

Latest London Art Reviews

London Exhibitions Not To Be Missed

Ailbhe Ní Bhriain: Great Good Places @ domobaal

3 John Street WC1N 2ES (Thur-Sat 12 noon-6 pm, or by appointment, until 5 Nov)



courtesy of domobaal

Ailbhe Ní Bhriain presents us with four video collages made up of some 50 layers in which spaces (offices, seascapes, derelict houses, museums) overlap, merge, and spill into one another. Tying these parallel universes together, and negotiating between them, is an ensemble of ephemera – a taxidermy fox, a crow, floating polythene, and, bathing everything, shimmering-translucent dust. Sound acts as further layer that leaks out of the frames, blurring and blending the four pieces, and dragging the darkened gallery space itself into the tangle of locations. Eerie and dreamlike, the artist has reduced video to stillness, its 'live' quality obscured by the (literally) statuesque subject matter, and revealed only in the faintest of movements.

The work is a pointedly low-tech simulation of the wonders of Photoshop, speaking a digital language in a (relatively) archaic form – the layers built up 'in camera', and often generated via real time projections within shots. This dialogue between cut-and-paste proper and cut-and-paste digital – between traditional film-making techniques and computer-generated imagery – is further reflected in the video content, with the classical statues of the museum clashing with the contemporariness of the office space. Both zones potentially house great creativity; but the artist asks us to ponder the trade off.

Review by Thomas Keane