

Shed – Collect – Shed: Coventry's Lost and Found
Saturday 16 August 2014 to Sunday 2 November 2014

Artists Lorsen Camps, Martin Green and Joanna Rucklidge explore the relationship between their personal collections of found objects from Coventry, with the Herbert's own collections of artefacts.

Lost or discarded items ranging from remnants of toy figures to shoe heels & flattened drinks cans to arms of sunglasses, are carefully ordered and given a new life & meaning. Some mundane and other more intriguing items are offered for our consideration, encouraging new interactions with found objects (both those within the museum and those discovered on the street) and calling into question what is beautiful or valuable.

Shed – Collect – Shed is a mixed media exhibition conveying a perspective of the city's character through the artefacts collected and curated. This mirrors the Herbert's own remit for collecting, its interest in social history, the narratives and the people behind an item. Each item bears traces of life and the lives that make up the city. Objects and art works are presented in ways that mix the museum aesthetic with a distinctively found flavour.

The show will be set within the Coventry Centre for Contemporary Art, the final outing for the art 'shed' that has toured locally including Warwick Arts Centre. Herbert visitors are invited to bring in their own found objects to add to an evolving display.

Lorsen Camps

Information

Coventry Centre for Contemporary Art,
Floor 1, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Jordan Well, Coventry, CV1 5QP

Opening hours:

Monday - Saturday: 10.00am - 4.00pm, Sunday: 12.00pm - 4.00pm

For Workshops and Artist Talk, please find out more on the Herbert website:
www.theherbert.org

Social Media Links:

Facebook: Shed-Collect-Shed Twitter: @lorsencamps

Blog: lorsencamps@blogspot.co.uk

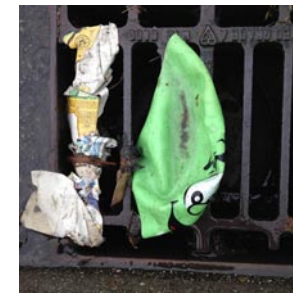


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Saturday 16 August 2014 to Sunday 2 November 2014

Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry

Shed (v.):
to lose by
natural process;
to be rid of
(something not
wanted or
needed)



Collect (v.):
gather together
to form a group,
accumulate,
assemble
(v.) to regain
control of



Shed (n.):
a small structure
serving for storage
or shelter
(v.) to give or impart;
radiate or send forth
(light, fragrance,
influence)

Shed-Collect-Shed: Coventry's Lost and Found, by Lorsen Camps

Shed-Collect-Shed: Coventry's Lost and Found is my fourth exhibition within the Coventry Centre for Contemporary Art. Each previous show has focused on collections of found objects and it seems appropriate to now bring the "shed" into the setting of the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum - itself a great collector of things. I have embraced the Herbert's own remit of collecting artefacts which solely relate to Coventry and I have drawn inspiration from the ways it chooses to display them – merging both a museum and a found aesthetic. Museums place a value on things in the way that they present them, and I am responding to this with my own careful ordering and arrangement of the objects that I have picked up. By presenting objects within collections, a greater value is attributed.

"Beauty in the disregarded" is a theme I have been exploring for a number of years and it continues to capture my imagination particularly in the arena of found objects. I am fascinated by the things that people have lost or discarded; the traces of the lives that have touched those objects; and their known or imagined narratives. These little details in the world can easily go unnoticed. I celebrate these seemingly insignificant things, overflows of a society of excess. I see the beauty in them, the tragedy, the comedy, the 'lost and foundness' of them, the possibility for redemption.

Objects found on the street become the raw material for my work. These finds are arbitrary and unpredictable, yet there is also a very deliberate selection process at play. Personal and aesthetic choices are made in that moment of discovery and continue to be made up to the moment they are presented within the gallery. The chaos of simple litter on a street becomes channeled and ordered through curatorial intervention.

For the collaborative piece Paradise Disregarded, Paradise Reclaimed Martin Green and I made two journeys - one within Coventry searching for the area known as Paradise and then the other to Cork, Ireland (a twinned city of Coventry which therefore falls within the Herbert's localized interests). In both we scoured the streets for found objects and took photos of details of the surroundings. These photos have become the backdrop for the items just as they were geographical backdrops. The pieces are dialogues between Martin and myself, between the objects chosen and the photos taken.



