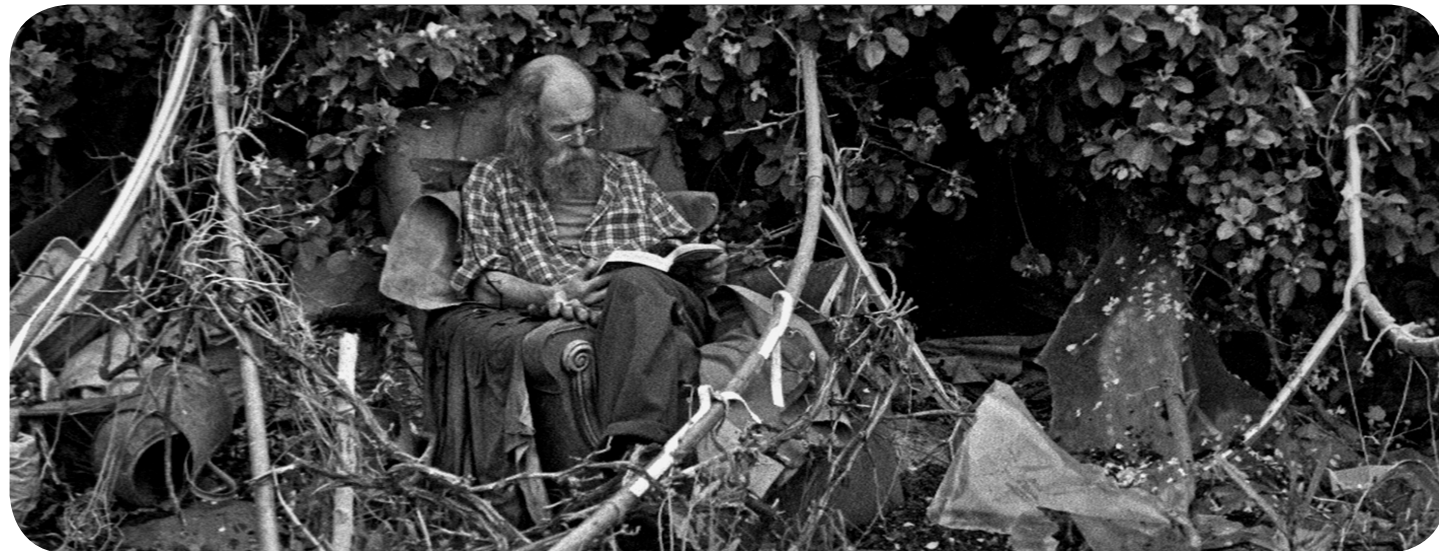


TATE FILM

CLOSE AT HAND I & II

I: Sunday 9 February 2014, 14.00-17.30

II: Monday 10 February 2014, 19.00-21.00



Ben Rivers, *Two Years at Sea* 2011, film still. Courtesy the artist and Kate MacGarry, London. © Ben Rivers



Clio Barnard, *The Arbor*, 2010, video still © Clio Barnard and Verve Pictures

This programme presents the expressive power of film, whether capturing the subtleties of human existence or harnessing the materiality of film itself.

CLIO BARNARD, SUKY BEST, NICK COLLINS, KATE DAVIS, KIRSTY SINCLAIR DOOTSON, JENNIFER NIGHTINGALE, SAMANTHA REBELLO, BEN RIVERS

Assembly: A Survey of Artists' Film and Video in Britain 2008–2013 is curated by Stuart Comer, formerly Tate, now chief curator Media and Performance, MoMA; George Clark, Tate Modern; and Melissa Blanchflower, Tate Britain; with independent curators Simon Payne and Andrew Vallance.

