

PRESS RELEASE

Karel Doing: Circadian Maps

Exhibition dates: 26 February – 9 April

Private view: 25 February 6-9pm

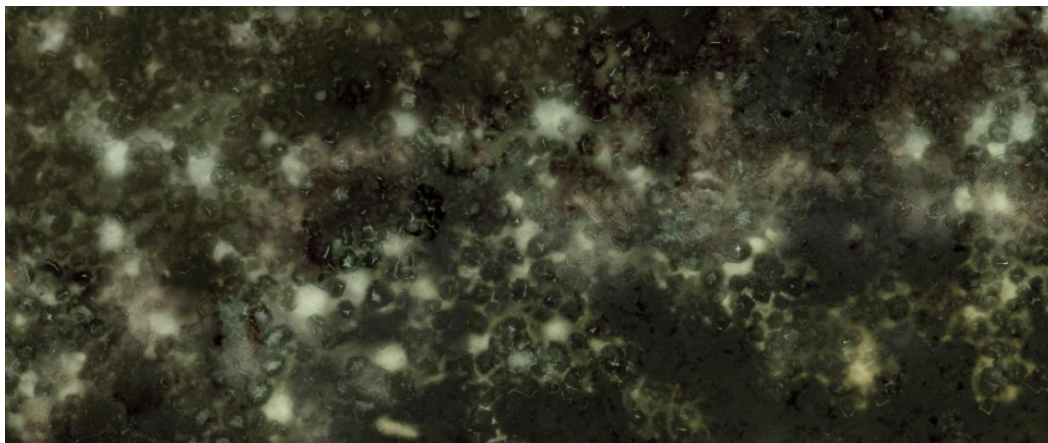
Karel Doing is an experimental filmmaker who has been making films since the late 1980s. His early work was informed by the historical practice and experimentation of Dada filmmaking and he has acknowledged reference to the handmade manipulation of the material surface of film by the post-war American avant-garde. Since 2000, the significant themes in Doing's work distil Dutch colonial histories through the lens of personal connection, and present the outcome of experiments with the processing and handling the material surface of film. The relationship of landscape, place and family history to the materiality of film is explored.

In this solo exhibition at MMX Gallery a series of works are shown as the result of experiments with film emulsion. Instead of using light to expose the film, a reactive process aided by salt, mud, plants and yeast has been used to produce the images. Pre-conceptual patterns, colours and structures emerge that are subsequently deciphered and edited by the artist in a search for a different relationship with nature. Instead of domination and exploitation a more sensitive approach in dialogue with the endlessly complex micro-world of plants and minerals is sought.

In a series of photographs, moving images, slides, an assemblage and works on paper the results are made real. Coming from the hands of a filmmaker, cinematographic references are omnipresent. The photographs are printed according to the cinemascope ratio (2.35:1), the assemblage makes use of empty 35mm film-cans and one of the works on paper could be the score for an animation film.

The exhibition is full of contradiction; abstraction is the result of a concrete process, rigid organisation produces imaginative stories, loss and disappearance leads to aesthetic variety and almost worthless materials are transformed into valuables. The aesthetics of dirt and decay go hand in hand with vibrant colours and intricately organised compositions.

This exhibition is the first in an ongoing series.



Wilderness, HD Video 2'45'', digitised 35mm film treated with salt and coffee based developer, 2016



Buried Portrait, 5 iterations 20x25 cm, series of B&W prints exposed to soil, 2014



Circadian Maps/ Iron (detail) 35mm negative treated with iron toner, (original 140x60), 2015

Notes for Editors:

Karel Doing (1965, Canberra, Australia) is an artist and filmmaker who has worked extensively across analogue and digital formats. He is a media polyglot with a particular interest in the semiotics of film and expanded cinema. Recently his moving image practice is augmented by photographic and sculptural objects. He is driven to reconnect implausible links: urban/nature, music/math, passion/ratio, analogue/digital. After being based in Arnhem and Rotterdam (the Netherlands), he now lives and works in London.

Selected screenings and exhibitions include:

Utopia College, LCC, London (2016)

Close Up Film Centre, London (2015)

Institute Lumière, Lyon (2015)

Arkipel Film Festival, Jakarta (2015)

ICA, London (2014)

Cinema du Reel, Paris (2014)

Arnolfini, Bristol (2014)

National Portrait Gallery, London (2013)

Arsenal, Berlin (2013)

Echo Park Film Centre, Los Angeles (2013)

European Short Film Festival, Boston (2012)

Kino Lab, Warsaw (2012)

Independent Film Show, Napoli (2012)

Focal International Award for best use of footage in a short production – Liquidator (2012)

Full artist's CV including Doing's Filmography, Publications and an essay on his work are available on the MMX gallery website: www.mmxgallery.com

About the Gallery:

MMX is a contemporary photography gallery based in London, exhibiting established and emerging artists.

Housed in a Victorian building whose past uses included a photography studio, the gallery retains much of the buildings history and architectural heritage.

Opened in September 2014, the gallery welcomed site- specific, artist-led projects and curators into their space. 2016 will see MMX focusing on contemporary photography and related media practices with a more autonomous approach to their forthcoming exhibition programme.

For exhibition and sales enquires please contact the gallery: info@mmxgallery.com

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Opening times:

Wednesday – Friday 11-7pm, Saturday 12-6pm or by appointment

MMX GALLERY,
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Nearest stations: New Cross, New Cross Gate, Deptford Bridge