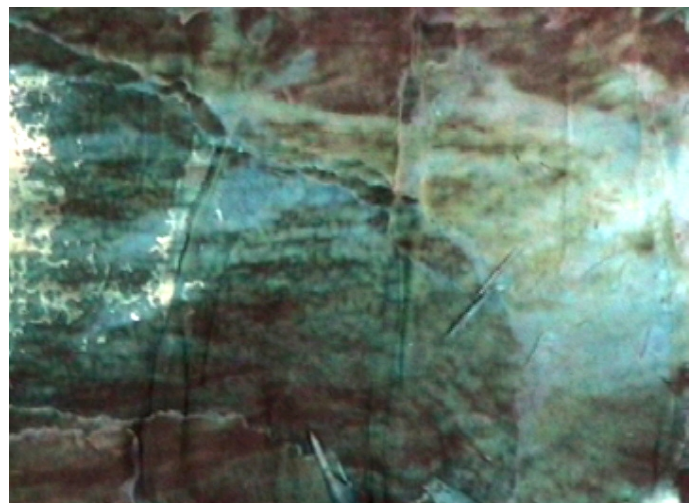
Christopher Garcia is a ceramicist, painter and film maker working in claymation/animation. His practice deals with abstracted human, animal, and imaginary figures. He draws from experiences and observations of religion, Latin culture, and caricatures of his personal thoughts.

Christopher Garcia was born in Ridgewood, New Jersey in 1968. At the age of one, his family moved to Santurce, Puerto Rico where he spent the next 17 years. He has recently had solo shows in New York, Ohio and Berlin and has had several screenings including at SXSW and the Florida Film Festival. He is currently based in New York, USA.



Maggie Hall

Maggie Hall is a multimedia artist who works predominately with video and installation. She produces work without narrative and verbal content, work which exists to be experienced, that is open to the formation of ideas and concepts. She has recently begun to merge the initial creation of her work with the final product, recreating a version of the process which intends to compress, contain and capture the initial energy and tensions revealed in creation.



Maggie studied at Northumbria University and Wimbledon College of Art. She currently lives and works in Cumbria teaching at Lakes College. Her recent exhibitions include Sedition at Tullie House in Carlisle and Fundada Artists' Film Festival in Halifax.

<http://axisweb.org/artist/maggiehall>

Lefty Caligari

The work of Lefty Caligari has a unique lexicon of filmic images and sound grown from the bed of his experiences with mental distress. Lefty's vision is an antidote to his suffering. His films allow him the mechanism to express and articulate issues bound up with his experiences of mental illness. The creative space within which to develop one's voice, one's language, is central to the supposition that "creativity is the immune system of the mind."

<http://www.artists-in-mind.org.uk/>



Marius Leneweit & Rocío Rodríguez

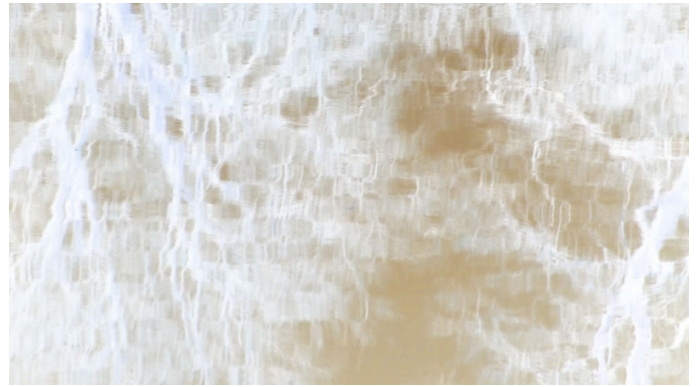
...niland (no land) by Marius Leneweit and Rocío Rodríguez is a visionary work about the adaptation and transformation of humankind to a life beneath the water surface. The work is based on themes of climate change and develop, particularly the way it has produced a grotesque notion of the sea's rising water table. The interface of air and water functions as the indicator of a climate influenced by humanity, raises questions regarding the ambivalence of the symbiosis human-environment and examines the stringent concurrence of climate change and cultural change.



