

“Perth’s Threshold artspace shows no signs of watering down its bold remit in programming stunning and inspiring artwork” Scotland on Sunday

THRESHOLD
artspace

INSTANT LIGHT Sheila Borthwick

The first solo exhibition in a public institution by this Glasgow-born Perth-based artist
Part of Horsecross Arts **Collect + Support** initiative for collectable contemporary art
Curated by Iliyana Nedkova

14 Nov 09 – 20 Mar 10

free exhibition guide

FREE EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Brunch Preview: Sat 14 Nov 09 11am-1pm. **RSVP** inedkova@horsecross.co.uk

Curator’s guided tours: By prior arrangement through e-mailing inedkova@horsecross.co.uk

Threshold artspace YouTube Channel: Polaroid news reports: www.youtube.com/Thresholdartspace

The appeal of Polaroid is in its ‘instant results’. The magic of seeing the image develop in my hand never ceases to inspire me and the films have their unique feeling and colouring. Sheila Borthwick

Instant Light. The Magic of Polaroid is the culmination of Sheila Borthwick’s two year long Polaroid project, especially commissioned for the Threshold artspace, Perth Theatre. Captured by the artist on her journeys from the fishing villages of East Scotland via Dungeness in Kent to the radiant Venetian Lagoon – these are landscapes extraordinaire. They are a homage to the Russian Constructivists’ photomontage innovation (from 1919) and Walker Evans’s pioneering artist’s Polaroids Untitled (1974). The selected works show Borthwick’s fascination with text and texture; colour and light; with the enigma of abandoned spaces and obsolete objects. Perhaps, this is the artist’s nod to the cryptic Zeno map and narrative providing one of the earliest records connecting Scotland and Venice.

Compositions of found objects like glassware or the artist’s own collection of discarded letterpress numbers provide a dramatic entry to the exhibition (see Bar Stools Area marked as 1) only to reappear in disguise in her Polaroid collages in the Mirrorball area (9). The study of light streaming on the floor of the French Pavilion at Venice Biennale’s Giardini provokes mixed feelings of loss, freedom and excitement (1). Contingent on the seriality of a limited edition, they are large-scale prints derived from unique Polaroids each. Playing on the traits of the traveller’s picture album, the artist take us on a journey of memory fragments. It is what we choose to photograph and not only the memorials we choose to erect, which brings us a sense of shared memory of civilisation.

Burano – the isles in the northern end of the Venetian Lagoon – often steal the show in Borthwick’s project (See areas 1, 3, 7). Burano seems to inspire the riot of colours in the initial Polaroids and the resulting prints. Perhaps the artist draws inspiration from the lacework of Burano’s differently coloured houses, reminiscent of the beach huts (and the old colour bottles) in the quintessentially English resort town of Southwold, which the artist has been frequenting with her Polaroid cameras. Or rather from the layers of intertwined history of sea explorers as revived in John Calcutt’s essay *Story* here www.scotlandandvenice.com/archived/03/zenomap.php

Polaroid’s cameras and instant films were both developed by Edwin Land in the late 1940s, reportedly from his daughter’s asking ‘Why can’t I see them now?’ It is this rare magic which allows us to be both maker of and witness to the transformation of a single moment into a single image, that kept artists like Sheila Borthwick going even when the company ceased production and the medium of their choice edged closer into the site of its own obsolescence, and invariably, nostalgia. (See Area 5 celebrating the artist’s own tools – Polaroid cameras 680SE and SX70, as well as the Polaroid film). To mark Polaroid’s comeback as part of her show Borthwick also selected one of the news reports about **The Impossible Project** which inspired Polaroid to re-launch the Instant Camera. *Polaroid’s Second Act* is showing on the wall-mounted flat screen in the artspace while we have created a dedicated YouTube playlist with more reports here www.youtube.com/Thresholdartspace

A range of works which function as cropped fragments of memory are given another lease of post-Polaroid life as enlarged and editioned prints (8). Circles and squares, light and shadow, black and white; and Borthwick’s signature random numbers – all form part of the artist’s palette. A striking addition is the only human portrait (*Dal 24*) which at closer view appears to be an image of printed matter – a ripped off poster as a reminder of the fading Venetian glamour. The exhibition rounds off (9) with the same intensity, honesty and precision it starts with. The finale is comprised of unique Polaroids, occasional prints and sometimes hand-finished in paint. These works could be viewed as Borthwick’s tribute to the originators of the photomontage and collage in the 1920s – Alexander Rodchenko and Laszlo Moholy-Nagy – who also pioneered the abstract use of light in art and architecture. The grain of each Polaroid, sometimes a burnished auburn glow and other times a classic monochrome, renders each image in the exhibition into a wistful and painterly abstraction of the concrete. Carefully documenting the elusive moment of the journey in the iconic Polaroid frame, Borthwick’s works could be stored later to become nostalgia - the memory of travel. The show creates its own classification system, and builds up a sequence of singular or grouped images suggesting another zone divorced from the travel’s initial context and condition. **Iliyana Nedkova**

Also showing: CINEMATIC | various Portuguese artists | the first in a five-part series of exhibitions and events Portuguese leaves at the artspace at Perth Concert Hall: Hill Street, Perth PH1 5HZ Also showing: Artists’ limited editions | SUSAN COLLINS and MAREK STYCZEN at the artspace at Perth Theatre Also showing: a host of works by international artists on the Threshold artspace website and YouTube Channel | www.horsecross.co.uk/about/threshold-artspace Also showing: Game Flags (2009) by VUK COSIC sited on the 3 banners around the Perth Concert Hall, which houses the Threshold artspace

