

Tim Davies

Senior Lecturer

University of Wales Trinity Saint David

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

Evidence Portfolio: *Bridges*

Output Number: 3 of 4

Output Code: WIRAD-UWTSD-TD03

Output Type Code: M

Output Description: Exhibition

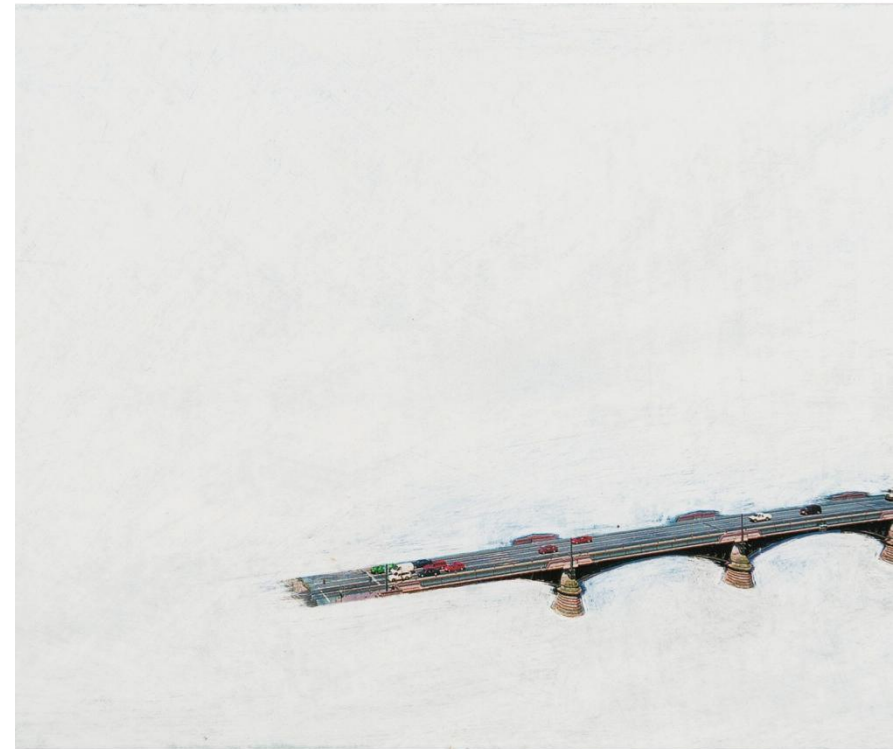
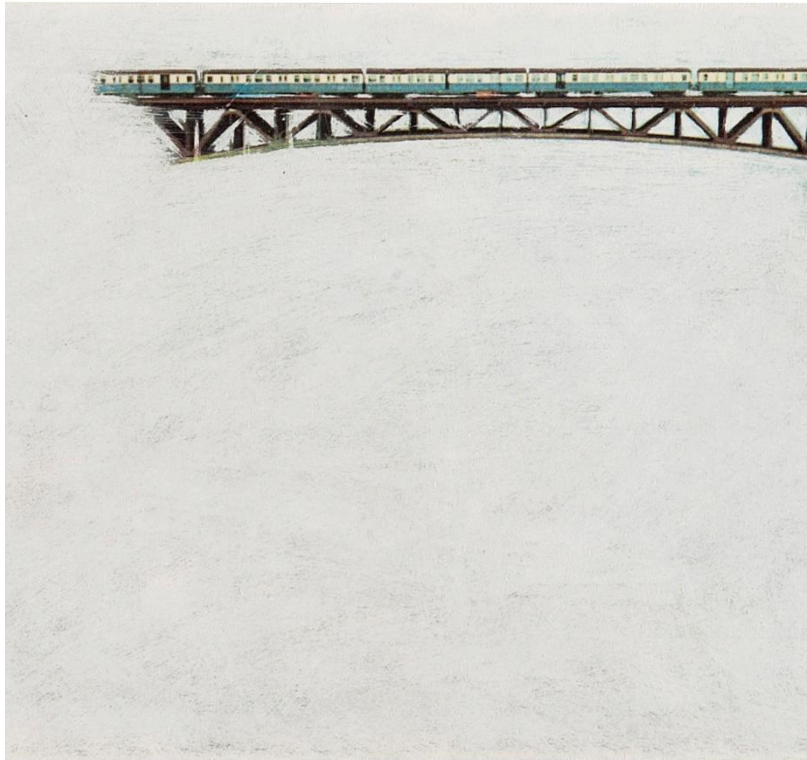
Author: Davies, Tim

