

3.10 – 12.12.20

Emma Talbot

WOMEN SCREENERS

Luke Routledge

STRANGE MATTER

Eastside Projects

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During exhibitions our (FREE) gallery is open
Wednesday to Saturday, 12-5pm

Director Gavin Wade
Associate Director Ruth Claxton
Offsite Curator Zoë Sawyer
EOP & Public Programmer Amelia Hawk
Artist-Curator Trainees Candice Nembhard, Yas Lime
Saturday Assistant..... Polly Brant
Finance Administrator..... Neisa Reid
Graphic Design Rosen Eveleigh
Technicians..... Suzi Osborn
Fabrication..... Plane Structure, RoomFood



Eastside Projects makes art public. We are an artist-run multiverse, commissioning, producing and presenting experimental art practices and demonstrating ways in which art may be useful as part of society.



Emma Talbot

*Last night I dreamt of the old world again
The air was full of viruses
I recognised the smell
Withered hope
Like rotting flowers*

When Screens Break

Emma Talbot's new large-scale commission *When Screens Break* forecasts a layered sci-fi narrative, imagining a future world where technology has moved beyond the control of humans and operates as a distant but authoritarian force. This year's winner of the Max Mara Art Prize for Women imagines a future where our current technology is obsolete, and humans look back at the early 21st century with nostalgia, reminiscing about the shared intimacy and relationships between human and device. This speculative narrative reveals itself across 40 metres of silk, an immersive architectural painting within which questions are raised and explored around what makes us human, and how we engage with intimacy via hand-held technology. Developed prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, and originally planned to be exhibited during what became the lockdown period, Talbot's narrative has a visionary, prescient quality that also considers our own physicality and presence in the future, and the ongoing balance of hope and angst that accompanies our being in the world.

Emma Talbot constructs multilayered narratives via a range of media — hand drawn imagery and text, painted silk hangings, 3D forms and sound, to explore ways of describing the inner landscape of personal thought, emotion and self-narrative and the unconscious of dreaming. Unable to work in her studio during lockdown the artist developed her first animations, adapting her paintings and combining her experiments with sound within an internal imaginary space. Two new animation works appear at the centre of *When Screens Break* leading us to a place where 'Weeds break through concrete and crack the paving. What seems impossible can happen.'

When Screens Break

In Those days, back in The physical world,
When devices were hand held
We never Thought
They would enveigle Themselves into our lives
So completely

Using persuasive tactics
Entertaining
Flattering
Mimicking Human
Operating like friends, like lovers
Filling our collective emptiness
wiTh sweet noThings

We were ensnared by
Our own self regard
Our unlimited desire
To be seen

To be a star
In The constellation of humanity
That oTherwise floats
In an eternal dark night

What are you?
A proliferation of images issued into a void
Just to know you exist
Under The surveillance of an unblinking eye

Narcissus
What could be more fascinating

Than seeing
All The dimensions of yourself
Inside and out
In a mirrored echo chamber
Reflecting The you you want to be

Encouraged to construct your profile
Confess your opinions
To reveal your political bias
Invited to comment
Pouring your emotions onto a platform

No Comment

Never considering what happens

WHEN
SCREENS BREAK

Accelerating
Towards a future
That is no longer human

What does a network even look like?
Are you a point, a pin, a node
At The centre?
or a peripheral being,
no body no where
wiTh no ground
a virtual composite of patched images

Last night I dreamt of The old world again
The air was full of viruses
I recognised The smell

Withered hope
Like rotting flowers

Despite The decay
As I looked around
I couldn't believe
We'd exiled ourselves
From such a beautiful place

Remember when
We had tangible bodies
That could touch and feel
Living in danger
With The ecstasy
of moments
we could never relive

Your fingers dug into The earth
You left your impression
In clay
To say: I was here

When you gave your Thumb print
To enable devices
You had already submitted
To a virtual world
This is where you sleep now
In a timeless uninterrupted dream
In a game of life
Where you can die over and over

Can you imagine you could wake up?
And call out
with a human voice

All That is Buried

From The beginning of time
A pre human consciousness
Rooted, buried deep
A power beyond us, and within every atom of our being

Unspoken, bricked up
Overshadowed by a system, a language
That totally consumes you
Expected to continually strive and fail
And progress in limited margins
Until you are broken
Shattered into a Thousand pieces

Can you step outside
Can you let go
Let nothing be something
Let your mind open
To other potentials

All That is buried is still here
Whose voice is This speaking in silence
Not a god or a government
Its you, your being, Thinking
Present now, in The space of all time
An energy, fossilised or fluid

What is denied can become apparent
Weeds break Through concrete and crack The paving
What seems impossible can happen

Biographies

EMMA TALBOT (b. 1969 Stourbridge) is an artist based in London. She is the winner of the 2020 Max Mara Art Prize for Women in association with Whitechapel Gallery and Collezione Maramotti. Across a range of media; painting, 3D forms, drawing, sound, installation and animation, her work constructs narratives that explore how the internalised, emotional space of subjectivity is cast into current prevalent concerns — such as our relationships with technology, nature, the regenerating city and power structures. Recent exhibitions include GEM Kunstmuseum The Hague NL, 2019 Art Night Commission, William Morris Gallery London, Galerie Onrust Amsterdam, Neuer Aachener Kunstverein D, Arcadia Missa New York, Petra Rinck Galerie Düsseldorf, Tate St Ives, Turner Contemporary Margate.

