

Tim Davies

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Research Groups: Fine Art; Creative Industries Research and Innovation Centre

Evidence Portfolio: *Frari*

Output Number: 2 of 4

Output Code: WIRAD-UWTSD-TD02

Output Type Code: Q

Output Description: Video Installation

Author: Davies, Tim

Year of Publication / Production: 2011

Location / Venue(s): 54th Venice Biennale, International Art Exhibition 2011, Italy

Media: Single channel HD video installation

Number of Works: 1 x 3 minutes 46 seconds duration



Frari, 2011. Video stills

Research Context

This work extends Davies's research into architectural space. It forms part of his ongoing investigation into how hidden architectural spaces can be documented through the medium of stills photography and presented in a moving audio-video installation. It is rooted in a continuing interest with the problematic of making work site-responsively, while attempting to avoid overt literalism, assumption and cliché. *Frari* builds on the themes of negotiated spaces and site-responsiveness, which have been a focus of Davies's work over several years. Utilising a relatively new medium within his practice, that of layered photographic stills, the work extends his exploration of what film theorist Giuliana Bruno has termed 'architectural promenades' in order to develop a dialogue between the private and the public realm, and between three dimensional space and two dimensional representation.

Research Imperatives

This research investigates the phenomenology of place — the way unfamiliar spaces are experienced — and the unique, specific characteristics of a given site. In developing *Frari*, Davies addresses the challenge of translating the embodied experience of the site into an engaging audio-visual medium, translating stills to moving imagery in an installation in which sound is as important a consideration as the visual elements. *Frari* is also an examination of the notion of 'sound spill', by which the audio from one work overlaps onto other works in an exhibition.



Frari, Installation view at 54th Venice Biennale, Italy, 2011

Project Methods

For the Venice Biennale exhibition, Davies was given access to the usually publicly inaccessible interior of the Campanile of Santa Maria dei Frari in Venice. Thousands of still photographs were taken in the interior of the bell tower, then a selection were edited together to produce a video. The photographs recorded each step on the ascending journey up the inner ramps of the architectural structure. Similarly, the descent was documented so that a meticulous record was made of the unfamiliar environment in which the routes to the top and the base of the building are made. Once the photographs were taken, an audio recording was made of the sound of Davies ascending the ramps.

Outcomes and Dissemination

Frari was presented at the following solo exhibitions:

- *Tim Davies - Wales at Venice*, 54th Venice Biennale International Art Exhibition 2011 at the Ludoteca Santa Maria Ausiliatrice, Venice, 4th June – 27th November 2011
- *Tim Davies: Drift*, part of Diffusion: Cardiff International Festival of Photography, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff 9th March – 26th May 2013

Publications

The work was featured in the following catalogue publications:

- Globus, D. and Jones, A. (eds.) *Tim Davies* (2011). London: Ridinghouse, with specially commissioned texts from international art curator and commentator Tessa Jackson and poet and author, Owen Sheers. ISBN 978-1-905464432
- *Diffusion* (2013). Cardiff: National Museum of Wales

Talks

Frari was discussed in invited lectures at:

Ludoteca S.M. Ausiliatrice, 54th Venice Biennale International Art Exhibition 2011

'Tim Davies in Conversation with Amanda Farr', Oriel Davies Gallery, Newtown, Wales, 20th October, 2011

'Tim Davies: Walers at Venice' Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Wales, 2nd November 2011

Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff, Wales, 2012

'Wales in Venice', National Museum, Cardiff, Wales, 25th April 2012



Davies planning his installation for the 54th Venice Biennale



Frari on 54th Venice Biennale poster 2011



Tim Davies (2011) London: Ridinghouse



Diffusion Catalogue, National Museum, Cardiff 2013



Tim Davies and *Frari* on banner at 54th Venice Biennale of Art 2011