

## **Audio to accompany [on becoming a ghost...]**

Hello!

I am alabamathirteen, an artist from Leeds with a studio practice based in Wakefield, here at The Art House.

I currently work predominantly with photographic processes, embroidery, video and sound. However as my practice develops it is becoming increasingly informed by process based research and experimentation. I am particularly keen to work more with sound as a sculptural element and to develop a more environmentally sustainable practice, working with photographic processes that are kinder to both my health and the environment. And I'm particularly drawn to unfixable and impermanent processes, that kind of mirror the transient nature of our own existence and the almost imperceptible traces of ourselves we leave behind.

Also by working with these processes sort of in collaboration with the natural environment I have begun to identify a number of parallels between

how I work as a disabled artist and the cyclical rhythms that exist in nature. And I am kind of keen to explore how responding to the changing seasons, to fruitful and fallow times, can become more embodied within my practice.

My practice itself explores how we exist in our bodies, spaces and places, and questions who gets to take up the most space and whose voices get to be heard the loudest, drawing particularly on my complex relationship with the outside world as a disabled, neurodivergent, working class woman.

It does mean that my work often focuses on relationships with spaces that I can't physically be in. But an interesting element of that although I can't picture things in my head, as I have aphantasia, I do experience a very visceral sensory response to how a space feels to me and that kind of leads my response to the work.

I was artist in residence at The Art House in 2021, and spent some time here both in May and November/December time, and the work I have created for this exhibition is a series that's been created during a period of research and

development over the previous year, which includes my time at The Art House, and its sort of documenting the beginning of my journey as an artist.

The work in this exhibition itself includes a video piece, a soundscape, some clay pieces and five series of photographic work. The central sort of audio visual work is supported by process based research exploring a range of unfixed or impermanent photographic processes.

So in Unfixed I and II they document two traditional photographic process, lumen printing and cyanotypes, that are usually fixed with chemicals to retain the image. But I was interested to explore how the image would change, degrade or fade if they continued to be exposed to light without fixing.

Traces I and II are both series of polaroids documenting the often overlooked traces of existence that are left behind in spaces.

And Traces III is another series of polaroids that documents the making of a camera obscura room that I created during my PANIC! Bursary

from The Tetley, which essentially projected the outside world on to the walls of my bedroom.

I am interested in how we experience art through different sense and how I can play around with that, so for example how we can see a sound or hear an image, so it was really great to get to create a soundscape that's played in the gallery space, that has actually been created from images that feature in the exhibition itself!

Thematically this particular body of work, [on becoming a ghost...], explores the impact of isolation and exclusion from society on the very essence of our identity and existence. This work, its all kind of small as well, and that kind of reflects both the circumstances in which it was created, the limited access I had to space and resources at the time, and also the smallness of life that many disabled people, including myself, feel we exist in.

The last thing that I would say about this body of work, is whilst its obviously very relatable to the ongoing pandemic, thats not purely what its about. And that this experience of isolation and exclusion from society is a actually a perpetual

state of existence for many disabled people. And there has never been a normal for us, new or otherwise.