Threshold artspace | Perth Theatre | Horsecross | 185 High Street | Perth PH1 5UW UK
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Open Monday to
 on late on
 FREE to visit

Saturday 10am - 5pm
 performance evenings
 FUN to experience

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All 64 exhibited works are available to purchase only through Horsecross new initiative **Collect + Support** encouraging you to collect contemporary art while supporting our exhibition programme featuring Perthshire-based artists. For sales inquiries please contact the artist direct at 0044 (0) 1738 442410 or 0044 (0) 7769 953 282 or alan@aborthwick.fsnet.co.uk or the curator at inedkova@horsecross.co.uk. All prices quoted below are exclusive of delivery charges.

1 > Bar Stools Area

Yellow & Green | 3 | Biennial Light 2 | Biennial Light 1
 4 sets of 9 unique Polaroids each £300 per framed and signed set

2 > Brown Wall Area

Torn | Maximum | 24000 | Payload | Anfit
 5 archival Inkjet prints on Lyson 310g paper from unique Polaroid each. Edition of 5 each
 £250 per framed and signed print Print ID Numbers 4 | 33 | 34 | 2 | 36

3 > Main Cafe Wall Area

Cluster 1 > RX 442 | RX 310 | RX 1066 Cluster 2 > Red Ring | Red, White & Blue | Crown | 32 | 132 | Traces 1 | Confined Space | Looking Out | Panther Cluster 3 > Burano Lumini 1 | Burano Lumini 2 | Burano Lumini 3 | 21640 | 107 | 797 | 8 1/2 | Composition 1 | Bureau Cluster 4 > Red 2 | Venetian 2 | 824
 4 clusters of 3 or 9 individual and unique Polaroids each. Titles run from top to bottom and left to right
 £100 per framed and signed individual work

4 > Additional Cafe Wall Area

Composition 1 | Z | 209 | Black & Yellow
 4 archival Inkjet prints on Lyson 310g paper from unique Polaroid each. Edition of 5 each
 £250 per framed and signed print | Print ID Numbers 3 | 18 | 3 | 15

5 > Opposite Screen Wall Area

Media of Choice | A set of 9 unique Polaroids £300 per framed and signed set

6 > Screen Wall Area

Polaroid's Second Act | a documentary | 2 min 34 sec showing on a loop

7 > Wall along stairs up to Mezzanine

Spirit 1 | Burano Lumini 4 | Spirit 2 | Orange | Sea
 5 archival Inkjet prints on Lyson 310g paper from unique Polaroid each | Edition of 5 each
 £250 per framed and signed print | Print ID Numbers 53 | 136 | 75 | 139 | 21

8 > Walls on Mezzanine Level

Green | Shadow Lines 2 | Black Holes 2 | Sphere 1 | White Circle | Shadow Lines | 11 | Dal 24 | 5
 9 archival Inkjet prints on Lyson 310g paper from unique Polaroid each. Edition of 5 each. Titles run from left to right. £250 per framed and signed print | Print ID Numbers 131 | 145 | 228 | 208 | 244 | 129 | 130 | 2 | 155

9 > Walls in Mirrorball area

Horse | 2 | Traces of Light | Circles of Green | Composition 3 | Fire | Composition 4 | Red, Black & Blue | Red & Blue | Composition 2 | 4 | Titles run from left to right
 1 photograph +11 collages of occasional archival Inkjet print on Lyson 310g paper, hand-finished letterpress prints and up to 35 unique Polaroids at a time | From £300 to £500 per framed and signed collage except Horse: £150 per framed and signed print. Edition of 25

Also showing at
Collect + Support
> Walls above sofa area upon arrival

Glenlandia. The Four Seasons (2006) : 26 May 2006, 05:18 | 6 July 2006, 18:34 | 2 Nov 2005, 17:58 | 31 Dec 2005, 23:02
 Susan Collins Born 1964 in London where she lives and works

£150 each or £500 for a portfolio of 4 unframed artworks | A set of 4 inkjet prints on archival matte paper | Limited edition: 20 + 2 Artist's Proofs each. Prices exclusive of VAT and delivery charges.

Acres Wild Triptych (2009) : Sound of Raasay (2008) | Drumadoon (2008) | Glow, Western Ross (2007)
 Marek Styczen Born 1976 in Elblag, Poland. Lives and works in Perth

£100 each or £200 for a portfolio of 3 artworks | A set of 3 inkjet prints on archival double weight paper mounted on aluminium | Limited edition: 5 + 2 Artist's Proofs each. Prices exclusive of VAT and delivery charges.

Pick up your **free collector's guide** from the wall pocket beside the artworks in the artspace or download it from www.horsecross.co.uk/about/threshold-artspace

Check out Read More: Horsecross own journal for critical writing and in-depth analysis of contemporary art. Latest issues feature contributing writers Jonathon Blackwood, Angela Dimitrakaki, Piotr Krzajewski and November Paynter. FREE to download | ISSN 1755-0866 | www.horsecross.co.uk

Instant Light. The Magic of Polaroid is produced by the artist, curator and Horsecross for Threshold artspace as part of the Collect + Support initiative.

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