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# Fantasy is a Place Where it Rains Patrick Farmer and Sarah Hughes

17 April - 9 June 2010



Working collaboratively, Newtown based artists Patrick Farmer and Sarah Hughes attempt to capture the shifting life cycles of the River Severn. These will be made visible to the Test Bed audience through a combination of drawings, hydrophonic sound recordings and physical material, revealing the rivers' self-governing course from its birthplace in the Hafren forest through to its conclusion in the Bristol Channel.

We are presented with a series of 'river drawings' which expose a multitude of textures akin to the river. These might not be immediately recognisable as components of a fluid entity, though it is apparent that the static drawings are only part of the story. The diversity of the rivers' texture is most distinguishable along its course. Its polar opposites provide the most dramatic example - the

remote, boggy beginning and swift industrial ending.

The river is perceived entirely differently in its audible form. Sound is created by obstructions on the riverbed and although we begin to piece these fragments together the river still remains elusive.

A diverse range of media reflects the artists' individual responses to the river while the assembling of these works offers the audience a complex insight into the transitory existence of this natural phenomenon. The multi-disciplinary approach also allows a more realistic view of the rivers' multi-faceted traits and its rhythmic movement.

Geographic and cultural histories are a further consideration, as is the way the river might be represented. Through these works the artists' hope that the audience will slowly begin to appreciate the need for an increased awareness, and that we might start to question our position in relation with our surroundings.

Editors Notes:

1. The exhibition preview will take place on Saturday 17 April 2010
2. Test Bed at Oriel Davies promote and showcases artists based in Wales and the Border areas
3. Oriel Davies is an independent public art gallery based in mid Wales. The Gallery organises and tours innovative exhibition featuring artists from Wales, other parts of the UK and internationally, and provides an extensive art education programme. Oriel Davies is a Registered Charity no: 1034890 and is revenue funded by the Arts Council of Wales and Powys County Council.
4. In 2008, Oriel Davies received an Arts Council of Wales Beacon Company Award 2008-10 for excellence and innovation.
5. Further information and press images: please contact Antony Mottershead at [testbed@oriel Davies.org](mailto:testbed@oriel Davies.org) or Alex Boyd [alex@oriel Davies.org](mailto:alex@oriel Davies.org)

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