

LA TALLER

Taller y Galería de Grabado

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FOX

In its specific format for La Taller, this exhibition comprises a series of 176 drawings (20 x 14.5 cm, carbon paper transfer); an etching produced for the occasion with La Taller; a 13-minute video, *Rehearsing the Birds*; and semi-documentary material in a showcase.

The 176 drawings were done over a period of approximately a year during regular forays into the forest around my house, when I explored the place and my relation to it. The series continues an ongoing exploration of the drawing ground as skin and intermediate surface between self and the world. The approach is non-systematic, and explores a range of different registers from plant studies, to frottage, sound maps, and gestural drawings embodying energetic reactions or movements of the forest itself. The point moves over the drawing ground in a living, questioning, tentative relationship to what is around it. The weave and temporality of the series are directly related to life circumstances.

The video *Rehearsing the Birds* comprises images filmed on a golf course built into the forest during the process of the project; a letter, read aloud, in which a man who has been abusive to his partner re-seduces her; and a subtext of written fragments from the book *Psychopaths in our Lives: My Interviews* (Diane Emerson). The video presents voices from an anomalous way of being in the world whose mode is dominance, control and unremorseful deceit. This is disguised, but slowly revealed, breaking out through a clichéd appearance of normality. It is responded to by another, guttural, female voice accompanying images of a writhing earthworm. The video attempts to unveil, and to signal the veiling and normalising of violence in an appropriated, hypocritical discourse of empathy. Next to this semblance of discourse, which sequesters and perverts language and logic, is the guttural voice of the body and its inevitable reaction: in the words of Virginia Woolf, "a reason rooted in the bowels of the earth."

My thanks to La Taller for the integrity of their project and a fantastic work experience