

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unseen South Hams

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Unseen South Hams is a community project by local professional artists and students exhibiting work that hopes to draw attention to, and find beauty in, the places, people and problems so often overlooked. It takes place Fri 21 – Sun 23 November 2008 at the Old Library, Newcomen Road, Dartmouth TQ6 9BN. The event opens 1800 Fri 21 and is open 1000 – 1600 on Sat 22 and Sun 23 November.

The South Hams is a Devon idyll: a magnet for the wealthy with a high proportion of second homes and a thriving tourist industry. Beneath this veneer of affluence there is another less documented South Hams; all too easy to airbrush out when portraying it. Changes in local industries mean that we have business parks and commercial buildings as well as farmland and coastline. Stereotypically urban problems such as unemployment, drug abuse, teenage pregnancy and vandalism are not without local precedent. Instead of airbrushing these out, the exhibition hopes to address these issues. Organizer Kate Marshall explains “in doing so we may find places considered ugly or uninspiring newly interesting or even beautiful.”

The exhibition is a community project coordinated by *Move Your Arts* that involves established local professional artists, John Gillo, Frances Gynn, Kate Marshall and James Stewart, as well as university art students originally from the area and A level students at Dartmouth College. All work will be for sale.

Move Your Arts was established in 2007 to promote artist in the South West of England. *Unseen South Hams* is their first major project, to be followed by *Move*: exhibiting in Bristol. They intend to display the talent, innovation and relevance of contemporary artists based in an area stereotyped as a haven for touristy arts and crafts as well as the appeal of Bristol as a cultural centre and viable alternative to London. The group includes artists Kate Marshall, a Goldsmiths graduate who has exhibited at the Liverpool Biennial and James Stewart, finalist in the BP National Portrait Award.

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Water tower 1 by James Stewart oil on board 40 x 40cm (2008)



Deposition and Survival of the Fragile and Bold by Frances Gynn
oil, tar, sand, acrylic and plant pigment on canvas 160 x 200cm (2008)

more full sized images are available to download in the press room at www.unseensouthhams.com

For more information, to arrange an interview or studio visit, please contact Jack Corrigan

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