

# MK Gallery

## News Release

### Anna Barriball

30 September – 27 November 2011

Preview Thursday 29 September 6-10pm

Admission free



Anna Barriball. *Draw (fireplace)* 2005 (detail). Video projection, 10 min., 30 sec. Courtesy the artist and Frith Street Gallery, London.

Anna Barriball's first major survey exhibition, at MK Gallery, brings together drawing, video, photography and sculpture made over the last decade. Barriball's early work often involves transforming ordinary items: *Bag drawing*, 2000, a disposable, white plastic bag is completely covered with red marker pen to create a glowing, concentrated object, while *Money drawing*, 2000, a five pound note coated in gold ink, accentuates the creases made from daily handling. Barriball also records her surroundings at home or in the studio, by making an impression of floorboards, brickwork, windows and doors by meticulously tracing their surfaces with pencil on paper. Hovering between photography, drawing and sculpture, this process enables the artist to document sections of the world, while magnifying the incidental details, revealing textures created by gradual, everyday wear and tear.

At the same time, Barriball's work often evolves from spontaneous, if not accidental, discoveries, channelling natural forces with little or no physical contact. Large drawings become substantial sculptures as paper is allowed to curl during the drawing process and a video, titled *Draw (fireplace)*, 2005, records a sheet of tracing paper sucked in and out of a fireplace by a draught, as if a building is breathing.

A series of works is created by blowing bubble mixture with ink over old black and white family photographs found in a market; a new image is created as each bubble bursts, echoing the shutter of a camera. A sequence of nocturnal flash photos of windows, looped on a monitor, provide momentary glimpses of the artist's presence in reflection while a large, framed, blown up detail from a found photograph shows mysterious and ambiguous figures staring out through a mottled window. This patina recurs in another enlarged photograph, this time placed on the floor, as a pathway leads sharply into the undergrowth, opening up a potent space for the imagination. Both claustrophobic and evocative, a new work, *Barrier*, 2011, covers an entire wall; the familiar translucent colours of windbreaks are dulled by black marker pen whose saturation alters as old pens run dry and are replaced by fresh ones.

Whether capturing specific instances or conjuring hazy memories, Barriball's work combines intense, concentrated moments with slight, playful gestures, highlighting the fleeting moments and discreet surroundings that witness our passage through time and space.

## Notes to Editors

### Artist Information

Anna Barriball has had solo exhibitions at Frith Street Gallery (2009), Walsall Art Gallery (2006), Gasworks Gallery, London, Newlyn Art Gallery (2005) and Arnolfini, Bristol (2003). Barriball's work was included in the *British Art Show 6* at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead and its subsequent tour and is also featured in Phaidon's major publication *Vitamin D*, a survey of contemporary drawing.

### Publication

MK Gallery and The Fruitmarket Gallery are collaborating on a fully illustrated publication to accompany the exhibition, with scholarly texts and contributions from writers including Anthony Spira, Director, MK Gallery, Fiona Bradley, Director of The Fruitmarket Gallery, and art historian Professor Briony Fer.

### Limited Edition Print

A limited edition silver gelatin print by the artist will be produced to accompany the exhibition.

### Exhibition Supporters

Organised in collaboration with The Fruitmarket Gallery, with support from The Henry Moore Foundation. Thanks to Frith Street Gallery, London.

The  
Fruitmarket  
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### MK Gallery Supporters

MK Gallery receives core funding from Milton Keynes Council and Arts Council England South East.



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**MK Gallery**

MK Gallery, 900 Midsummer Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3QA.  
Located in central Milton Keynes, MK Gallery is one of the UK's leading public galleries,  
presenting a programme of international contemporary visual art.  
Open Tuesday–Friday 12–8pm, Saturday 11am–8pm, Sunday 11am–5pm.  
Admission free. [www.mkgallery.org](http://www.mkgallery.org)

**Press information**

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