

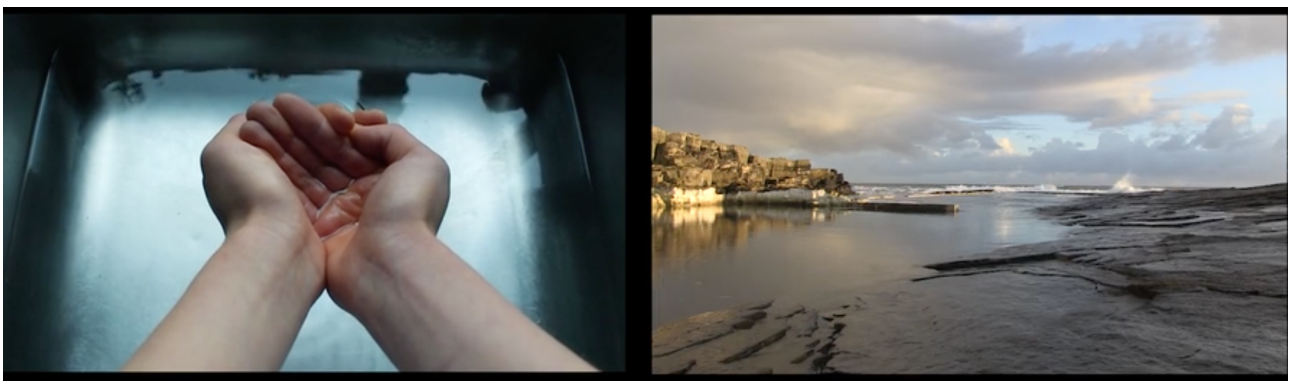
As we fall we will once again rise,
listening and unlearning all that we have been told.
Lifting and falling, we are both closer and more distant,
composed of the same bodies we are water.

To go to the water is to go to the place of growth, food and life.



Tilting in an era of ecological imbalance, my current work seeks to disrupt the regime of representation that dominates our exposure to the narratives of migration. Acknowledging that my own existence is based on my families history of forced movements, I seek to contest the presence of de-humanising language that assumes that the foundations of peoples movement is only human related. If we look to trace our collective histories both present, past and future, can we begin to see that our routes are intimately tied to our treatment of the land; of the water; to all bodies that have been impacted by humanities attempts to own, divide and claim rights to resources meant to be shared by all?

The film 'How do I tell what you told me' will be shown as part of the GSA degree show 2018. The film seeks to gather a wide range of diverse, intricate and interweaving sound, visual and spoken narratives, that are all synched to the bodies of land, water and migration. Underpinning the main visual and spoken narratives (on the headsets) is a sound installation composed from the cardinal signal shipping signals that seek to sustain the global free movement of trade that has swallowed histories whole, to maintain its rhythmic shifts of greed and gain, that values the free movement of product over the free movement of people. Whilst the tides rises. And falls. Over, through and under the human created division of the land and the sea.



The main focus of the film looks to question our current social sustainability that documents the narratives and stories of migration. Focused on the documentation of my Grandfather's movements, told by his 4 children, the film seeks to listen to their reflections on the impacts of having an immigrant. All images are stills from the film 'How do I tell what you told me' (2018)

father on both themselves and their Dad, rather than documenting the routes undertaken to get here. Acknowledging that the stories told are not linear, but are broken, have gaps and silences, caused by time, memory, age and trauma.



In this way, I hope to shed light on the linear constrictions of narratives that are required of those that move to the UK today. Those that come to seek shelter, safety and security; yet at the extended permeation of the border are asked to tell, to repeat; to present their story as chronological and linear. Those that document this, those that sit at the border and ultimately decide who will come to live and reside, so often forget that we are human. As human, we forget, we remember, are subject to the constraints of translation, fear and oppression that will test and try how we tell and re-tell our stories.

'How do I tell what you told me' thus looks to question both the cycles of narratives, visual, spoken and material. In this sense, the life cycles of materials is intrinsic to my understanding of social sustainability within my work. Thus for the installation of my work, I chose to use wood and tracing paper to build the screens and speaker stands, knowing that these can be reused post-show, or if not, will decompose without a long term impact on the soil. However, I am aware that the projectors and speakers, have a much more toxic life cycle, and this life cycle is opening a new period of research as to how to understand and change such a disruptive cycle that is present in the materiality of these technologies. Beyond the degree show, this work has been screened as part of a skills share with the reading group from the Unity centre, as a way to share and listen to how this film is interpreted by those affected directly and indirectly by the UK's border systems. Thus beyond the degree show over the next few months, I hope to create wider modes of interception and interpretation that cannot be accessed by the constraints of the gallery space.

How do I tell what you told me?



How do I hold your story in my hands
Knowing that your hands made my home on a land you were told
was not your own.

All images are stills from the film 'How do I tell what you told me' (2018)

