

Nathalie Joffre

NEARCH
2014/5

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Nathalie Joffre is a French artist based in Paris working with video, photography and writing. Her work is concerned with our relation to the past as an intimate and performative experience.

She holds Masters degrees from ESSEC, University Paris-1 Panthéon Sorbonne (art history) and an MPhil Visual Arts from the University of Arts in Amiens (2011). In 2012, she completed her MA Photography at London College of Communication (2012).

Her work, “He told me that his garden...” around Bethlem Royal Hospital Archives, has been awarded the Sproxton Award for Photography 2012 (London), the Prix ICART 2013 (Paris). Shown in various international video art festivals, her video work has also been short-listed for the Celeste Prize 2013 and long-listed for the Aesthetica Art Prize 2012. In 2013, she was the recipient of an educational residency in video art sponsored by the French Ministries of Culture and Agriculture. In 2014, she worked on a commission for Katia and Marielle Fondazione (Rome).



He told me that his garden...

3-channel, projection. 9'30". Color, sound. 300 cm x 169 cm (2012)

An empirical exploration of a photographic archive from Bethlem Royal Hospital, Europe's oldest institution for mental illnesses. Archives tend to bring us back to the past through documenting it but they also inhabit our present. What kind of imprint do they leave on the memory, the body and the intimate space of the one who touches, smells, listens to them and studies them?



Les Tranchées

2-channel, projection.11'40". Color, sound. (2013-2014)

Mixing fiction and documentary, *Les Tranchées* (The Trenches) explores the site of the «Tranchée de l'Espérance» («The Trench of hope») in Commentry, a small rural town in central France formally an important industrial site in the XIXth Century. Today a lake, The Trenches were open cast coal mines where numerous fossils could be found. I found out that, The *Meganeura*, a giant dragonfly species, considered as the biggest insect which has ever lived on Earth, was found there.



Du ciel ouvert

Series of 5 photographs - 60cmx90cm. Inkjet on Hähnemühle Photorag, Dibond.

Photographs taken in a former coalfield in central France (Allier) and details of photographs of geological sections and fossils from the same area (1900), when the coal mines were prospering.

Nearch Project : Gestures+body//excavation

The archeologist :

« Il désigne en pays de langue grecque une catégorie d'acteurs, les mimes dramatiques qui évoquaient sur scène d'antiques légendes »

(Les Etapes de l'archéologie, Georges Daux. Collection Que sais-je ?. 1942)

Protocol:

Collect : build an archive of an excavation...

Record the gestures of an excavation.

Record the bodies, the faces, the sounds...

Record the stories around excavation, the subjective experiences of the archeologist.

Re-inventory

Re-create the archeologist's gestures from this « real » archive.

Re-enactement and performance