

WORKPLACE GALLERY

MATT STOKES: 'DEAD SEA DEAF SEA' WORKPLACE LONDON

MATT STOKES

Dead Sea Deaf Sea

17th February – 31st March

WORKPLACE LONDON

61 Conduit Street, Mayfair London, W1S 2GB

Thursdays and Fridays, 10 – 6pm

WORKPLACE is pleased to announce Dead Sea Deaf Sea, the first solo exhibition of Matt Stokes at Workplace London.

Dead Sea Deaf Sea is an exhibition of new film, sculpture and photography by Stokes predominantly derived from his research into HMS Standard, an experimental World War II psychiatric rehabilitation camp, established by the Royal Navy to find an answer to rising mental illness and insubordination in its ranks. The camp had a duplicitous role - to treat those traumatised by life in active service and to weed out 'malingerers' feigning psychosis to escape service. The work shown follows on from Stone Frigate, a LARP (Live Action Role Play) conceived and written by Stokes (commissioned by Kielder Art & Architecture) that took place near the original, now flooded, site of HMS Standard in the Tyne Valley, Northumberland.

At WORKPLACE London we will show 2 large-scale sculptures of weaving frames that were used within therapeutic activity. Woven by Stokes with ragged World War II Royal Navy uniforms to ambiguously spell out DEAD SEA and DEAF SEA, these pieces allude to the powerful passive presence of the sea as a site of conflict, a source of dread, and as psychological metaphor. A new series of 14 black and white photographs, which have been doctored and hand printed by Stokes using water from Keilder reservoir (under which the location of HMS Standard is now submerged). A sailor sat smoking on a hillside is shown next to a landscape; repeated 3 times, the diptychs are each hand tinted to represent different psychological conditions - referring directly to Siegfried E. Katz' article 'Color Preference in the Insane' published in The Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology in 1931 – which influenced elements of the LARP design. Alongside this, a short document of Stone Frigate is set against a haunting rendition of 'Depth of My Ego' by the Scottish folk singer Matt McGinn, sung by George Unthank (who played the Chaplain in the LARP) to signify the end of the event.

The Oyster is a 16mm looped film projection shot by Stokes on Santa Monica Beach in California. In the distance a solitary figure faces the sea listening to a clamshell CD Walkman, shifting hypnotically and manically from foot to foot overdubbed by a slowed loop of folk reel and an abridged narration on the history of the American Oyster. Charting the initial exploitation of a natural resource to its growth as a luxury food and the inevitable tensions between industrial overproduction and the fragilities of the social and environmental eco-system.

Throughout this exhibition Stokes employs both historical narrative and re-enactment to articulate pertinent anxieties around epic shifts in global politics and their relationship to intimate psychological states. Dead Sea Deaf Sea presents a mesmerising and sublime meditation upon the connection between the fragility of the individual, and the socio-political undercurrents that shape our lives.

For full details and larger images, please see the end of this document.



Matt Stokes

Dead Sea Deaf Sea, 2017

Wood, rope, steel, hand woven WW2 Royal Navy ratings uniforms
each 187 x 274 x 75 cm
73 5/8 x 107 7/8 x 29 1/2 in
unique
(MS0061)

[View detail](#)



Matt Stokes

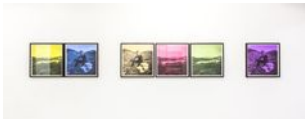
Stone Frigate (LARP), 2015

16mm film and audio

4 minutes 7 seconds

edition of 3 plus 1 AP
(MS0065)

[View detail](#)



Matt Stokes

Stone Frigate (Colour Triggers), 2017

oil tinted silver gelatin prints on fibre based paper, developed in water from Kielder reservoir
variable, each print 42 x 42 cm framed
16 1/2 x 16 1/2 in

Edition of 5 plus 1 AP
(MS0060)

[View detail](#)



Matt Stokes

Stone Frigate (Day Trip), 2017

silver gelatin prints on fibre based paper, developed in water from Kielder reservoir
each 42 x 42 cm framed
16 1/2 x 16 1/2 in

Edition of 5 plus 1 AP
(MS0062)

[View detail](#)



Matt Stokes

Stone Frigate (Woodcutting), 2017

silver gelatin prints on fibre based paper, developed in water from Kielder reservoir
43 x 52 cm
16 7/8 x 20 1/2 in

Edition of 5 plus 1 AP
(MS0064)

[View detail](#)



Matt Stokes

The Oyster, 2016

colour 16mm film and audio
duration 3 mins 30 seconds (looped)
Edition of 3 plus 1 AP
(MS0063)

[View detail](#)



Matt Stokes

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Workplace London

(Exhibition)

[View detail](#)

MATT STOKES

Dead Sea Deaf Sea, 2017



Wood, rope, steel, hand woven WW2 Royal Navy ratings uniforms
each 187 x 274 x 75 cm
73 5/8 x 107 7/8 x 29 1/2 in
unique
(MS0061)

Description

First presented as part of 'Dead Sea Deaf Sea', Stokes' 2017 exhibition at Workplace London, these works derive from his research into HMS Standard, an experimental World War II psychiatric rehabilitation camp established by the Royal Navy to find an answer to rising mental illness and insubordination in its ranks. The camp had a duplicitous role - to treat those traumatised by life in active service and to weed out 'malingerers' feigning psychosis to escape service. The work exhibited follows on from Stone Frigate, a LARP (Live Action Role Play) conceived and written by Stokes (commissioned by Kielder Art & Architecture) that took place near the original, now flooded, site of HMS Standard in the Tyne Valley, Northumberland.

