MK Gallery

News Release

Station X, MK Gallery’s Project Space exhibition during May, offers a multi-sensory insight into the derelict buildings of Bletchley Park, (otherwise known as Station X), the home of the World War Two code-breakers, and arguably one of Britain’s most important historical sites.

The exhibition is the result of a unique collaboration between artist Maya Ramsay, sound artist Caroline Devine, photographer Rachael Marshall and filmmaker Luke Williams. Together they provide a contemporary interpretation of Station X, by documenting the visual and aural histories imbued in the very fabric of the buildings, before they are lost when planned renovation takes place. This includes work made from surfaces lifted from the walls of the buildings, recordings of sounds
Eleven thousand people worked in secret at Bletchley Park during World War Two and were sworn to secrecy about their activities for the following thirty years. Bletchley Park is where the first programmable electronic computer was invented and this exhibition coincides with the centenary celebrations of the birth of Alan Turing, the ‘father of computer science’, who worked at Bletchley Park.

In some of the buildings it appears as if the workers have just downed tools and left; a rusty coat hanger swings on a hook with a name scrawled on it and diagrams lie in a file covered in mould. Others provide fascinating insights into what happens when nature is left to its own devices in a building for two and a half decades.

The four artists needed special access to document these highly atmospheric buildings, which are usually inaccessible to the public owing to their dangerous state of repair. To realise the project, the artists endured extremely harsh conditions whilst working in rooms that have been unventilated and only occupied by rats and pigeons for decades.

**Maya Ramsay** makes work using a process to lift pigment, debris and texture from surfaces in the built environment, in particular from buildings that are due to be demolished or restored. Maya specialises in making works that reference war through the associations that abstract marks can create. [www.axisweb.org/artist/mayaramsay](http://www.axisweb.org/artist/mayaramsay)

**Caroline Devine** is a sound artist who will be capturing the sounds produced by and within the decaying huts, exploring the spatial aspects of sound. Caroline is interested in voices that may be obscured, silenced or absent, such as the employees at Bletchley who were sworn to secrecy for thirty years after the war. [www.devine.co.uk/linernotes](http://www.devine.co.uk/linernotes)

**Rachael Marshall** is a photographer who will be conducting photographic documentation of the buildings. Having studied architecture, Rachael has an ongoing obsession with the way in which we value and preserve certain buildings. [www.photographedbyrachael.com](http://www.photographedbyrachael.com)

**Luke Williams’** work involves film, carving, construction and installation practices. Luke produces devices which co-exist with the space in which they are placed. He is interested in the narratives and reinterpretation of science. [www.kineticart.org.uk](http://www.kineticart.org.uk)

**Project Interviews / Blog / Facebook**


[http://www.mkgallery.org/education/projectspace/station_x/](http://www.mkgallery.org/education/projectspace/station_x/)

BBC Online Gallery: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/in-pictures-17879181


Station X Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/documentingstationx](http://www.facebook.com/documentingstationx)
MK Gallery Project Space
MK Gallery's Project Space, is available to the MK Community for monthly exhibitions of contemporary visual art by individuals or groups based in Milton Keynes.

Exhibition Supporters
The exhibition has received generous support from MK Community Foundation, PMC Limited and the staff of Bletchley Park.

MK Gallery Supporters
MK Gallery receives core funding from Milton Keynes Council and Arts Council England South East.

MK Gallery
MK Gallery, 900 Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3QA. Open Tuesday - Friday 12–8pm, Saturday 11am–8pm, Sunday 11am–5pm. Admission free. www.mkgallery.org

Press Office
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