

THIS PLACE WHERE I STAND

Amy-Leigh Bird

Shaun Fraser

Simon Kidd

8 January - 1 May 2021

No 20 Arts
20 Cross Street
London N1 2BG



Shaun Fraser, **Black Terrain I** (2020), Liquid bitumen & soil on board, 37 x 47 cm



Simon Kidd, **Fissure no. 3** (2019), Slip cast porcelain, 53 x 14 x 25 cm

No 20 Arts is delighted to present THIS PLACE WHERE I STAND, an exhibition which brings together the work of Amy-Leigh Bird, Shaun Fraser, and Simon Kidd. From the shores of the Thames in London, to the Scottish Highlands and Islands, to Northern Ireland, each artist showcased in this exhibition places themes of identity and elemental links to site at the centre of their work.

Featuring sculptures, paintings, film, and works on paper, the exhibition is accompanied by an immersive soundscape designed in response to the artwork of each artist. Created by LOWT, the soundscape provides a cleansing sensory experience within which to discover the artworks of the three artists.

In a new, specially commissioned short essay, Roddy Murray, Head of Visual Arts & Literature at An Lanntair writes:

“Amy-Leigh Bird retraces her childhood steps. Trawls, sifts and mud-larks the Thames shoreline for the river’s strewn cargo: its drowned residue, its human detritus. From buttons to bones. It’s a kind of resurrection. A means to reclaim a sense of the personal, the timeless individual, as much as the lost city and the churn of life. Her pristine prints recall the desert’s bonescape. Beyond the bone is the DNA.

Shaun Fraser’s footprint is in the Scottish Highlands and Islands, still ringing with the clamour of the last battle on British soil, still wrangling with the cultural aftermath. His oeuvre is peat, moorland, the blanket bog. A cultural sink that contains and conceals - dissolved and preserved - the history of these desolate, cleared spaces. His work in oil, tar and bitumen reimagines and recreates this temporal, empty yet alive landscape, recreated from its own essence. Its textures, its sullen, relentless, primeval chemistry.

In Northern Ireland, **Simon Kidd’s** ceramics are a meditation through petrification on the obstinate, petrified past. On degrees of permanence, from the basalt and granite of Sliabh Dónairt and Murlach to the bog of Dregish he references the dug and quarried past. The chipping and scarring of hammer and chisel on rock, the slice of the peat-iron. Stark and delicate, his porcelain pieces testify to memory, to negative space, absence, removal. Like a script etched into stone.”

About the artists

Amy-Leigh Bird lives and works in London. She graduated from the Painting & Printmaking BA Hons at The Glasgow School of Art in 2017 and from her MA in Creative Entrepreneurship at The University of East Anglia in 2019. After her graduation she was selected for Aon's 'Community Artist Award 2017' and awarded the 'Artist in Italy Residency 2018'. She has exhibited alongside Christian Boltanski at the Apple and the Lust Gallery in Edinburgh, at The Edinburgh Art Fair and at An Lanntair in Stornoway and taken part in several group and solo exhibitions.

Shaun Fraser is a sculptor and visual artist based between the Scottish Highlands and Amsterdam. He graduated from Edinburgh College of Art in 2012 and completed a MA in Ceramics and Glass at the Royal College of Art, London in 2017. He has exhibited work internationally and has been awarded residences at the Sùileachan on the Isle of Lewis in 2016 and the NectAir Program 2019 Residency in Barcelona.

Simon Kidd graduated from Central Saint Martins in London in 2018 where he studied Ceramic Design. During his studies he began making work which responds to different locations in Ireland. Now working from his studio in South London, this body of work has continued to be his focus. Simon's work now explores three locations in Ireland; Sliabh Dónairt, Dregish and Murlach. The pieces which make up these three projects use these physical locations as catalysts for reflection, allowing his objects to become physical manifestations of thoughts, feelings, and ideas the country evokes. The places Simon explores are chosen not only for their physical presence and beauty, but also for their cultural, political, and symbolic importance.

Amy-Leigh Bird, **Thames Painting I** [Detail] (2020),
Thames clay, rust, collected London mud & varnish, 120 x 85 x 3 cm



About No 20 Arts

Opened in January 2017, No 20 Arts is a centre for contemporary arts. A multi-functional space, the gallery hosts a programme of exhibitions, performances and events that support emerging and established artists working across all media.

For more information and prices, please contact info@no20arts.com

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