

coming next

KETTLE'S YARD

## Past, Present, *SOMEWHERE*: Films and Projects by Karen Guthrie & Nina Pope

13 September 2014 - 23 November 2014

Kettle's Yard, Cambridge

Kettle's Yard hosts a rare opportunity to enjoy the collected films and projects by artist duo Karen Guthrie & Nina Pope, in this their first gallery show since their winning installation for the Northern Art Prize in 2008.

Founding their collaborative entity Somewhere in the mid-nineties, Guthrie and Pope have long challenged the proscribed boundaries of the art world, creating idiosyncratic films and diverse participatory projects that range from interactive online worlds to a public harvest garden, to - in summer 2014 - a vast community-built 'model village' made from cob (an ancient earth building technique). This last piece was the result of their most recent commission 'Tomorrow, Today' for the University of Cambridge's North West Cambridge Development and examples of cob built structures will be on show in the gallery.

What runs through Guthrie and Pope's fifteen years of work is a fascination with history and with place, and with how we make ourselves at home in the world by making both our own. Perhaps inevitably for a working partnership, their work is full of dichotomies skilfully and wittily explored - an early devotion to the Internet coupled with a love of craft; insightful self-portraiture and autobiography interwoven with grand communal histories; a delight in the domestic and the super-local balanced with a fascination for other cultures and countries.

As well as recent work, visitors will encounter an ambient installation of early monitor-based works and incidental projections; groundbreaking projects of their time such as 'A Hypertext Journal' that explores the interactive possibilities of technology.

Their acclaimed documentary films shine a light on often marginalised or unknown communities. A dedicated cinema room, focuses on a presentation of three of their most important feature-length films: 'Living with the Tudors', an anachronistic and at times tragic-comic result of their three-year long participation in the re-enactment society of Kentwell Hall; 'Bata-ville', a nostalgic and unconventional road trip down memory lane with ex-Bata factory workers from East-Tilbury and Maryport to the home of the Bata ideology in Zlin, Czech Republic and 'Jaywick Escapes', the portrait of a deprived and long-forgotten Essex seaside town and its prospectless inhabitants.

As part of an extended programme of talks and events relating to their wide-ranging and significant practice (see events calendar), there will be a special screening of their newest film 'The Closer We Get'.

This exhibition follows the artists from their early video installations and websites to later large-scale sculptural work and feature-length films, screened daily in a gallery cinema.

For further information and images please contact Susie Biller or Freya Jewitt at Kettle's Yard, University of Cambridge, Castle Street, Cambridge CB3 0AQ U.K.  
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## Editors notes

**Nina Pope and Karen Guthrie** live and work in London and the Lake District respectively. After studying together at Edinburgh College of Art they completed MA's in London and began working together in 1995. Their early career was marked by technological innovation combined with a socially-engaged and inclusive sensibility - for example, their live online travelogue 'A Hypertext Journal' (1996) was an influential precursor of the blog. In 2001 they formalised their collaboration as the not-for-profit arts practice Somewhere, their current work spans public art and film-making, and their focus remains on the widest possible application of creativity to enrich and inform public life.

Nina also maintains an academic post in Design Interactions at the Royal College of Art and both also free-lance as visiting tutors, in arts advisory roles and in professional development for artists. Karen works in diverse roles in public art, including many projects and initiatives with Grizedale Arts, including their website and land / garden development. In 2008 they won the first Northern Art Prize and in 2010 their new media installation 'An Artist's Impression' was acquired by the Science Museum (London). See their website: <http://www.somewhere.org.uk/>

### **University of Cambridge's North West Cambridge Development Artist Residency**

<http://www.nwcambridge.co.uk/> & <http://www.nwcambridgeart.com/>

Karen Guthrie and Nina Pope were artists in residence at North West Cambridge from March 2013 to April 2014. They worked with the University of Cambridge Archaeology Department to focus on the excavation programme. The result of their residency was 'Tomorrow, Today'. A 1:12.5 scale 'model village of the future' was hand-built on site by volunteer teams using ancient cob building techniques, made primarily from the materials excavated during the archaeological survey. 'Tomorrow, Today' will eventually be buried carefully beneath the soil level as the actual development begins, its trace visible only from the air - perhaps to be uncovered one day by archaeologists of the future.

- See more at: <http://www.nwcambridgeart.com/artist-residencies/blog/visit-tomorrow-today/#sthash.RzFC4q0e.dpuf>

**North West Cambridge** is the largest single capital development project that the University has undertaken in its 800-year history. The £1 billion investment in the multi-phased series of capital development assists in meeting the long-term growth needs of the University. The development has an integrated and dynamic Public Art Strategy, see <http://www.nwcambridgeart.com/>

### **Curating Cambridge**

This exhibition and associated events are part of Curating Cambridge, the University of Cambridge Museums city-wide festival. For more see: [www.curatingcambridge.org.uk](http://www.curatingcambridge.org.uk)

### **KETTLE'S YARD**

Opened in 1957 Kettle's Yard is a remarkable house and collection with a programme of modern and contemporary art exhibitions, educational activities and music. Kettle's Yard is part of the University of Cambridge.

Please see [www.kettlesyard.co.uk](http://www.kettlesyard.co.uk) and [www.kettlesyardonline.co.uk](http://www.kettlesyardonline.co.uk)