

Frances Hegarty & Andrew Stones

Tactically Yours

A new installation with video and audio for the Butler Gallery, Kilkenny

June 23 – July 29, 2007

In ***Tactically Yours*** Frances Hegarty & Andrew Stones have distilled some of the close inter-personal tactics associated with a collaborative partnership into a series of actions for camera. The installation can be read as a set of exercises, testing the isolated gestures of the individual against the idea of the social or political act; and, more pointedly, the categorizations of art against the exigencies of physical action, and the flow of time.

Twenty-four CCTV monitors (in three of the Butler galleries) show a left-handed woman and a right-handed man hurling rocks along the paths and avenues within a forest. Short 'training' actions are repetitively looped, playing continuously, creating a field of tireless on-screen combatants. Distant traffic and birds form the backdrop to a close-up cacophony of footfalls, crunching branches, swishing coats, and exhalations.

In a separate (fourth) room a video projection shows a left hand and a right hand drawing simultaneously within the one frame. In rapid, noisy bursts, thirty-two drawings appear, each immediately erased to make way for the creation of the next. The hands seem at turns cooperative, competitive, combative; the viewer may identify with the left or the right, or with some conflicted entity wrestling to integrate the work of both. As with the action in the forest, no words are exchanged. Each drawing emerges from a shower of percussive blows, audible throughout the installation.

Tactically Yours might seem to be formally completed by letting the noise of the drawings stand in for the impacts of the missiles launched into the forest. This neat closure is unsettled by a deeper question: if the end of the work is to be 'drawing' or 'art' what, then, of the other connotations of the action in the forest, the undercurrent of violence, the allusions to insurrection, protest and resistance?

In addition to pursuing wide-ranging individual practices Frances Hegarty & Andrew Stones have established a collaborative identity via a series of large scale, temporary, site-specific works. Since presenting *For Dublin* in 1997 (Irish Museum of Modern Art /Nissan Art Project) they have been commissioned to make site-specific works in the cities of Sheffield (*Seemingly So Evidently Not Apparently Then*, Site Gallery 1998), Birmingham (*Orienteer (A to Z, Dawn to Dusk)* Ikon Gallery 2000), Belfast (*Overnight Sensation*, Ormeau Baths Gallery 2001) and Bradford (*Extra*, 2003). In 2006 Hegarty & Stones presented the large scale video/audio project *Ex Machina*, commissioned by Visualise Carlow, Ireland.

<http://www.brighter.org> - Frances Hegarty & Andrew Stones, artists' archives

ADMISSION FREE

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