

richard broomhall: [severn sea](#)

01/04/17-01/05/17

contains art, east quay, watchet, somerset, ta23 0aq
open wed – sun & daily during holidays



'Broadly, my work is about our relationship with technology... and how in turn, these technologies shape us'

Severn Sea is a multi-media installation by Richard Broomhall inspired by the ancient mythology surrounding the West Somerset coastline and the Bristol Channel.

Artist-in-residence with Contains Art, Broomhall is inspired by the infrastructure of submarine internet cables that connect UK mainland from the River Severn to the rest of the world. His work is concerned with how this modern form of communication (which makes up 98% of all electronic communication) reflects the ancient forms of myth and storytelling surrounding this vast waterway.

'As you stand on the bay at Watchet and you look out across the Severn to Barry and Cardiff, you're looking immediately over four cables... Watchet and Contains Art are vital to [my] Severn Sea project, this is one of the few places where you can actually work as an artist, right on the banks of the Severn' – Richard Broomhall

In his installation, Broomhall transforms the exhibition space, a repurposed shipping container, home to the Contains Art gallery in the ancient harbourside town of Watchet, West Somerset, into the internal of a fibre-optic cable. Within this space, the artist presents his latest film created during his residency at the gallery. Combining drone footage and a specially commissioned animation sequence, viewers traverse the harbour walls and take a virtual plunge into the waters of the Bristol Channel.

Inside the film, our narrator Sabrina, a folkloric river goddess, summons a band of animated nation-state branded sharks to take ownership of these fibre-optic cables. The narrative covers ideas such as tribalism, capitalism, migration, movement and legend. Generations of Broomhall's family have lived and worked along the banks of the Severn; by retracing their footsteps he confronts a boundary conflict on a global scale.

Image: Hunting with Habren, Richard Broomhall

Private View

31/03/2017 6pm-8pm

Container Conversation

w/ Darren Hall, rising star of The Green Party

7pm 21/04/17

£12 entry

Join Richard for an intimate and relaxing evening with Darren Hall, rising star of The Green Party, when they discuss the themes surrounding Richard's work, inspiration and ideas in our popular, informal, conversational format. The discussion will be followed by a chance to ask questions alongside a meal with wine. Booking essential, jon@containsart.co.uk

Biography

Richard was born in the UK and gained his BA (hons) Visual Communication (Video w/ Film) from KIAD Maidstone (now UCA) in 2004 and his MFA from Bath Spa in 2006. He works with video and film, audio and photography. He lives and works in Bristol and currently holds a studio at Spike Island.

'My work engages with the intersection of landscape and technology, with specific focus on exploring the mythology of digital immateriality and how the infrastructure of fibre-optic networks inscribe the intertwined politics of corporate and national power into the landscape, creating a politics of light; a light which throws seemingly indelible electronic shadows across the dreams of the human race'

A member of the artist collective, Back in 5 Minutes Squad, the group are Artists of the Month on Visual Arts South West website (March 2017). VASW network manager Gordan Dalton describes the experience of the group's 'intense installations' as being like 'sticking your head directly into the internet on a spin wash'.

Selected exhibitions and screenings, (2011) Jamaica St Open Studios - Bristol, UK, Best Video Art on the web feature on Nasjonalgalleriet (The National Gallery) on NRK (Norwegian equivalent of BBC 1), (2012) dokumentART @ European Film Festival for Documentaries, Szczecin, Poland, (2012) AIVA-Angelholm International Video Art festival. Sweden, (2012) 8th Berlin Director's Lounge - Berlin, Germany, (2013) WanderWeb TV, Cultural Center Novi Sad, Serbia, (2013) SUPERNORMAL, Oxford, UK, (2015) Crossing the Line, Exeter Phoenix, UK, (2015) Plymouth Art Weekender, Plymouth Art Centre, UK, (2015) Flatpack Film Festival, Birmingham, UK, (2015) Stuttgarter Filmwinter, Expanded media festival, Stuttgart, Germany, (2016) Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh, UK. Prizes and awards, (2012) RGB Photographic Awards - Finalist, Bristol, UK, (2007) Certificate of Excellence, Compass of Resistance Film Festival (Radical Reels section), (2007) Nominated for Jerwood Artist's platform. Photography published in print: The Times, The Sunday Times, Independent, I newspaper, FT, Telegraph, Coast Magazine. Online: All of the former, BBC and ITV.

www.containsart.co.uk

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Notes for Editors

For further information contact Jon Barrett, jon@containsart.co.uk tel: 07583368072

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