Tate Film is supported by
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ASSEMBLY: A SURVEY OF RECENT ARTISTS’ FILM AND VIDEO IN BRITAIN 2008 – 2013

Assembly is a major survey of internationally acclaimed single-screen artists’ film and video. Including more than eighty artists, the list is drawn from thirty-six leading international film specialists who were invited to nominate outstanding recent works. Screenings take place at Tate Britain in the Clore Auditorium: on Sundays, feature length films are shown, and on Mondays curated programmes of shorter films are followed by discussions with invited speakers and the artists. Each weekly theme suggests a contested area of practice and prompts a dialogue that continues from one screening to the next, encouraging discussion and debate about contemporary film and video.

The popularity of film and video has surged during the last decade, with screenings occurring in numerous venues from galleries to film festivals, from television to online. The development of digital technology has particularly impacted the distribution, aesthetics and accessibility of artists’ cinema. Reflecting this expanded field, *Assembly* is a unique opportunity to consider what is being produced here and now, throwing into relief and celebrating differences across various artists’ practices in the medium.

PROGRAMME NOTES

**CLOSE AT HAND I
SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2014
14.00–17.30**

The unflinching and affecting portrait in *The Arbor*, poetically depicting life on a Bradford council estate, is paired with an evocation of life in the remote Scottish Highlands in *Two Years at Sea*.

**THE ARBOR
Clio Barnard, 2010
HD video, 94 min**

Deriving its title from Brafferton Arbor, a street on the Buttershaw Estate in East Bradford, Yorkshire, *The Arbor* reconstructs the tumultuous life of playwright Andrea Dunbar (1961–1990). Actors lip-synch the recollections of Dunbar’s eldest daughter and others to dramatise the legacy of a tragically brief life.

**Clio Barnard (born 1965, USA)
Lives and works in London**
Select awards for this, Barnard’s first feature film, include Best New Documentary Filmmaker at Tribeca Film Festival New York; Best British Newcomer at The London Film Festival and the Sutherland Trophy presented by the BFI (all 2010). Barnard’s subsequent feature *The Selfish Giant* (2013) is currently BAFTA-nominated for Best British Film (2014).

INTERVAL, 15 MIN

**TWO YEARS AT SEA
Ben Rivers, 2011
16mm, 88 min**

Rivers’ first feature-length film is a carefully composed chronicle of Jake Williams’ spartan existence in the Cairngorms, Scottish Highlands, reprising Jake’s earlier appearance in *This is My Land* (2006). Part observation, part fabrication, this elegy to solitude and communing with nature exposes life in a dream-like state.

Funded by Arts Council England through Film London Artist’s Moving Image Network

**Ben Rivers (born 1972, Somerset)
Lives and works in London**
Rivers’ work has been screened internationally in galleries and at film festivals. Awards include the Balaise Art Prize and the Fipresci Award at the 68th Venice Film Festival for Best Film (both 2011). Select solo exhibitions include *Sack Barrow*, Hayward Project Space, London (2011) and *Ben Rivers*, Hepworth Wakefield (2012).

**CLOSE AT HAND II
MONDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2014
19.00 – 21.00**

Our sensory relationship to film – its look, sound and feel – is brought to the screen by artists capturing moments both ephemeral and visceral.

**WHAT HAVE WE GOT TO DO WITH A ROOM OF ONE’ S OWN?
Kate Davis, 2010
16 mm transferred to digital, 25 min**

Emerging from an artist’s-led reading group exploring Virginia Woolf’s *A Room of One’s Own*, Kate Davis lyrically choreographs objects and actions to create a layered reflection on history and the materiality of film, in the process revisiting moments from the history of art and feminism.

**Kate Davis (born 1977, New Zealand)
Lives and works in Glasgow**
Solo exhibitions include *Eight Blocks or a Field at Temporary Gallery*, Cologne (2013), *Not Just the Perfect Moment* , The Drawing Room, London (2012), and *Art Now: Kate Davis*, Tate Britain (2007). Select awards include Elephant Trust Award (2012) and Creative Scotland International Presentation Award (2013).

**FORMS ARE NOT SELF-SUBSISTENT SUBSTANCES
Samantha Rebello, 2010
16mm, 23 min**

Abstracted imagery of flesh, blood and milk provide some of the substances captured in close-up as the artist continues her explorations of materiality.

