Jim Woodall’s installation is a representational space that offers an experience of an anonymous plot of land in London - one that is left blank on Google Maps and the London A-Z. The objects and documentation that make up the installation act as markers that attest to the presence of the site, as well as the occurrence of an event that has taken place within the space. It extends his interest in ‘highlighting aspects of architectural relationships which usually go unnoticed and are meant to be off limits’.

Woodall describes the character of the particular site as ‘fairly desolate and devoid of human presence, but as with many of these spaces in London, it carries with it the possibility of future development. It has economic value’. As such it forms part of a network of places across the city ‘deemed “outside of specification” by cartographers, ranging from concrete tennis courts to abandoned car parks, roundabouts, unopened roads, Heathrow’s runways, pumping stations and school playgrounds’. The designation of some of these spaces is likely to be temporary and in other cases transitional: ‘not now’, but coming soon’.

The place and event will be represented using a range of media. In the course of the development of the project these have included video, photography, a landscape model, cast concrete objects, printed vinyl and customised odour. Woodall’s final edit will involve an amalgamation of such memory triggers. His aims are various: to explore means of recollection; display methods that point to future intention; indications of land ownership; human-accelerated entropy; and how technology affects our relationship with, and memory of, landscape. He explains: ‘In the collection of data and memories there is an inevitable loss and, over time, details begin to diminish … I am interested in the gaps in-between being and not-being, of the noumenal and phenomenal. Digital media promise us the guarantee of being, of coded order and mathematical truth. But paradoxically it is the basis for an era of un-sureness, of duplication, subterfuge and cyphering; from internet dating to complex banking structures, from sat-nav to X-factor, uncertainty rules the day. There is endless accumulation, instability and disappearance. The work responds to this contemporary landscape, demonstrating momentary connections with a person, site or object which are never quite fulfilled’.

Taking up Schopenhauer’s observation that people are usually disappointed when they go back to see a place, Woodall notes this can be seen to point to the fact that ‘what we are really nostalgic for is times rather than places, and times cannot be retrieved ... We are nostalgic for a lost world, not just a set of buildings in a street’.

Jim Woodall (b. 1978) studied at Camberwell School of Art (2000 - 2003) and in the Sculpture Department of the Royal College of Art (2011 - 2013). He was a founding member of CutUp collective, an interventionist art group active from 2004 - 2009. His work has most recently been seen in The Uneventful Day (2013), at Carroll/Fletcher, London. An earlier intervention, Olympic State (2010), was a two week, 24/7 residency within a hut built on the rooftop of a warehouse in Hackney Wick, which was filled with surveillance monitors linked to CCTV cameras (some aimed at the Olympic site’s own security cameras). The project was subsequently exhibited at See Studio Exhibition Space (2011).

www.jimwoodall.co.uk

Marsden Woo Project Space is curated by Tessa Peters.

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 of forthcoming shows and events.

For more information, images or to arrange an interview with the artist please contact Siobhan Feeney or Tatjana Marsden

t: +44(0)20 7336 6396
e: press@marsdenwoo.com

Image © Jim Woodall (2014)