

14 october – 22 december 2006

firstsite

residue

a small amount of something that remains after the main part has gone...

Residue is a programme of independent commissions, projects, performances, residencies and events marking firstsite's departure from the Minorities Art Gallery after ten years. Over ten weeks, sixteen artists are participating in Residue; reflecting on firstsite's particular history, the preceding history of the Minorities, or exploring more abstract metaphors that consider our relationship to shared experience, memory and place. The programme will include a range of responses: direct site-specific and static outcomes, alongside more active and abstract interpretations. Residue will give a different experience to visitors each day, with evolving projects and changing artists.

Douglas Atfield

12 October – 18 November 2006, Garden Café

Douglas Atfield has been documenting exhibitions and offsite work at firstsite for nearly 10 years. He meticulously spends time with each show to capture the essence of the work; when photographing an event or workshop he equally captures a feeling of energy and activity. This is a rare opportunity to see a collection of images together, illustrating his unique insight into the organisation and contribution to it.

Catherine Bertola *The Property of Two Gentlemen*

14 October – 18 November 2006, Galleries 1–4

Catherine Bertola's practice brings the past to life by exploring the traces we leave behind for potential narratives. Through subtle interventions and material choices, she creates site-specific works that reference particular histories. The artist has spent time researching the domestic life of the Minories; focusing on its occupants in the late 1700s, the brothers Thomas and James Boggis. In the former salon, her installation references these inhabitants; the space appears as though untouched since their deaths. A flocked wallpaper pattern created from dust belonging to the building covers the walls, presented alongside drawings of their property, advertised as an auction. In another body of work the artist presents 'prickings' inspired by the patterns found on mass-produced lace lingerie; by returning to a process traditionally used in hand-lacemaking, Bertola remembers a lost moment of human activity.

Sandra Flower *2 week residency*

14 – 28 October 2006, Gallery 5 and Garden

Sandra Flower has been invited to make a series of new objects inspired by the previous domestic life of the Minories building. Flower's practice explores our growing obsession with design over functionality in everyday objects. She intends to work with discarded items found in the garden; abandoned gates, an old roller, forgotten tools. These will undergo a process of flocking before being repositioned outside; a subtle reference to Thomas Boggis who made his fortune as a bay maker (working with woollen cloth).

Bryony Graham *Residency and education activity*

20 November – 22 December 2006, Education Space

Bryony Graham's residency sees a new approach evolving within firstsite's education programme, with the artist combining her studio with the 'education space'. Visitors are welcome to drop-in and work with her at any time. Graham's practice is concerned with 'seepage', and working in this experimental environment should aid her to make new pieces from old things, feelings and experiences. The artist will explore the site of firstsite's new building and the Minories; she intends to collect from contrasting areas whilst responding to, absorbing and gathering ideas and materials.

Cassie Howard *Codes of Living*

14 October – 11 November 2006, Galleries 6, 7 and the Folly

Cassie Howard works with absence; she paints empty chairs 'in conversation' and projects images of vacant interiors. For firstsite, Howard has created a new commission in the galleries that originally belonged to number 73 High Street, Colchester; using dolls house furniture projected life-size she suggests a domestic space. These rooms were bought in the 1970s and added to the neighbouring Minories building. Howard's projections manipulate scale, and offer an ageless description of the gallery as a home. In her ongoing series of paintings, she also plays with suggestion, using her pairs of chairs to indicate potential or lost relationships, narratives and inhabitants.

Clare Iles *2 week residency*

13–25 November 2006, Gallery 5

Clare Iles had a solo exhibition at firstsite in 2004, in which she explored the redevelopments of the Hythe area and its effect on the gypsy community that once inhabited it. Since then she has continued to explore such spaces and people, recently visiting India. Iles creates temporary sculptures from the discarded objects and items she finds, that then suggest momentary shelters or homes. During her residency Iles will use objects and material found in and around the Minories to make a structure to live in; searching the many attics and cellars to explore the debris produced over the years.

Jorge Macchi and Edgardo Rudnitzky *Twilight*

25 November – 22 December 2006, Gallery 1

Working with composer Edgardo Rudnitzky, artist Jorge Macchi has created a new installation for firstsite that combines music, light and performance. A light bulb crosses the space, dimming as it moves until completely dark by the end. At the same time a musical score plays, responding to the changing light. The music for *Twilight* was performed on a glass harmonica on 25 November within the room at firstsite; the installation that exists after being formed from the residual sounds recorded; suggestive of time passing and fading out. This is a timed performance, presented every hour on the hour Monday – Saturday 10am–5pm.

An accompanying installation by Jorge Macchi and Edgardo Rudnitzky, *The Singers' Room*, is exhibited at the University Gallery, University of Essex, 20 November – 16 December 2006.

In collaboration with the AHRC research centre for studies of surrealism and its legacies.