

Press release: For immediate release
2 February 2016

JERWOOD/FVU AWARDS



Alice May Williams, 2016
Dream City - More, Better, Sooner



Karen Kramer, 2016
The Eye That Articulates Belongs on Land

Winners of Jerwood/FVU Awards 2016: ‘Borrowed Time’ unveil new moving-image works

9 March - 24 April 2016 at Jerwood Space, London
28 May - 10 July 2016 at CCA, Glasgow

The Jerwood/FVU Awards 2016 exhibition ‘Borrowed Time’ will premiere two moving-image works by selected artists Karen Kramer and Alice May Williams. These significant new films have been developed following the award of £20,000 to each artist last year from Jerwood Charitable Foundation and FVU. After its debut at Jerwood Space, London from 9 March to 24 April 2016, the show will travel to CCA, Glasgow from 28 May to 10 July 2016.

The artists’ works respond in different ways to the theme of ‘Borrowed Time’, with its allusion to escalating levels of personal and national debt and a wider feeling of economic unease or ecological threat caused by our exploitation of natural resources and the impact it has on the environment. The more we look to keep ourselves afloat in the present by deferring the costs to the future, the more we are reminded of how unsustainable this is.

Both artists focus their explorations of the theme on the legacy of power stations. While Williams spotlights the speculative urban development that is taking place in and around London’s Battersea Power Station, Kramer considers the landscape around the Fukushima nuclear reactor as a symbol of man’s complex interaction with the natural world. FVU has worked closely with the artists, overseeing the development of the films over the 10-month production period.

***The Eye That Articulates Belongs on Land* by Karen Kramer**

Shot in Shiretoko National Park in the far north of Japan and around the stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear reactor, Karen Kramer’s *The Eye That Articulates Belongs on Land* explores the ‘re-wilding’ of the landscape around the plant since particular areas became off-limits to human access. A symbol of mankind’s capacity to blight the natural environment, and a rallying point for worldwide ecological protest,

Fukushima has also been a useful test-case of the efficacy (or otherwise) of retrospective damage limitation. Almost five years on from the first radioactive leaks, scientists are starting to be able to better evaluate the effects of Japan's clean-up programme, while other commentators have been moved to remark on nature's own ability to repair and re-establish itself.

Avoiding romantic notions about the power of nature as a force for recovery or transformation, Kramer's film, with its apparent contrasts between the pristine environment of Shiretoko and the blasted wilderness of Fukushima, is a reminder of how our reading of the landscape is deeply subjective, and prone to being clouded by myth, or partial knowledge. In this, as well as considering a specifically Japanese response to nuclear disaster and airborne contagion, Kramer mobilises figures from Japanese culture and mythology. Prominent among these is the figure of the fox: shape-shifting, quixotic, cunning; queering our first impressions of what is in front of us, alerting us that things are not always what they seem.

***Dream City - More, Better, Sooner* by Alice May Williams**

Dream City - More, Better, Sooner is a meditation on the changing face of London's landmark Battersea Power Station – a smokestack energy colossus of yesteryear now rapidly transforming into a lifestyle playground of tomorrow. Combining archive footage of the building in its industrial heyday with computer-generated projections of what it may soon become, Williams' film attempts to concentrate our attention on the present moment. Reflecting the language of the philosophy of mindfulness, an extended monologue warns of the temptation of succumbing to memories of the past, and of the distractions of speculations about the future, while at the same time undermining its heightened focus on the here-and-now, a key principle of mindfulness. It is unclear from where or whom these words originate. As the images roll by, Williams reminds us that Battersea's marshy riverside location has frequently been a site of flux and transformation; its recent history of power generation paralleled by the various fairgrounds and expos that have happened (or been proposed) near this spot – places of immersion and convergence, as well as places of escape.

The two winning artists were selected from over 250 applications by a panel comprising: Steven Bode, Director of Film and Video Umbrella; Shonagh Manson, Director of Jerwood Charitable Foundation; Francis McKee, Director of CCA, Glasgow; Marianna Simnett, winner of the Jerwood/FVU Awards 2015; and Sam Thorne, departing Artistic Director of Tate St Ives who takes up the role of Director of Nottingham Contemporary in early 2016.

On the selection process, panellist Sam Thorne commented:

"I was thrilled to be on the selection panel for the Jerwood/FVU Awards 2016. The submitted work was as strong as it was varied. It made me excited for the future of moving-image work in the UK – a future that these Awards have already done so much to support. I was particularly impressed by Karen Kramer's extraordinary use of sound and text, and by Alice May Williams' playful exploration of online imagery."

Jerwood/FVU Awards 2017: Call for Entries

The call for entries for the Jerwood/FVU Awards 2017 is open until 11 March 2016, with the theme and title 'Neither One Thing or Another'. Please refer to JerwoodFVUawards.com for further details and to apply.

JerwoodFVUawards.com | [#JerwoodFVUawards](https://twitter.com/JerwoodFVUawards)

- Ends -

For further information on the Jerwood/FVU Awards, please contact

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Project credit

The Jerwood/FVU Awards are a collaboration between Jerwood Charitable Foundation and FVU, in association with CCA, Glasgow and University of East London. With additional support from The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation. FVU is supported by Arts Council England.

