

Tim Davies

Senior Lecturer

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

Evidence Portfolio: *Kilkenny Shift*

Output Number: 1 of 4

Output Code: WIRAD-UWTSD-TD01

Output Type Code: Q

Output Description: Video Installation

Author: Davies, Tim

Year of Publication / Production: 2009

Location / Venue(s): Butler Gallery, Kilkenny, Eire and exhibitions in London and Swansea, UK and Tallinn, Estonia

Media: Single channel SD video installation

Number of Works: 1 x 5 minutes 29 seconds duration



Kilkenny Shift, 2009. Video still

Research Context

Kilkenny Shift extends Davies's practice through the use of photographic stills which are edited to form an animated video. It extends his site responsive work and builds on his ongoing concerns with site, social dislocation, disenfranchisement, embodied experience, and hidden histories through a close examination of the hidden servants' staircase at Kilkenny Castle in Ireland. The work is an exploration of the nature and meaning of human experience for the development of new insights; Davies' focus is the political and social relations symbolised by the grand mahogany stairs used by masters and mistresses and the cold stone steps used by their servants. His approach draws on Michael De Certeau's exploration of the structures of power in his 1984 text *The Practice of Everyday Life*, (trans. Steven Rendall).

Research Imperatives

Davies's aim with this project is to reveal the hidden and to articulate the unspoken through a focus on stairways in hidden passageways throughout Kilkenny castle. In addition to these 'unseen' aspects of the project, the work incorporates an investigation into notions of cultural heritage, ownership and tourism in relation to the castle as a tourist destination.

Project Methods

Davies was invited by the Butler Gallery in Kilkenny, Eire to make a new site-responsive work for his solo exhibition in 2009 and after conducting research into the history of the castle, he photographed a hidden staircase used by the castle's servants, literally retracing their steps.

Davies extended his use of the medium of digital stills photography, using edit and dissolve techniques and digital collage techniques to develop an installation comprising a filmic two-dimensional image with an overlain audio recording of his footsteps as he hurried down the hidden stairway in an evocation and acknowledgement of hard-pressed servants who are heard but not seen.

Outcomes and Dissemination

Kilkenny Shift has been presented in four solo exhibitions:

- *Kilkenny Shift*, Butler Gallery, Kilkenny, Eire, 2nd May – 14th June, 2009
- *Between a Rock and a Hard Place*, Glynn Vivian Gallery, Swansea 10th October – 6th December 2009
- *Seeriad/Series*, Tallinna Kunstihoone Fond, Tallinn, Estonia in May 2010
- *In and Amongst*, Fold Gallery, London 17th November 2012 – 19th January 2013



Kilkenny Castle exterior and interior views

Publications

The work was featured in the following catalogue publications:

- Davies, T. (2009) *Kilkenny Shift Kilkenny*: Butler Gallery
- Davies, T. (2009) *Between a Rock and a Hard Place* Swansea: Glynn Vivian Gallery, ISBN 978-0-903189798
- Davies, T. (2010) *Seeriad/Series* Tallinn: Sihtasutus Tallinna Kunstihoone Fond, ISBN 978-9985-9981-8-2

Reviews

- *The Irish Sunday Times Culture Magazine* 10th May 2009
- *The Arts Desk* 8th November 2009, 'Tim Davies, Glynn Vivian Gallery, Swansea 'Between a Rock and a Hard Place'' by Sue Steward
- Flux Magazine, November 2012, 'In and Amongst: Tim Davies solo show at FOLD Gallery' by Philomena Epps

Talks

It was discussed in invited lectures associated with the exhibitions at:

- Butler Gallery, Kilkenny, 2009
- Glynn Vivian Gallery, Swansea, 2009
- Tallinna Kunstihoone, Tallinn, Estonia, 2010

Kilkenny Shift was also appraised in Anna O'Sullivan and Eamonn Maxwell's discussion about contemporary art in historic buildings as part of Lismore Castle Arts 'First Tuesdays' public lecture series in Co. Waterford, Ireland, 2012.



Kilkenny Shift, 2009. Video still



Kilkenny Shift, Installation view, Fold Gallery, London, 2012



Kilkenny Shift in Between a Rock and Hard Place
catalogue, Glynn Vivian, Swansea



Kilkenny Shift exhibition catalogue, the Butler
Gallery, Kilkenny



Kilkenny Shift in the Seeriad/Series
exhibition catalogue, Sihtasutus Tallinna Kunstihoone Fond, Tallinn