

## Topophobia

12 May–7 July 2012

Public opening event  
Saturday 12 May, 3–5pm

Fear of place is the focus of this exhibition. As an anxiety disorder, topophobia is an irrational dread of certain places or situations. However, considered as a cultural manifestation, the condition connects us to existential human questions of how we find our place in the world. The exhibition and accompanying publication look at the representation of place and space as both threatened and threatening.

This group show features the work of ten UK and international artists. The range of media and approaches is wide. Anne Eggebert's detailed drawings are derived from images on Google Earth; Matthias Einhoff uses high-end corporate video techniques to make a spectacle of an urban wasteland; David Ferrando Giraut creates a state of anxiety with his filmic pan of the aftermath of a car accident; Polly Gould constructs distorted topographical watercolours reflected in the surface of silver globes; Marja Helander depicts herself out of place between her two cultures of contemporary Finland and Sami nomadic heritage; Uta Kogelsberger reveals uncanny night visions of urban and desert America in her photographs; Almut Rink appropriates the 3D software used by architects to take the viewer on an imaginary journey in a virtual space; Abigail Reynolds exposes disjointed time and place in her use of old book illustrations in collages and assemblage. Emily Speed houses her body in a fortress made from shutters; and Louise K Wilson presents a sound work created at a previously top secret Cold War testing site.

Louise K Wilson has been invited to produce a new work in parallel to the exhibition. This work, *Missing Scenes - An Evening at Hanging Rock*, is based on Peter Weir's iconic film *Picnic at Hanging Rock*. The work explores the film's multiple interpretations and resistance to resolution. It will be presented at Exeter Phoenix on 5 July and consist of a screening of Weir's original 1975 feature film with video and sound interventions by the artist.

*Topophobia* considers the technologies that shape our understanding of the world around us. It presents a timely and detailed enquiry into subjective responses to place in the 21st century.

*Topophobia* is a touring show curated by Eggebert-and-Gould, previous venues include Danielle Arnaud, London 14 January–19 February 2012 and Bluecoat, Liverpool 3 March–22 April 2012.

A publication including colour plates of the artists' works with texts by Polly Gould, a short fiction by Leslie Forbes, essays by Dr Caterina Albano, Thomas D Trummer and Eggebert-and-Gould, accompanies the exhibition. The book is distributed by John Rule.

ENDS

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**Press Release**  
**19/04/12**

Event details

**Topophobia Opening & Tour**

**Saturday 12 May, 3–5pm, free, all ages, no need to book**

Join us for the opening of *Topophobia*. Curators Anne Eggebert and Polly Gould will lead a tour of the exhibition at 4pm.

**Missing Scenes – An evening at Hanging Rock**

**Thursday 5 July, 6.15pm, free, at Exeter Phoenix, booking essential via Exeter Phoenix Box Office 01392 667 080**

Peter Weir's *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, will be screened with sound and video interventions by Louise K Wilson. The work has been commissioned by Spacex as part of *Topophobia*.

**Notes to editors**

**Spacex** is a publicly funded contemporary art space located in Exeter, UK. Supporting the production, presentation and promotion of a challenging programme of international contemporary visual art. Committed to experimentation and risk taking, Spacex offers audiences a real and immediate experience of the arts and seeks innovative ways of engaging a diverse audience, enabling access to and participation in the most exciting developments in contemporary art. [www.spacex.org.uk](http://www.spacex.org.uk)

**Eggebert-and-Gould** have shown at the British Library; Bury Art Gallery and Museum, Manchester; Cambridge University Botanic Garden as the Garden's first artists in residence for the Year of the Artist; Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney; Haus am Lutzowplatz, Berlin; and the Royal Institution of Great Britain, London. They curated nature and nation: vaster than empires, a visual arts exhibition, publication and schools internet project funded by the Arts Council of England National Touring Programme. They have recently been awarded a National Lottery Grant through Arts Council England for their most recent curatorial project *Topophobia: Fear of Place* in contemporary art, an exhibition, website and publication. Anne Eggebert is a senior lecturer in Fine Art at Central Saint Martins College of Arts and Design, UAL. Polly Gould is currently studying for a PhD at The Bartlett, University College London.

The *Topophobia* website can be found at [www.topophobia.co.uk](http://www.topophobia.co.uk)

For further information please contact Spacex marketing manager Rowan Green  
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**Spacex**

**the Bluecoat.**

**Danielle Arnaud**

University of the  
Arts London  
Central  
Saint Martins