Listing Details

Title: Jerwood/FVU Awards 2016: Borrowed Time

Website: jerwoodfvuawards.com

Entry: Free

1st Exhibition at Jerwood Space in London

Dates: 9 March to 24 April 2016

Address: Jerwood Space, 171 Union Street, London SE1 0LN

Times: Monday – Friday 10am – 5pm, Saturday & Sunday 10am – 3pm

2nd Exhibition at CCA in Glasgow

Dates: 28 May to 10 July 2016 at CCA, Glasgow

Address: CCA, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 3JD

Times: Tuesday – Saturday 11am - 6pm, Sunday 12noon - 6pm

Artist's biographies

Karen Kramer graduated with a BFA from Parsons School of Design, New York, in 2003 subsequently working in graphic design. In 2013 Kramer made a shift in her career completing the MFA Fine Art at Goldsmiths, University of London. She has since exhibited internationally.

Selected screenings and exhibitions include: The Gallery Apart, Rome, 2014; Oyoyo, Sapporo, Japan, 2014; Czech Galleries, Prague, 2014; 1333 Minna, San Francisco, 2014; Arti et Amicitiae, Amsterdam, 2013; Zwarte Zaal, Belgium, 2013; Victoria Art Centre, Romania, 2013; Lombard Method, Birmingham, 2013; and Tenderpixel, London, 2013. In 2013 Kramer was selected for the Startpoint: Prize for Emerging Artists at DOX Centre for Contemporary Art, Prague, Czech Republic.

Alice May Williams graduated from her BA (Hons) Fine Art Painting at Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton in 2007, and subsequently from her MFA Fine Art at Goldsmiths, University of London in 2014.

Selected screenings, solo and group exhibitions include: Jerwood Project Space, London, 2015; Collyer Bristow, London, 2015; Peninsula Arts, Plymouth, 2015; TAP, Southend, 2014; Sub Cell, Brighton, 2014; Tenderflix, ICA, London, 2014; Catalyst Arts, Belfast, 2014; Bermondsey Project Space, London, 2014; and Bargate Monument Gallery, Southampton, 2009. Her work *Who is the We that We Become* is included in Goldsmiths Collections, London.

About Jerwood/FVU Awards

The Jerwood/FVU Awards are a major annual opportunity for moving-image artists in the first five years of their practice. The open application programme invites artists to make proposals for ambitious new works, two of which are selected each year by a panel of experts. The selected artists are given a £20,000 award to create the proposed work over a 10-month period. Each recipient also receives full production support from FVU, as well as access to the extensive moving-image facilities of University of East London, School of Arts and Digital Industries. In 2016 finished works will be exhibited at Jerwood Space, London, and at CCA: Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow (CCA).

A distinguishing feature of the Awards is their prominent curatorial theme, which changes each year. Timely, but always future facing, this theme provides a framework that applicants are invited to respond to, lending the project a wider contemporary resonance.

Jerwood/FVU Awards so far

2016 – ‘Borrowed Time’

Winners: Karen Kramer and Alice May Williams

2015 – ‘What Will They See of Me?’

Winners: Lucy Clout and Marianna Simnett

Shortlist: Kate Cooper and Anne Haaning

2013 – ‘Tomorrow Never Knows’

Winners: Ed Atkins and Naheed Raza

Shortlist: Emma Hart and Corin Sworn

Film and Video Umbrella commissions, curates, produces and presents artists’ moving-image works that are staged in collaboration with galleries and other cultural partners. Since the late 1980s, FVU has been at the forefront of this vibrant and expanding area of practice, promoting innovation through its support of some of the most exciting figures on the contemporary scene. During this time, the organisation has commissioned and produced nearly 200 different artists’ projects, ranging from ambitious multi-screen installations to shorter film and video pieces, as well as numerous online commissions. fvu.co.uk

Jerwood Charitable Foundation is dedicated to imaginative and responsible revenue funding of the arts, supporting artists to develop and grow at important stages in their careers. It works with artists across art forms, from dance and theatre to literature, music and the visual arts. jerwoodcharitablefoundation.org

Jerwood Visual Arts is a national programme supporting visual arts practice, through which Jerwood Charitable Foundation works with early career artists to commission and present new work. Artist opportunities run throughout the year alongside a programme of related exhibitions, events and commissioned writing taking place online, in London and across the UK. jerwoodvisualarts.org

CCA: Centre for Contemporary Arts is Glasgow’s hub for creative activity. The building is steeped in history and the organisation has played a key role in the cultural life of the city for decades. CCA’s year-round programme includes cutting-edge exhibitions, film, music, literature, spoken word, festivals, Gaelic language events and much more. CCA also provides residencies for artists in the on-site Creative Lab space, as well as working internationally with residencies in Norway and Quebec. CCA curates six major exhibitions a year, presenting national and international contemporary artists, and is home to Intermedia Gallery which showcases emerging artists. cca-glasgow.com

University of East London, School of Arts and Digital Industries' Moving Image Research Centre is a flagship research and production facility with large black box studio, which provides a platform for developing, making, presenting and discussing the work of UK-based artists, filmmakers, scholars and partner organisations. The Centre offers state of the art production facilities and a vibrant context for research. uel.ac.uk/mirc

JERWOOD CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



CCA: Centre for Contemporary Arts