Year of Publication / Production: 2009 -2013 ongoing

Location / Venue(s): Glynn Vivian Gallery, Swansea, Wales and Cardiff, London, Bristol, UK; Venice, Italy; Kilkenny, Eire

Media: Installation of up to 60 framed sanded postcards

Number of Works: 60



From the *Bridges* series (both images detail), 2009

Research Context

The on-going series *Bridges* explores the artistic potential of *objets trouvés*, in this case, postcards. The series extends Davies's wide body of 2D work utilising postcards, and is an exploration of the semantics and semiotics of tourist artefacts. The work investigates the further discursive potential of an object created for a communicative purpose which, although potentially redundant in the digital age, is nevertheless an evocative item and inspirational for visual artists, as Jeremy Cooper's 2012 book *Artists' Postcards: A Compendium* demonstrates. The research combines two strands of enquiry; it examines the way in which texture and image can be manipulated, and it also explores going beyond the 'everydayness' of architecture, transcending the physical structures to investigate their symbolic meanings for the communities which the bridges join.

Research Imperatives

Arising from an interest in the rebuilding of the Mostar Bridge following the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the conceptual impulses behind the work include a concern with making artworks informed by issues of conflict, connection and disconnection, architectural destruction, and simulacra. *Bridges* encourage the viewer to focus on the bridges without their adjoining landscape as structures disassociated from their function. Questions emerge concerning the role of the bridges within communities, and the potential of the works to evoke what Gerald Manly

Hopkins termed 'inscape', the specific identity or set of characteristics of a particular landscape or other structure which make it unique.

Project Methods

The method involves selecting, collecting and collating postcards. The physical process itself involves the meticulous sanding away of the surface of each postcard, transforming the original until it takes on an almost painterly quality. From over one hundred works produced to date, a specific selection is made for each exhibition installation.

Outcomes and Dissemination

Exhibitions

The *Bridges* series has been exhibited in a variety of configurations in the following 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
- *In and Amongst*, Fold Gallery, London 17th November 2012 – 19th January 2013
- *Tim Davies - Wales at Venice*, 54th Venice Biennale International Art Exhibition 2011 at the Ludoteca Santa Maria Ausiliatrice, Venice, 4th June – 27th November 2011

- *The Light Across the Street* W A L L, London, 2011
- Karsten Schubert Gallery, London 2011
- 'The Artists' Postcard Show', Spike Island, Bristol 6th April – 17th June 2012
- National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, 2013

Publications

The work has featured in the following publications:

Cooper, J. (2012) *Artists' Postcards: a Compendium* London: Reaktion Books. ISBN-13: 978-186189852.

Tim Davies, (2011) Arts Council of Wales Educational Resource Pack

Glynn Vivian Gallery catalogue for the solo exhibition *Between a Rock and a Hard Place* (2009). ISBN 978-0-903189798 .

Globus, D. and Jones, A. (eds.) *Tim Davies* (2011). London: Ridinghouse. ISBN 978-1-905464432.

Reviews

- *The Arts Desk* 8th November 2009, 'Tim Davies, Glynn Vivian Gallery, Swansea 'Between a Rock and a Hard Place'' by Sue Steward
- *Ateliér Journal of Contemporary Art*, No. 18, 9th September 2011
- 'One Piece at a Time', *Groupe d'Etudes Interdisciplinaires en Arts Britanniques*, May 2011, by Cyril Thomas
- One of the *Bridges* postcards was illustrated in *The Independent on Sunday*, 8th April 2012

Talks

Bridges was discussed in invited lectures in 2009 at:

- The Butler Gallery, Kilkenny, Eire
- The Glynn Vivian Gallery, Swansea
- WALL Gallery, London

And in 2012 at the Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University, Wales

Three postcards from the series were purchased by the British Council in 2011.



