

## **GAIR DUNLOP : SELECTED WORKS**

### **“ATOM TOWN: LIFE AFTER TECHNOLOGY”**

2011 film release, twin screen 22 min.

Dounreay Atomic Research Establishment is a sprawling monument to solidity, optimism and analogue engineering. The intangible alchemies and sense of romantic science at its heart are trapped like amber in archive film and in its colossal structures. Over the last two years, unprecedented access to the facility and to the UKAEA Archive at Harwell have allowed Gair Dunlop to explore the dream and the consequences of high science in a remote community.

The catalogue essay is by renegade futurologist Ken Hollings.

2010 “Running Time: Scottish artists film from 1960 till now”

Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh.

### **DISPERSALS**

RAF Coltishall site specific from this displayed in ‘Multichannel’ group exhibition, Artsway, and in “Running Time: at SNGMA Dean Gallery. 2010

2007 ‘Simulator/Realtime’ multiscreen projection at NRLA, Tramway, Glasgow.

### **VULCAN**

2005 Bolwick Hall, Norfolk: site specific project.. “Vulcan” was a lawn drawing; a full-size rendition of a Vulcan nuclear bomber etched into the surface of a lawn at a country house in Norfolk. Fading over a period of months, and counterpointed by the constant roar of military jets in the area, it played with memory, militarism and territory with humour and directness. RAF pilots spotted the work (111ft by 93 ft), and invited me to document it from the air.

“Drawing is a verb, drawing is a noun.” Group show, Stone Gallery, Dublin.

Vulcan project featured, 2 reviews.

### **“CENTURY 21 CALLING”**

A commission from the Wellcome Trust, as part of “Fourplus: Writing DNA.” Newspaper archives, scientific biography, and film from the 1964 Worlds Fair in Seattle were brought together in the Reading Room of the Wellcome Trust library in 2003. A limited edition flickbook was produced, and given away free. The work was extended and restaged in

“Designer Bodies: towards the Post-Human Condition”, Stills Gallery, Edinburgh. With Christine Borland, Gina Czarnecki and Jacqueline Donachie. 2004

From Adam to DNA, Museum Boerhaave, Leiden, Holland, 2009

Alter Nature: CIAP Contemporary Art, Hasselt Belgium 2011

“Today in Paradise” Rødasten, Gothenburg, Sweden. 2005

## INDEX

Site specific commission, Meadow Gallery, Shropshire. Signage featuring text from garden theorists, political philosophers and dystopian novelists, scattered in an award-winning landscape garden. Part of 'Revisiting the Picturesque' at Burford House, Shropshire.

- 1998 Two solo shows, Land Work 93-98, Herefordshire Photographic Festival
- \*1998 "Arizona Pants", Street Level Gallery, Glasgow
- 1997 "Languageland", Cameo Cinema, Edinburgh, and touring.
- 1996 Fotografisk Galleri, Copenhagen, supported by the British Council
- 199 Image Galleri, Århus, Denmark, supported by the British Council.

## Higher Education

- 1981 MA Hons, Sociology, University of Aberdeen.
- 1989 BA Photography, Polytechnic of Central London,(now University of Westminster)
- 1991 Stage 1 Adult Education Teaching Certificate, Working Men's College, London
- 2001 MSc with distinction in Electronic Imaging, Duncan of Jordanstone, Dundee.

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## **ABLAB + Dunlop**

Ablab and Dunlop are Dan Norton and Gair Dunlop, who swore a sinister pact by the mouth of the river Kelvin in the year of our lord 2001. They swore to bring the overlooked the accursed and the abandoned of modernism and utopian dreaming to assorted publics in digital format. Since then a series of web works, live performances, installations, and collaborations have presented visual and sonic non-linear artworks online and on site.

## **ABLAB + DUNLOP works**

### **CONSOLE: A WORK ABOUT CONTROL**

<http://www.ablab.org/a/i/console.html>

" The iconic image of the control room was shaped by countless thriller films: it was commonly the battleground for power struggles between mad professors, maniacal dictators and forces for good and evil."