gruppefisch is a collaboration formed by Marius Leneweit and Rocío Rodríguez in 2008. Marius Leneweit was born in 1975 in Hamburg, Germany and graduated from the University Lüneburg in 2006 with a Diploma in Applied Social Sciences. Rocío Rodríguez was born in 1979 Caracas, Venezuela. He studied Dance at the Escuela Ballet Arte, Caracas, Venezuela, Video at Centro de Estudios Punt Multimedia, Aula Pedagógica S.G.A.E., Barcelona, Spain and completed an MA in Digital performance from University Doncaster, UK, in 2006. <http://gruppefisch.com/>

Lin Li

Lin Li's work reflects an enduring interest in music, particularly singing, and the interactive effect of sound and visual images. The subject matter is also influenced by her cross-cultural experience and concern with the ephemeral elements of nature and the transience of human experiences.



Coming from an academic and employment background in Social Sciences and disability service, Lin Li gradually shifted vocation to Fine Art over the past ten years. Video is a medium which she has recently begun to explore. Recent exhibitions include Bath Fringe Arts Festival in 2010 and at St Andrews in the Square, Glasgow in 2011. <http://www.linli-art.com/>

Amanda Loomes

For the last ten years Amanda has been filming people at work, often in iconic places or institutions, shining a light on the unseen efforts of the people around us. In 2008 Amanda was invited to make a piece of work in response to a disused fire station in central London. After a long period of negotiation two firemen agreed to carry out a fictional search of the building whilst effectively blindfolded and wearing breathing apparatus. The resulting film, 'Looking for a reason', considers the complexity of searching when you are not sure what you are looking for.



Amanda Loomes studied at Chelsea College of Art & Design (2000-04) and completed an MA in Fine Art Painting at The Royal College of Art in 2006. Prizes include the mini green documentary award at Sheffield Doc/Fest 2007 and the Neville Burston Memorial Award, 2006. Amanda was short listed for Bloomberg New Contemporaries in 2006 and 2007. Selected recent exhibitions include *Artists In Residence, Dorking* (2010), *The London Group*, (2010), *The Free Art Fair*, London (2009), *Multichannel, ArtSway*, (2008), and *Breathing Space: In response to 1, Chiltern Street*, (2008). In 2010 Amanda received an Arts Council England Award for a collaborative project in her hometown in Surrey. <http://www.amandaloomes.net/>

Bob Lorrimer

A dry fly fisherman reflects upon his childhood memories of the stunning River Wye which meanders between Bakewell and Rowersley, Derbyshire.

Fin McMorran

The Sea is a short story of longing and the power of dreams. Annie's life is a dull round of tea, cake, and looking after Derek, whilst her friend Bea (single, tubby and unabashed), goes off round the world "to see the fjords." While Bea explores rivers, lakes and beaches, Annie stays home, overlooking the sea, but not brave enough to venture onto it and consoling herself with Bea's postcards and with cake. More and more cake. While Derek witters on, oblivious, Annie gets gradually fatter and fatter until the cake works its freeing magic...



Fin McMorran studied painting at Sheffield Hallam and later moved into multimedia. Following a Practice-based PhD in interactive painting at Northumbria, she now works in animated digital paintings, intended for viewing on the computer monitor or projection screen. Fin's work investigates the computer as a visual medium, and the character of the painted and drawn marks it produces. She has tried to develop an organic style of animation, developing as an open-ended process as a response to a narrative idea - and in contrast to the normally pre-planned and storyboarded nature of computer animation. Fin is a lecturer in Media (and occasionally fine art) at Teesside University with an interest in narrative, sheds, and the surreal edge of human stories. <http://www.finmcmorran.co.uk/>

Ellie Rees

Shot on location in Connecticut, Ellie Rees' work was inspired by the romanticised suicide of Virginia Woolf. It develops an interest in heroines from film, opera and literature, particularly in relation to contemporary ideas of romantic relationships. It is part of a body of work influenced by nineteenth century female literature and Woolf's essay A Room of One's Own.



