

# stowage

Shackleton & Sons,  
2-4 Church Street,  
Macclesfield SK11 6LB  
18 June – 2 July 2010

## Barnaby Festival, Macclesfield

'Stowage' is about storing things in tight spaces, about making ideas portable, able to move from place to place. It's a collection of art built in and around old-fashioned sweet jars.

'Stowage' brings together the work of 24 artists from the North West, North East and South West of England. Originally commissioned for a series of active retail premises in Exeter's West Quarter, these small-scale works are now shown together in a disused shop as part of Macclesfield's Barnaby Festival.

A significant number of the works were originally made for particular shops or sites. Calver (s) worked with a DIY store; Coxon (q) with one of the area's oldest buildings. Longshaw (d) made work for the Co-operative while Morgan (g) chose a hairdresser. Hamilton & Lawrence (j) collaborated with the staff and customers of a wool shop.

Some artists chose the challenge of adapting existing practices. Cook's (b) themes of surf culture and the Cornish landscape find a new outlet in *Granite Jar*. Langworthy & Daniels' (c) Morse code installation (which sends out pulses of light after dark) is an extension of previous work involving intervention and social interaction. Pethick (r) and Chatton Barker (h) have both worked extensively with text and books.

Not surprisingly, miniaturisation is a common theme. Randall (n) makes models of sheds to explore the assertion of personal territory through ad hoc structures. Zapp (a) uses the idea of peering through a magnifying glass at a tiny world to point at the inescapable infrastructure of surveillance and control.

Ideas of containment, for example Shillingford (i), or using the jars as receptacles of memory and consciousness are prevalent: Jack (l), Hoad (k). There is also a playful streak to some works, seen in Lee (p) and Goodwin (o). Others hark back to childhood imaginings: Knight (f), Griffiths (m), The Grimm North (u).

The social history and psychology of sugar also features. Lancaster-Thomas' jar pierced with pins (e) reflects on the dangerous seductiveness of sweetness, while Paige (t) has engraved the different cooking stages of sugar on a jar filled with molasses. This black, viscous substance evokes a range of raw materials (such as oil and opium) that, like sugar, have been linked to ruthless exploitation.

Stowage was commissioned and curated by Felicity Shillingford and Gabrielle Hoad, two artist-curators working together under the name Found Space.

Thanks to Whittaker & Biggs for the use of the shop.

- a** **Andrea Zapp** *LatitudeLongitudeAltitude*  
Paper, plastic toys, self-built props
- b** **Ben Cook** *Granite Jar*  
Paint, surf wax
- c** **Ben Langworthy & Scott Daniels** *Magnificent Morse Mints*  
Wood, brass, electric motor, timer switches, LED lights, paper, sweets
- d** **Bill Longshaw** *People Who Care*  
Paper, Perspex, acetate, plastic beads, photos
- e** **Buff Lancaster-Thomas** *Gimblejube*  
Pins, bee, lead
- f** **Chris Knight** *Wormery*  
Sugar and sweets
- g** **Chrissie Morgan** *We R' US*  
Human hair, wax, clock parts, wire mesh, mirrors
- h** **David Chatton Barker** *Fore Street Allsorts*  
Mixed media
- i** **Felicity Shillingford** *Flocked*  
Flocking, fibre optic filament, birds
- j** **Fiona Hamilton & Jane Lawrence** *the kniTted*  
People, stories, wool
- k** **Gabrielle Hoad** *Is and Was*  
Digital print
- l** **Hilary Jack** *Memorial To My Grandmother*  
Archive photograph, sweets
- m** **Janet Griffiths** *Grow Your Own Fairy Tale*  
Preserved frog, plants, doll
- n** **Jill Randall** *Sheds of Rossendale - Log Cabin*  
Mixed media
- o** **John Maxwell Goodwin** *You can take the 'X' out of Exeter...* Mirrors, bonding agent
- p** **Kwong Lee** *Emergency*  
Glass, vinyl text
- q** **Laurel Coxon** *1 New Bridge Street*  
Photos, acetate
- r** **Maddy Pethick** *Cat Fold*  
Folded colour pictures from a small cat book, glue
- s** **Megan Calver** *Look upon the marvel-matters*  
Fluorescent polyester, reflective tape, zip, foam
- t** **Steven Paige** *Burnt Sugar*  
Engraved glass, molasses
- u** **The Grimm North** *If I've told you once*  
Sweets, Plasticine, wood, latex, plastic, freckles

More information about the artists and works can be found at [www.foundspace.co.uk/stowage.html](http://www.foundspace.co.uk/stowage.html)