

BREATH

Helen Pynor

5th May - 2nd July 2011

Private View Thursday 5th May 2011, 6 to 9 pm

GV Art Gallery, 49 Chiltern Street, Marylebone, London W1U 6LY



Liquid Ground 1 (detail), 2010, C-type photographic print, face mounted on glass, 160 x 110 cm

GV Art presents *Breath* by award winning Australian artist Helen Pynor. Pynor's new body of work is a captivating and powerful portrayal of the interior of the human body, introducing a visual language that is at once anatomically explicit and yet conveys a tenderness and regard for her subject matter that is refreshing, surprising and disturbing in the context of the body's interior. The works offer new and unexpected ways to view and relate to our body's interior which remains a largely unexplored and somewhat frightening domain for many of us.

The unlikely starting point for this body of work was research Pynor undertook into incidents of accidental drowning in the Thames, inspired by her first year in London in 2009-2010 which was spent working by the river. Beguiled by the river's shifting tides and lethal currents, she researched some of the thousands of recorded cases of accidental drowning in the river, from incidents involving hundreds of victims drowned in mass disasters through to those in which a lone victim met their end.

A highlight of the exhibition will be *Liquid Ground*, a series of sumptuously produced, large-scale photographic images which depict languid, water-buoyed garments with bodily organs drifting out through diaphanous openings. Pynor shakes her audience by adding unexpected references to the individual histories of the organs she depicts, transforming anonymous representations of the body's interior into those replete with the richness of personal and cultural story.

Liquid Ground offers a challenge to dominant modes of presenting the body's interior, by rejecting the celebration of gore and horror, and likewise challenging the clinical neutrality sought within medical discourse. Despite the potential for morbidity in the subject matter, the works become strangely compelling evocations of our visceral fragility and the entwined nature of our biological and cultural selves.

In homage to the starting point for *Breath* the exhibition includes a series of framed, hand-cut Ordnance survey maps of the tidal reaches of the Thames. All but waterways and roads are meticulously dissected away, with autopsy-like precision, to leave delicate tracings that begin to resemble an obtuse map of the circulatory and gastro-intestinal structures of the body.

For press enquiries and images, contact:
GV Art via media@gvart.co.uk
or call 020 8408 9800

Please see image sheet attached.

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Helen Pynor gained a BSc in Biology at Macquarie University, a BVA in Photography and Sculpture at Sydney College of the Arts, The University of Sydney, and a PhD at Sydney College of Arts, The University of Sydney. Her practice has included exhibitions, residencies and public art commissions in Australia, Paris, Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Hong Kong. Her awards include the 2009 RBS Emerging Artist Award and the 2008 Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award. She has been the recipient of a number of Australia Council for the Arts grants in recent years and is currently working on a major project exploring organ transplantation.

GV Art is a contemporary art gallery which aims to explore and acknowledge the inter-relationship between art and science, and how the areas cross over and inform one another. The gallery produces exhibitions and events that create a dialogue focused on how modern man interprets and understands the advances in both areas and how an overlap in the technological and the creative, the medical and the historical are paving the way for new aesthetic sensibilities to develop.

VISITOR INFORMATION

GV Art, 49 Chiltern Street
London W1U 6LY nearest tube Baker Street
Tel: 020 8408 9800
Email: info@gvart.co.uk
Web : www.gvart.co.uk

GALLERY OPENING HOURS

Tuesday to Friday 11am – 6pm,
Saturdays 11am – 4pm or by appointment.
Admission Free

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IMAGES



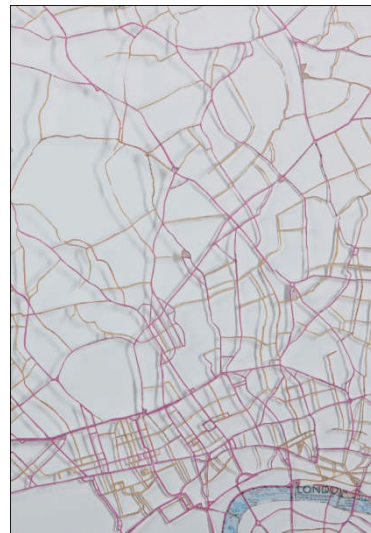
Liquid Ground 2, 2010, C-type photographic print,
face-mounted on glass, 160 x 110 cm



Liquid Ground 2 (detail)



Thames 1 (detail), 2010, hand-cut ordnance
survey maps on rag board, 75 x 47 cm



Thames 4 (detail), 2010, hand-cut ordnance
survey maps on rag board, 75 x 47 cm