

Here is Elsewhere: Sarah Wood

31 October 2020 – 3 January 2021
Edlis Neeson Research Space



Sarah Wood, *Renaissance*. Still from *Here is Elsewhere*, 2020. © Sarah Wood.

'For now our minds are supplying what the world cannot: waking visions, night-time dreams. Overnight we're nomads of the imagination. Our minds reaching out to one another while we're apart.' - Sarah Wood

Kettle's Yard is pleased to present a new commission by artist filmmaker Sarah Wood (b. 1967). *Here is Elsewhere* explores the way our minds have compensated for the unprecedented stillness and isolation experienced by many of us across the world during lockdown.

Here is Elsewhere is a project in two parts. *Here is Elsewhere*, an essay film that shares the title of the project as a whole, and *The Unmade Film*. Viewers will experience *Here is Elsewhere* via projection onto the wall of the Edlis Nelson Research space at Kettle's Yard.

In March this year as the UK entered lockdown Wood began to note the phenomena of the time. As an artist often concerned with psychoanalysis she quickly observed how it was waking dreams, night-time visions and the quiet usual operations of the unconscious that were now appearing vividly to us to help us navigate unfamiliar territory.

Vision became the starting point for this project. *Here is Elsewhere* considers not only the acts of translation the imagination makes in connecting us each to the outside world but also reconsiders the potential of the image, both still and moving, as a space for communality and thought in a time of social isolation.

According to the pioneering Lumière brothers cinema's earliest ambition was 'to bring the world to the world'. For this commission Wood tests this ambition. She creates a landscape of image constructed from new and archive material, sourced across time – here and

elsewhere – from the Lumière's earliest experiments via infomercials and amateur home movies to contemporary surveillance and drone footage. In this way Wood creates a space of resonance, a new mapping of the world via image and sound. This constructed landscape is accompanied by a spoken text celebrating the hopeful possibilities for art, the imagination and the communal, in the re-envisioning of the world in aftermath.

Opposite the projection of *Here is Elsewhere*, visitors will see the film's companion piece. *The Unmade Film* is a film without images screened on a monitor. It invites the viewer to join in with a collaborative act of vision-making via an imaginary and evolving film script, made from texts written by Wood and other filmmakers and writers, including Luke Fowler, Lucy Harris, Olivia Laing, Judy Price, Ali Smith and Andrea Luka Zimmerman. Recognising that a script is a proposition towards a future vision Wood asked each artist to describe in one shot a vision of the world at large. She then recorded these shots as an invitation to the viewer to conjure a renewed and shared imagining of the world.

The two works operate in dialogue: remote yet connected and formally suggestive of the larger process of creativity. As an extension of the project, Wood also invites visitors to contribute their own visions of the wider world (following the same rules as her collaborators).

Both parts are screening online for a limited time at www.kettlesyard.co.uk/here-is-elsewhere. Transcripts are available on the website or from the Welcome Desk.

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About the Artist

[Sarah Wood](#) was born in 1967 in London and works as an artist filmmaker, writer and curator. She works primarily with the found object, particularly the still and moving image, as an act of reclamation and re-interrogation. Her focus is the documentary image, which she deploys to interrogate the relationship between the narrating of history and individual memory.

Wood's work has been screened in galleries and film festivals across the UK, including the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; Whitechapel Gallery, London; The Photographer's Gallery, London; BFI, London; Whitstable Biennale, Kent; Cambridge Film Festival; Dundee Contemporary Arts; and most recently Kettle's Yard, University of Cambridge. In 2017 she was artist-in-residency at the Stanley Kubrick Archive. She has published several artists' books, the most recent of which is *Civilization and its Malcontents* (Ma Bibliotheque, 2019). Wood also works with artists' film as a curator, and with Selina Robertson she co-founded Club des Femmes, a positive female space for the re-examination of ideas through art.

About Kettle's Yard

Kettle's Yard is one of Britain's best galleries - a beautiful and unique house with a distinctive modern art collection, and a gallery exhibiting modern and contemporary art. Supporting this is an established learning and community engagement programme, archive, and programme of chamber concerts. In February 2018, Kettle's Yard reopened after a two-year development by architect Jamie Fobert. The new Kettle's Yard includes state of the art new exhibition galleries, generous education spaces, a café and new welcome areas. Kettle's Yard's mission is to contribute to society by inspiring and engaging audiences through art, learning and research of the highest quality. We believe that great art should not be the privilege of the few, but for everyone. Our values reflect Kettle's Yard's creator Jim Ede's support for artists and belief in art's power to make us look again and change how we act in the world.

During the run of the exhibition, Sarah Wood will also create a film inspired by the correspondence between Alfred Wallis and Jim Ede between 1929 and 1938, extracting text to accompany a short landscape/seascape film constructed from archive images. Wood said, "Here is Elsewhere was such a generous and hopeful commission to work on, especially over this odd quarantined summer. I wanted to gift something back to the gallery to say thank you. Kettle's Yard is such an important site for thought and art in Cambridge, and Alfred Wallis' paintings are key for me to the open vision KY offers the city. This will be a film about the dialogue art can create even when people are as remote to each other as Wallis and Ede were."

www.kettlesyard.co.uk

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and images**
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Sarah Wood, *Rome*. Still from *Here is Elsewhere*, 2020. © Sarah Wood.



Sarah Wood, *Gliders*. Still from *Here is Elsewhere*, 2020. © Sarah Wood.



Sarah Wood, *Volcano*. Still from *Here is Elsewhere*, 2020. © Sarah Wood.