LUKE ROUTLEDGE (b. 1988) studied BA Fine Art at Loughborough University and is currently a member of the alternative art program School of the Damned. Routledge works across a range of media including sculpture, painting, animatronics and animation. These various media are employed to detail a fictional landscape and its inhabitants in an ever expanding world building project. Recent exhibitions include: *Extra Ordinary People @ Artlicks*, South London Gallery (2019); *Summer Camp Show*, Eastside Projects (2019); *Amber Rooms*, London (2019); *On an Ordinary Rock*, Art House, Worcester (2019); *All Work, All Play*, AIR gallery, Altrincham (2019); *P is for Portrait*, Art House, Worcester (2019); *Mudmen*, Residency + Solo Presentation, Bohunk, London (2018); *NAWKI*, 120 Collective, London/various locations, (2017); *Happy to be here*, Attenborough Arts Centre, Group exhibition organised by Two Queens, Leicester (2017).

Luke Routledge

The fire sputtered as the man stood, aiming a spyglass upwards into the obsidian sky. As he scanned back and forth the projection shifted to resemble the interference on an old television screen.

"War of the Ants up there" he muttered, handing his viewer to the neon orange bongler vurm who, for a minimal fee, he employed as his attendant.

"If it's snowing out there we should wait."

"You think I don't know that, shit squeak? I'll fling you back down the Gorpel if you don't watch your tongues. We'll head out in the morning once it levels up. Should give us a chance to get past those milkers."

In the dim green light their eyes met as they remembered their last encounter with those foul beasts.

"Last time, when that thing was on me, it was all I could do not to shit myself."

"Don't forget the blueberries this time huh?" Said the vurm, flicking his cigarette into the dying fire."

Strange Matter

Strange

Strange Matter is the first introduction into the constructed universe of Birmingham artist Luke Routledge. A meeting of absurd figurative sculptures map out the beginnings of an invented folklore — a sculptural invitation to explore the territory of another society.

The title of the exhibition, *Strange Matter*, is a term borrowed from particle physics. Proposed to be created inside neutron stars, strange matter is formed within the remains of collapsed giant stars. It is hypothesised that it could either be the most stable matter in the universe, capable of teaching us how the universe first began or it could infect everything it comes into contact with, converting all ordinary matter in its path into strange matter.

Routledge's works draw upon myriad references to assemble a cast of inhabitants within a possible world. Brought to life by moving animatronic elements the figures weave an ambiguous narrative, caught somewhere between sense and nonsense.

List of Works

MAIN GALLERY

Emma Talbot
When Screens Break, 2020

- 1 When Screens Break, 2020
Acrylic on silk, powder coated aluminium, 2.8 × 8m diameter
 - 2 When Screens Break, 2020
5 mins 32 secs animation with sound, painted velour, silk, papier mache, synthetic hair
 - 3 All That is Buried, 2020
4 mins 14 secs animation with sound, painted velour, silk, papier mache, synthetic hair
 - 4 When Screens Break (drawings), 2020
22 drawings, watercolour, acrylic, gouache on paper
L-R (all 2020 unless dated)
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a) Steps | l) The Body Falls Away, 2019 |
| b) Broken | m) Out, walking |
| c) Mirror | n) DNA Portal |
| d) The Volume of the Universe, 2019 | o) Tendrils |
| e) Profile | p) Smashed |
| f) Flowers Dying, 2019 | q) The screen shattered |
| g) Cracked | r) Growth |
| h) Entry | s) A new kind of storm |
| i) Surfaces | t) Fossil |
| j) Opening | u) Sleeper |
| k) Network | v) An energy, fossilised or fluid |

SECOND GALLERY

Luke Routledge
Strange Matter, 2020

Home made air dry clay (PVA glue, flour and various other ingredients), wood, epoxy clay, silicone, acrylic paint, oil paint, polyurethane, aluminium, electronic components (arduino microcontrollers) and 3D printed PLA components

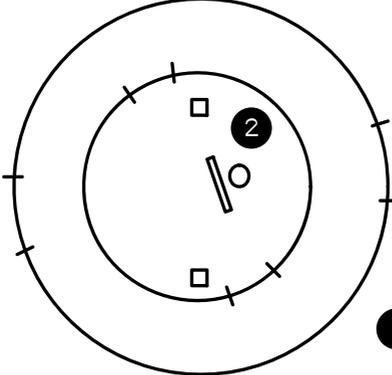
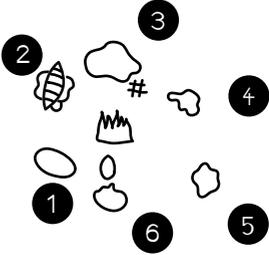
- 1 Illogical bird on rock
- 2 Mister Strawberry
- 3 Inter specific owl trophic chain
- 4 Woman with ornamental bird
- 5 Green headed water wizard wicche
- 6 Lithic reduction boots — (rock hitter)



Luke Routledge
Strange Matter

FACTORY

HOUSE



Emma Talbot
When Screens Break

ANOTHER REALITY