

BEN RIVERS

Things

19 September – 25 October 2014

Kate MacGarry is pleased to present a new film by Ben Rivers in his third exhibition at the gallery. *Things* is a lyrical analysis of the objects we gather around us and split into sections loosely based on the seasons. Rivers' films are, typically, intimate portrayals of solitary beings or isolated communities. In *Things* however, he turns his attention to the unexplored objects, thoughts and memories from inside his own home.

It begins with *Winter*, shot on black and white film developed by the artist in his kitchen. This cottage industry approach to filmmaking lends the film a raw, imperfect touch and sets the tone for the personal nature of the film. Rivers has used as his subject a collection of objects, sounds and images that hold fascination for him in some way. These range from Lascaux cave paintings to scraps of music, stills of magicians and American amateur actors. The apparent simplicity of this section points towards primitive image making and is inspired by early cinema. In one scene, the image of an eclipse is distorted and set against black noise. As the camera tracks back, a simple cinematic trick is revealed which nods to the world of trickery and illusion in cinema.

As the seasons change, parallels and associations are made with things previously seen; Rivers creates an intricate web of clues to a life, there for the viewer to unpick. *Things* recalls Xavier de Maistre's 1794 novel *Voyage Around my Room* in its attention to the minutiae of life and the way in which poetic imaginings can be revealed in the ultralocal.

The film is a collision of individual fragments of video and sound, which together complete an abstract, humorous and intimate picture. In the *Summer* section for example, we witness a squirrel attacking a coconut model of another squirrel. In its attention to small moments, the film is a rumination of the things we gather around us.

Ben Rivers, born in 1972 in Somerset, England, lives and works in London. He has been awarded the 2013 Artangel Open Commission, the product of which will be presented in 2015. Recent exhibitions include *Ben Rivers* at Temporary Gallery, Cologne, 2014; *Ah Liberty!* at The Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, 2013; *Phantoms of a Libertine* at Kate MacGarry, London, 2012; *Ben Rivers* at the Hepworth Wakefield, 2012; *Sack Barrow* at The Changing Room, Sterling and Hayward Project Space, London in 2011 and *Slow Action* at Picture This, Bristol in 2010.

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