My Found Knotted Crisp Packet Collection, Lorsen Camps, 2014

City Box, 12 Sculptures. by Martin Green

My interest in documenting cities through the objects that are found on city floors leads to the process of transforming found objects into artworks that explore elements and issues relating to the urban environment in which they were discovered. My 12 bespoke box constructions from found and charity shop books incorporate found objects either as an integral part or as a display item. They include references to the cataloguing and storage of objects in the Herbert collection. Themes and sub-themes that came out of making the CITY BOX sculptures are -

BOX. Examining the box shape as both a functional and sculptural form, presenting the box as a six-sided object and not as a pure container. Exploring ideas relating to function and non-function.

TRAVEL. The use of found objects that relate to other peoples everyday journeys and longer excursions. Worn Heels, Suitcase Wheels, Wheel Weights, Sunglass Lenses, Wind Hoods, Zip Pulls. Forming collections of debris left behind from people traveling. The titles hint at tales of urban travel. Viewing the urban environment as an entity that is continually travelled through and between, imagine a knot of travelled lines, many different unhindered flows of traffic. Learning how to drift and explore within journeys that are predictable and repetitive. Objects collected on five types of everyday journeys - one from home to the train station and the return, one from a train station to work and the release, one from home to the local shops and back again, one from home to the studio and in reverse and one from the railway station to the studio past the curved wall with square holes which are the perfect size for displaying boxing gloves.

SHOE HEELS. Each of the 12 CITY BOX sculptures includes a worn heel as part of the box construction. Exhibiting and collecting worn heels as a way of documenting the many pedestrian journeys /acts of walking that are made across our cities and towns. The inclusion of a heel in the box structure is a reference to a readily recognisable marker / gravestone shape, an empty space to include a reference or collection number.

DONATED MATERIALS. INTERACTION / ENGAGEMENT. Initially the boxes were made incorporating found worn heels. I have regularly taken my own shoes to a cobblers to be repaired which has led to a situation where they donate materials that would usually be thrown away and tell me stories relating to worn heels and soles, pointing out unusual heel designs or heels from expensive shoes and unusual levels of wear.



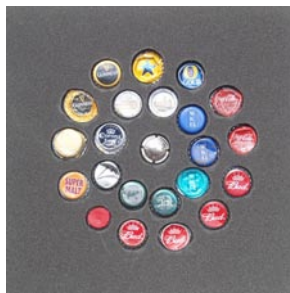
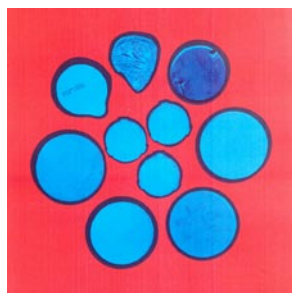
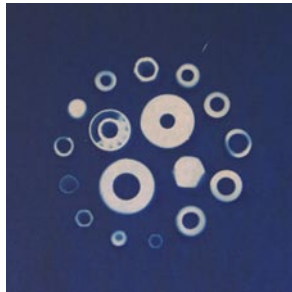
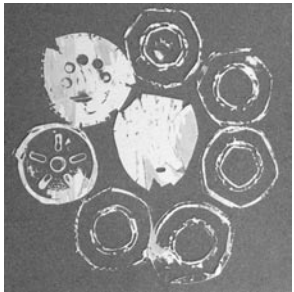
Rail and Coach Stations, Found materials, Martin Green, 2014

Going Round in Circles, Collecting in Coventry, by Joanna Rucklidge

Coventry has been circled by a ring road since the 1970s, and is also famed for its history of bicycle, car, speedometer and clock production. These circular emblems inspired me to do round walks in Coventry, whilst collecting exclusively round objects from the streets to display at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum as part of the 'Coventry's Lost & Found' exhibition. The majority of the objects I found were packaging waste; lots of lost lids and caps, along with other objects like rubber bands, sweets, buttons, washers etc. I collected all of these on the same day on four short walks in different areas of the city. They are ostensibly unsurprising 'finds', but constitute a true reflection of Coventry life; the remnants and remains discarded or lost, only to be found again on that day in June 2014.

I aim to attach significance to the objects by collecting, cleaning, classifying & re-presenting them in a new setting. Some methods of display are borrowed directly from the Herbert's exhibition techniques. e.g wired onto perspex or framed securely by foam. Others are using reproduction techniques to interpret the objects - capturing their memory or trace & simplifying them into two dimensional graphic forms.

The city of Coventry is generally very clean - street cleaners are working hard, and there are plenty of bins. This project is not aimed to pass comment on how the council keep the city clean & habitable, or how the city's population respond to litter, but it can begin to reflect how waste materials are generally undervalued and a disposable culture is seen as a normality. These objects function as contemporary archaeology, telling a story of society - those overlooked actions, events and materials, in this particularly circular city, now treasured.



Bands, Screenprint on paper, Joanna Rucklidge, 2014