Console evokes the 'Industrial Sublime', in which mighty technological forces are seen to be the powerhouse of the workplace. This vision of technological efficiency, is, for the artists, epitomized by the image of the control room, complete with oversize dials, controls and efficiently humming equipment. Yet, conversely, at the centre of the darkened gallery installation stands a "ghost of a panel"; a pristine white deck, stripped "to the functional modesty of the contemporary computer work station".

As if taking the helm of a control deck, the user operates the computerized trackball, thus activating film sequences of archival footage - which celebrate the 'self-conscious grandeur' of the old fashioned operating plant - inter-cut with footage of present day, anonymous control-rooms and ambient industrial sound.

"We wanted to create a tension between the corporate dream and the everyday life of these places. It is an attempt to posit the individual in projects of control and productivity, and the changes involved in the move from the self-conscious grandeur of the control rooms to the functional modesty of the work station."

Commissioned by FACT Liverpool

exhibited Watercolour Gallery, Worcester City Museum 2003

#### **SINGER GALAS**

<http://www.ablab.org/singer/>

Site specific work for a street corner site in Glasgow City Centre, sited in a historic police phone box and the adjacent stairway to a disused toilet. Archive film footage from nightlife in the city, scrolling LED signage, coloured lighting and massive bass-heavy soundscapes booming out from the under-street spaces created a sense of festival and tropical thunderstorm in a street at the heart of the 'new Glasgow attitude'

Radiance festival Glasgow

#### **CUMBERNAULD: TOWN FOR TOMORROW**

<http://www.cumbernauld.nu>

Investigation of the New Town aesthetic and its condition as part of the 'entropic modern.' The research process involved archive visits, image gathering, interviews and discussions. Produced an interactive-website combining image, text, audio and weblinks in an intuitive interface, with logical yet unlabelled controls. Behind this playful frontend, a text site comprising dialogues and interviews with some of the designers, planners, architects and residents. The work continues online.

Rotterdam Architectural Biennale 2005

Lighthouse Glasgow 2003

Funded by Scottish Arts Council Research Award and RIAS Millenium Award

Featured in 'Instant Cities' Book ed. Herbert Wright. Black Dog Publishing, London 2008

## **THE TOMORROWS PROJECT**

<http://www.tompro.co.uk/>

An interactive online visual and sonic mixing arena, where viewers become players and mix their own sense of 'former futures' using clips from the archives: on housing, new technology work environments, electrification, design, and many other topics.

In the archive, the idea of the future becomes a powerful window into both the official and the unspoken nature of modernism. An element of uncertainty in the sense of control of the interface was created, echoing the sense of uncertainty of the future.

The project was presented as 'expanded cinema', with live accompaniment from members of the Glasgow Improvisers Orchestra performed at the Glasgow Film Theatre, Edinburgh Film Festival and the Commonwealth Film Festival in Manchester.

Nominated for a BAFTA award.

## **WILLIAMSONS GENERATOR**

<http://www.ablab.org/shetland/>

Commissioned by Shetland Amenity trust to celebrate the new Museum and Archive in Lerwick, this work celebrates feral scholarship and the oral tradition. A tribute to Laurence Williamson- Nordic polymath and dreamer- the site features fragments of his writings and the oral tales of Bobby Tulloch, alongside video and still imagery of contemporary Shetland in deep winter.  
Shetland Museum and Archive, Lerwick

## **LATEST RELEASE**

**DOUNREAY** (online version)

[http://www.ablab.org/nuclear\\_G/](http://www.ablab.org/nuclear_G/)

A twin screen linear film by Dunlop called "Atom Town: life after technology", adapted and recast for interactivity online and in performance by Norton.

Online at [www.atomtwn.org.uk](http://www.atomtwn.org.uk)

Performed live at Inspace Edinburgh

Caithness Horizons, Thurso

Arts Catalyst London (with sound treatments by Erstlaub)

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