Bridges installation view,
Venice Biennale 2011



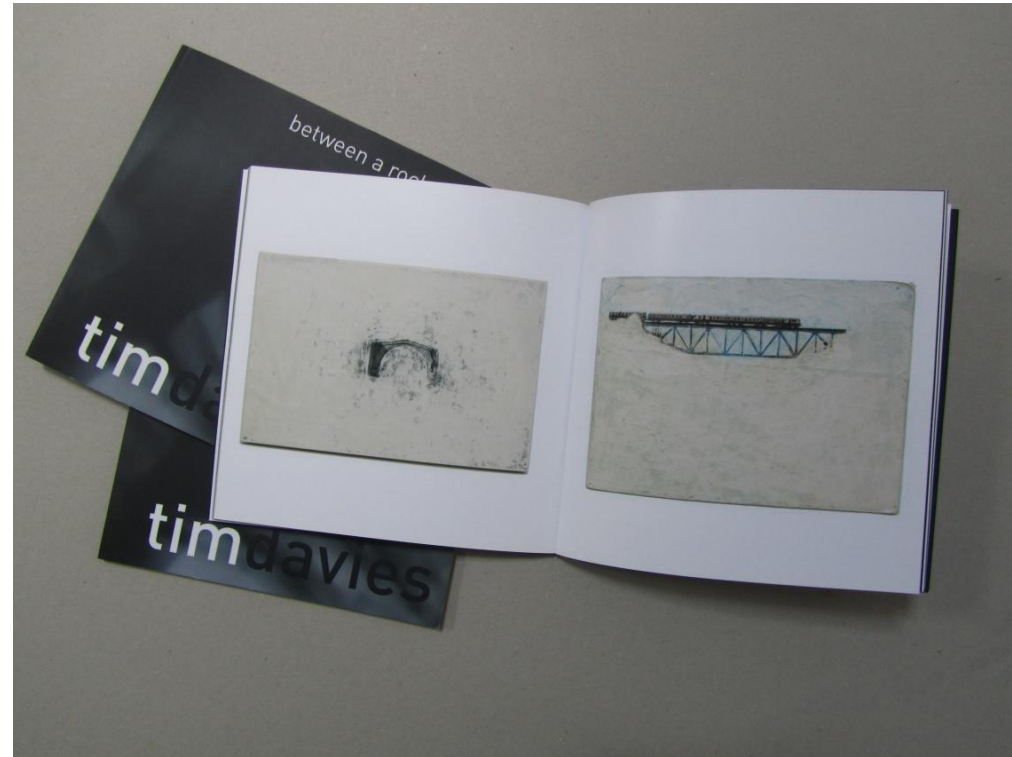
Bridges installation view,
Fold Gallery, London, 2012



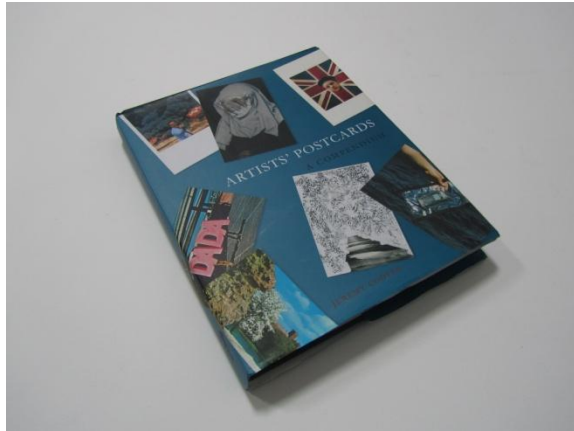
Bridges installation view, Glynn
Vivian Gallery, Swansea, 2009



Tim Davies, (2011) London: Ridinghouse



Between a Rock and a Hard Place (2009) Glynn Vivian Gallery, Swansea



Bridges featured in Cooper, J. (2012) *Artist's postcards: A Compendium*. London: Reaktion Books