

MATT'S GALLERY

92 Webster Road, Bermondsey, London SE16 4DF

T (020) 7237 0398 E info@mattsgallery.org

Press release

Annie Whiles lives and works in London and has taught at Goldsmiths, University of London since 2003

Education 2000 MA Fine Art, Goldsmiths, University of London
1991 BA (Hons) Sculpture, Wimbledon School of Art, London

Selected solo exhibitions 2020 *The Listening Thing*, Matt's Gallery, London **2018** *Moondog*, Danielle Arnaud Gallery, London **2011** *Beggars Belief*, Danielle Arnaud Gallery, London **2007** *Cuckoo*, Danielle Arnaud Gallery, London **2007** *Sideshow*, Grundy Art Gallery, Blackpool **1999** *The Giotto Range*, Cable Street Gallery, London **1996** *Keeping in Touch*, Café Gallery, London

Selected group exhibitions 2018 *250th Summer Exhibition*, Royal Academy, London **2015** *Thirteen Blackbirds Look at a Man*, Chapter, Cardiff; *Union of Voices*, Horatio Junior, London **2012** *Lustige Frauen Kunst*, Ernst Fine Art, London; *Annie Whiles and Alison Jones*, York College Gallery, York; *Big Screen*, Latitude Film Festival; *No Now!*, Space Station Sixty-Five, London **2011** *Pile*, Chapter, Cardiff; and *Sixes and Sevens*, Nottingham **2009** *The Peckham Experiment*, Camberwell Space, London; *The Damned and the Saved*, Standpoint Gallery, London **2008** *United We Fall*, Annie Whiles and Mark Pearson, Standpoint Gallery, London; *Fabric of Myth*, Compton Verney Art Gallery & Park, Compton Verney; *The Golden Record*, Collective, Edinburgh; *Film Platform*, Denmark **2007** *Braziers International Artists Workshop and Exhibition*, Oxfordshire; *Traditional Skills*, New Thinking, Bury St. Edmunds Art Gallery; *Textile Transporter*, Art Transponder, Berlin **2006** *Janus*, Café Gallery, London; *Thy Neighbours' Ox*, Space Station Sixty-Five, London **2005** *Cloud and Vision*, Museum of Garden History, London; *Death is part of the Process*, Void, Derry **2004** *Tonight*, Studio Voltaire, London

Annie Whiles *The Listening Thing*

24 September - 31 October 2020

Thur - Sat, 11am-5pm

By appointment only

Please click [here](#) to book your visit

"Until recently, I thought the moon was doing the shining. From within. Emanating.

Quite recently, I read that the length of time required for a signal to travel across the vastness of space, means that any signal detected would come from the distant past. I took this to mean that if we were receiving messages from another planet, they were still landing in our past. It actually meant the other planet's past but it had already sent me where I needed to go to fetch the Listening Thing."

Matt's Gallery is delighted to reopen with Annie Whiles' *The Listening Thing*, a new work commissioned especially for our 3x3x3 metre cubic gallery space at 92 Webster Road.

Whiles makes woodcarvings, drawings and embroideries from a collection of personal icons, gathered from encounters or confusions she has experienced. The images, photographs and objects gather in her studio and may lay dormant for several years until the right time. The artist likens these icons to messages or signals, mediating between different worlds.

Whiles describes the process of carving as "a means to an end to see a wooden object or device in a room," likening the process to archaeology, engaging with a material both dead and alive. Surfaces are then painted to divert attention from the wood itself. The work acts as a test or a probe, travelling without moving, possibly exceeding its material conditions but unable to escape its own comedy.

For Matt's Gallery's cubic gallery space she has undertaken a carving that strays from the naturalistic 1:1 scale common to her practice. *The Listening Thing* arose from an invitation to create something for this space. In it coalesce an image that Whiles had for some years around the studio, a helpful misunderstanding about astronomical matters, and some rumination on the 'Wow! Signal' - an apparent extra-terrestrial broadcast, received on August 15th 1977 by Ohio State University's Big Ear radio telescope.

The Listening Thing is accompanied by Q4, the fourth instalment in our ongoing series of artist interviews.

For further information or visual material please contact us on 020 7237 0398 or email info@mattsgallery.org.

Matt's Gallery thanks the Arts Council England and Ron Henocq Fine Art for their generous support.

www.mattsgallery.org



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

MATT'S GALLERY

92 Webster Road, Bermondsey, London SE16 4DF

T (020) 7237 0398 E info@mattsgallery.org

Booking your visit

Matt's Gallery will be open by appointment, Thur - Sat 11am-5pm during exhibitions.

[Click here to book your visit to Matt's Gallery.](#) For same-day bookings, please call the gallery at 020 7237 0398.

To ensure the safety of our visitors, artists and staff, visitors to the gallery will be required to wear a face covering, unless you are exempt from doing so. If you do not have a mask, we will provide one free of charge. We also ask that visitors clean their hands using the sanitiser provided when entering the gallery. Please stay at home if you are feeling unwell.

When making a booking, please note that the maximum capacity of the gallery is four people from the same household or support bubble.

We regret that there are currently no toilet facilities at the gallery.

www.mattsgallery.org



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**