Ellie studied at Central St. Martins College of Art and Design and Winchester School of Art. She currently lives and works in London where she is an Associate Lecturer at Byam Shaw School of Art, Central St. Martins College of Art and Design. Since 2001 Ellie has been exhibiting and performing in the UK and internationally at various galleries and museums, most notably The Neuberger Museum of Art, New York; Tate Modern, London and El Museo de Arte Contemporaneo, Caracas, Venezuela. <http://www.ellierees.co.uk/>

Dan Wagstaffe

'This is my house' says Carl Leighton (Paul Joseph). He's talking about life in prison where he's serving nine months for theft. This is Carl's seventh jail term in as many years. This fictional drama takes us on a journey through two very different sentence options given by a magistrate. Carl is relaxed and imaginative in the confines of a prison cell; a Community Payback sentence is his worst nightmare. Many months spent living in the safe haven of a prison routine have been replaced by a need for personal responsibility, not to mention payback for his crime.

Dan Wagstaffe (born 1979) is a British author and filmmaker. Debut novel 'Honey Rich' published in 2009. He also produced, wrote and directed the short film 'Bang Up Or Pay Back?' in 2010 (viewable on You Tube). My writing style is avant-garde and philosophical (influenced by novelists such as John King and Michel Houellebecq) although I'd say I'm predominantly a social commentator. As a film maker, I lean towards the Ken Loach school of gritty social realism. I believe that 'in-yer-face' drama, although a theatrical term is important because it provokes an audience and raises debate which is healthy. Experiential storytelling which is a combination of real people and actors is probably the next step, but it does mean that you lose a certain degree of creative control which is risky. However, this is what might be needed when investigating the complete truth which underpins a specific subject matter.

<http://www.danwagstaffe.co.uk/>



Simon Warner

With a background in still photography, I have become increasingly interested in digital video's affinity with movement. Nature is mobile, and life speeds up the more closely one examines it. There is scope for landscape art that engages with this energy, and shows us not the view but the activity.

Simon Warner's projects include Confluence in the North Devon Biosphere Reserve, The Arts of Place in City Park, Bradford, and solo exhibitions at Huddersfield Arts Gallery, Impressions Gallery and the Brontë Parsonage Museum.

<http://simonwarner.co.uk/>



Donna Wood

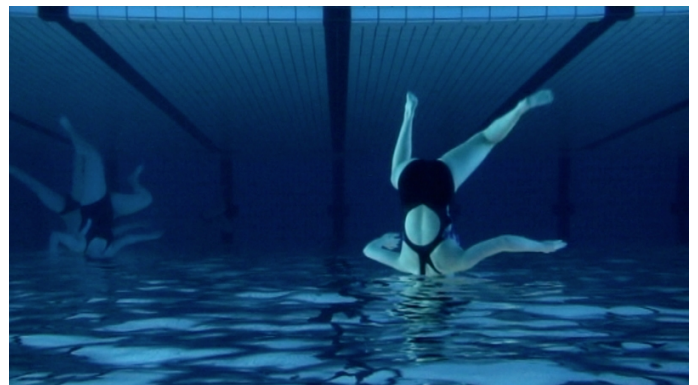
Donna Wood is a filmmaker and video artist, primarily interested in experimenting with and subverting the documentary form. She has recently been combining her films with sculptural forms and projection to create immersive video installations.



Donna has lived in Holmfirth for just over a year and is a freelance filmmaker. Having worked in TV production as a researcher and associate producer for about 9 years on shows such as 'Crimewatch' and 'Come Dine With Me', Donna decided to go back to art school and study an Art Foundation at Manchester Metropolitan University, which she has just completed. As well as studying Donna has been commissioned to direct two documentaries for Kirklees Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Tobias Zehntner

Tobias Zehntner is interested in human and mechanical movement in time and space and has a fascination with the act of looking in combination with the moving image. Through a process of observing and framing, he is searching for poetry in the everyday, which leads to minimalist studies of the borderland between the artificial and the real. A contemplative view on mundane and urban environment often reveals an appeal to modernist aesthetics and compositions.



Tobias Zehntner was born in 1983 near Berne, Switzerland and currently lives and works in London. He studied at The Danish Art Photography School in Copenhagen, Denmark and completes his BA (Hons) Art Practice at Goldsmiths in 2011. Tobias recently produced a solo show for LightWall, London and participated lately in exhibitions and screenings in Denmark, UK and Greece.

<http://www.tobiaszehntner.com/>