This piece is comprised of 2 large-scale sculptures of weaving frames that were used within therapeutic activity. Hand woven by Stokes with ragged original World War II Royal Navy uniforms to ambiguously spell out DEAD SEA and DEAF SEA, these pieces allude to the powerful passive presence of the sea as a site of conflict, a source of dread, and as psychological metaphor; as well as alluding to current situations such as the refugee crisis.

MATT STOKES

Stone Frigate (LARP), 2015



16mm film and audio

4 minutes 7 seconds

edition of 3 plus 1 AP
(MS0065)

Description

'Stone Frigate (LARP)' was exhibited at Workplace London as part of 'Dead Sea Deaf Sea', an exhibition of new film, sculpture and photography by Matt Stokes derived from his research into HMS Standard, an experimental World War II psychiatric rehabilitation camp established by the Royal Navy to find an answer to rising mental illness and insubordination in its ranks. The camp (codename: Stone Frigate) had a duplicitous role - to treat those traumatised by life in active service and to weed out 'malingerers' feigning psychosis to escape service. The work exhibited follows on from Stone Frigate, a LARP (Live Action Role Play) conceived and written by Stokes (commissioned by Kielder Art & Architecture) that took place near the original, now flooded, site of HMS Standard in the Tyne Valley, Northumberland. 'Stone Frigate (LARP)' is 16mm film documentation of Stokes' LARP set against a haunting rendition of 'Depth of My Ego' by the Scottish folk singer Matt McGinn, sung by George Unthank (who played the Chaplain in the LARP) to signify the end of the event.

MATT STOKES

Stone Frigate (Colour Triggers), 2017



oil tinted silver gelatin prints on fibre based paper, developed in water from Kielder reservoir
variable, each print 42 x 42 cm framed
16 1/2 x 16 1/2 in
Edition of 5 plus 1 AP
(MS0060)

Description

This work by Stokes is derived from his research into HMS Standard, an experimental World War II psychiatric rehabilitation camp, established by the Royal Navy to find an answer to rising mental illness and insubordination in its ranks. The camp had a duplicitous role - to treat those traumatised by life in active service and to weed out 'malingerers' feigning psychosis to escape service. The work follows on from Stone Frigate, a LARP (Live Action Role Play) conceived and written by Stokes (commissioned by Kielder Art & Architecture) that took place near the original, now flooded, site of HMS Standard in the Tyne Valley, Northumberland. This series of black and white photographs have been doctored and hand printed by Stokes using water from Keilder reservoir (under which the location of HMS Standard is now submerged). A sailor sat smoking on a hillside is shown next to a landscape; repeated 3 times, the diptychs are each hand tinted to represent different psychological conditions - referring directly to Siegfried E. Katz' article 'Color Preference in the Insane' published in The Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology in 1931 – which influenced elements of the LARP design.

MATT STOKES

Stone Frigate (Day Trip), 2017



silver gelatin prints on fibre based paper, developed in water from Kielder reservoir

each 42 x 42 cm framed

16 1/2 x 16 1/2 in

Edition of 5 plus 1 AP

(MS0062)

Description

This work by Stokes is derived from his research into HMS Standard, an experimental World War II psychiatric rehabilitation camp, established by the Royal Navy to find an answer to rising mental illness and insubordination in its ranks. The camp had a duplicitous role - to treat those traumatised by life in active service and to weed out 'malingerers' feigning psychosis to escape service. The work follows on from *Stone Frigate*, a LARP (Live Action Role Play) conceived and written by Stokes (commissioned by Kielder Art & Architecture) that took place near the original, now flooded, site of HMS Standard in the Tyne Valley, Northumberland. This series of black and white photographs have been doctored and hand printed by Stokes using water from Kielder reservoir (under which the location of HMS Standard is now submerged). In this series a rating accompanied by his psychiatric mentor go on a day trip.

MATT STOKES

Stone Frigate (Woodcutting) , 2017



silver gelatin prints on fibre based paper, developed in water from Kielder reservoir

43 x 52 cm

16 7/8 x 20 1/2 in

Edition of 5 plus 1 AP

(MS0064)

Description

This work by Stokes is derived from his research into HMS Standard, an experimental World War II psychiatric rehabilitation camp, established by the Royal Navy to find an answer to rising mental illness and insubordination in its ranks. The camp had a duplicitous role - to treat those traumatised by life in active service and to weed out 'malingerers' feigning psychosis to escape service. The work follows on from *Stone Frigate*, a LARP (Live Action Role Play) conceived and written by Stokes (commissioned by Kielder Art & Architecture) that took place near the original, now flooded, site of HMS Standard in the Tyne Valley, Northumberland. This series of black and white photographs, have been hand printed by Stokes using water from Kielder reservoir (under which the location of HMS Standard is now submerged). In this image the inmates of HMS Standard are engaged in chopping wood as part of a programme of therapeutic activity under the observance of psychiatric mentors.

MATT STOKES
The Oyster, 2016



colour 16mm film and audio
duration 3 mins 30 seconds (looped)
Edition of 3 plus 1 AP
(MS0063)

Description

The Oyster is a 16mm looped film projection shot by Stokes on Santa Monica Beach in California. In the distance a solitary figure faces the sea listening to a clamshell CD Walkman, shifting hypnotically and manically from foot to foot overdubbed by a slowed loop of folk reel and an abridged narration on the history of the American Oyster. Charting the initial exploitation of a natural resource to its growth as a luxury food and the inevitable tensions between industrial overproduction and the fragilities of the social and environmental eco-system.

This work by Stokes articulates pertinent anxieties around epic shifts in global politics and their relationship to intimate psychological states; connecting the fragility of the individual to the socio-political undercurrents that shape our lives.

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