**Samantha Rebello
Lives and works in London**
Rebello is a sound and film artist whose works have been screened internationally at film festivals and art galleries. Her film *The Object Which Thinks Us: OBJECT 1* (2007) was awarded Best Film at the Aurora Film Festival (2008). *Forms Are Not Self Subsistent Substances* won the Grand Prize at the Media City Festival, Windsor, Ontario (2011).

**3 YEAR COMPRESSION
Kirsty Sinclair Dootson, 2009
Super 8mm transferred to video
20 sec**

Pushing our understanding of “short film” to the extreme, Dootson condenses the passage of time into a mere moment.

**Kirsty Sinclair Dootson
Lives and works in Connecticut, USA**
Select screenings include the Edinburgh International Film Festival (2009). Dootson is the co-founder of Salon des Refusés and has curated programmes of short films at festivals including the 9th London Short Film Festival (2012). She was awarded the Henry fellowship at Yale University (2007-2008) and is part of the inaugural cohort of Museum Research Consortium Fellows at MoMA, New York (2013).

**54 Morning Lane
Suky Best, 2011
Video, 6 min**

In four brief scenes, Best fuses the innocence of childhood and with the darker impulses of transgressive acts. Her historic British references include the dramatic film *This Happy Breed* (1944) and Beatrix Potter’s

cautionary work of children’s fiction *The Tale of Two Bad Mice* (1904).

**Suky Best
Lives and works in London**
Select exhibitions include *Art Now Lightbox*, Tate Britain (2005) and *The Return of the Native*, the Millennium Gallery, Sheffield (2009). Best has received awards from the London Arts Board (2002) and the Wellcome Trust (2005).

**DARK GARDEN
Nick Collins, 2011
16mm, 9 min**

Capturing spectral images of the artist’s own garden in deep winter, Collins captures haunting presences amongst dormant plant life and frost.

**Nick Collins (born 1953, UK)
Lives and works in Sussex**
Collins’ short works, usually made on 16mm film, have been shown worldwide at film festivals. Select recent works include *Loutra:Baths and Square* and *Mountain* (both 2010), *Temple of Apollo*, *An Afternoon*, *At Pont du Tarn* (2012) and *Trissákia 3* (2013).

**WEST WINDOW, EAST WINDOW
Jennifer Nightingale, 2013
16mm, 10 min**

The most recent in Nightingale’s ongoing series of pinhole films, *West Window*, *East Window* interrogates the technology, mechanics and sites of image-making.

**Jennifer Nightingale (born 1980)
Lives in Brighton and works in London and Cambridge**
Nightingale’s films have been screened at various venues in the UK including Serpentine Gallery, London (2008) and Tate Modern, London (2008). She is a lecturer at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge and The Royal College of Art, London.

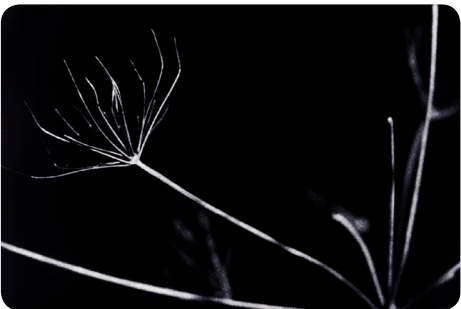


Image credits (from top):
Kate Davis, *What have we got to do with a room of one’s own?* 2010, still
Courtesy Kate Davis and Galerie Kamm, Berlin © Kate Davis
Samantha Rebello, *Forms Are Not Self-Subsistent Substances* 2010, film still
Courtesy the artist. © Samantha Rebello
Kirsty Sinclair Dootson, *3 Year Compression* 2009, video still Courtesy the artist.
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Suky Best, *54 Morning Lane* 2011, video still Courtesy the artist. © Suky Best
Nick Collins, *Dark Garden* 2011, frame enlargement still from film Courtesy the artist. © Nick Collins
Jennifer Nightingale, *West Window, East Window* 2013, film still Courtesy the artist. © Jennifer Nightingale