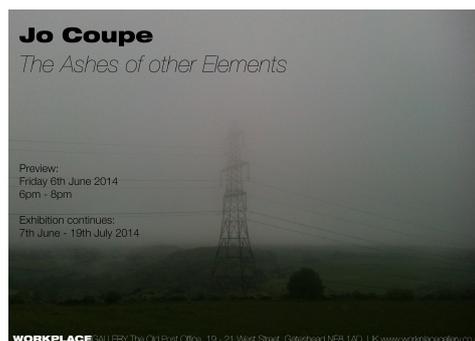


Jo Coupe

The Ashes of other Elements

Preview:
6pm – 8pm Friday 6th June 2014

7th June – 19th July 2014
Tuesday – Saturday
11am – 5pm or by appointment



Workplace Gallery is delighted to present our second exhibition of new work by Jo Coupe.

After the rain is an installation that presents an audio recording made by Coupe alongside the means of its making. Recorded in Chopwell Woods in West Gateshead, *After the rain* documents the sounds emitted from a series of high voltage power lines traversing the woodland, which are loudest when the air around the lines is damp. The piece was recorded with provisionally assembled parabolic microphones, fashioned from lapel microphones and domestic objects such as umbrellas, bowls, lampshades, woks, paint rollers, and decorators' poles. Coupe presents a collection of these objects stood vertically within the gallery space, a sinister group pointing collectively out of the space like banks of satellite dishes or observatories tracking some distant and unknown activity.

The sounds in the space has a powerful effect due to both the physicality of the low frequency buzz and hum, and also because of our familiarity with the experience of being near such structures and the massive voltage and danger of death that they imply.

This rendering of the sublime is put in contrast by the contingent sounds of the world around; a bee buzzing around the microphone, an aeroplane in the distance, far away cars and sporadic birdsong bring back an unhurried sense of pastoral beauty, creating an atmospheric fog of sound in the gallery space, to be felt as well as heard.

Cameo is a new sculptural wall piece shown in the adjacent gallery. In the centre of the wall is a festooning accumulation of gold chain and costume jewellery that spills and hangs down to the floor, with a gold plated earring subtly twitching and spinning as they are caught in an invisible electromagnetic field. The piece is part of an on-going body of work that explores the personal connections we have to objects and the significance and memories that we attach to them. *Cameo* is informed by research into Louisiana Voodoo and Haitian Vodou, where the symbolic nature of objects and materials is paramount, serving as a route to the spirit world.

'What I find interesting about this idea is that art often performs the same function, investing objects with power beyond the material, almost like casting a spell. I want to explore the mechanisms we use to make this evident.' Jo Coupe, 2014

Jo Coupe was born in 1975 and studied Fine Art at Newcastle University and at Goldsmiths College, London. Previous exhibitions include: *Easy does it* Supercollider, Blackpool; *Pertaining to Things Natural...* Chelsea Physic Garden, London; *An Archaeology 176*, London; *Fade Away And Radiate*, Aspex Gallery, Portsmouth; *Tatton Park Biennial, Give and Take* at Firstsite, Colchester, *You Shall Know Our Velocity* at BALTIC, Gateshead. She lives and works in Gateshead, UK.

Kindly supported by

