JAMES THOMPSON
Expanding Spaces

14 September - 2 November 2013
Marsden Woo Project Space

Since early 2013 James Thompson has been devising a variety of means to record and re-map the features of a small confinement cell in High Royds, a former psychiatric hospital, set in a 300 acre site in Menston, West Yorkshire. This historically significant hospital was founded in 1888 as the West Riding Pauper Lunatic Asylum, but finally closed ten years ago. However, rather than opting for conventional imitative means of documenting the site, such as photography, he has taken inspiration from the Cubists’ descriptions of space, which identified the duality of space and time and showed that it was possible to express multi-dimensional experiences of reality.

In his endeavour to record and interpret the site Thompson has employed a wide range of methods, including traditional techniques such as casting, as well as new media tools such as the video camera and scanner. One of the resulting works comprises latex casts of adjacent physical elements of the room - a window, a radiator, a door, etc. - and presents them stretched within a 3-dimensional frame, offering both a compressed and a negative view of their relative positions within the original space. In another work various architectural features are presented on a rotating latex belt and each of the corners of the cell are marked by a high
The Marsden Woo Project Space is a space for experimental new work in art, craft and design and runs alongside our established programme of solo and small group exhibitions by gallery artists. The Project Space allows us to respond quickly to significant bodies of innovative work, particularly that of talented emerging artists and designers, as well as fresh directions in the work of more established artists. The exhibitions are organized at short notice, so please check our website regularly for news on forthcoming shows and events.

In the course of this recording project Thompson has arrived at six different conceptualisations of one small - and soon to vanish - part of the material world. His work of interpretation and displacement allows it to be experienced in a number of unexpected and thought-provoking ways.

Some work-in-progress images of James Thompson’s project can be seen at: http://room-four.tumblr.com