

The Event of the Thread

- Artist book

Published by Mid Pennine Arts

Author: Hannah Leighton-Boyce

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Price: £10.00

Contributors: Dani Abulhawa, Paulette Terry Brien and Hannah Leighton-Boyce

Design: Dave Penny and Hannah Leighton-Boyce

ISBN: 978-0-9509878-8-0

Number of Pages: 48

Size: Size: 225mm x 160mm portrait

Format and binding(s): Perfect Bound, self-cover

Language: English

Key selling points

- Elegant artist book, lithograph printed on Conqueror high white woven paper; each book is finished with a foil embossed cover.
- Limited edition of 300.
- 35 photos documenting the project.
- Essay 'To be Helmsore – Navigating the Undercurrents of Landscape and History' by Dani Abulhawa, Senior lecturer in performance at Sheffield Hallam University whose research explores socially engaged and site-based performance practice.
- Extracts from a conversation between Paulette Terry Brien, Co-Director of International 3, an exhibition and project space in Salford, UK and artist, Hannah Leighton-Boyce.

Summary

The Event of the Thread was a live sculpture created on the 28th September 2014 on the former tenter fields of Higher Mill in Helmsore, UK. The work draws on the areas former activity, its development as the mills closed and the industry became memorialised, and the expression 'On Tenterhooks', to explore the shifting relationships between people and place.

The collaboratively made sculpture lasted for one day and involved over 70 people and 35 houses from the local community as a continuous line of thread was passed by residents back along the mapped lines of the tenterframes. As it was passed from hand to hand over gardens, fences and roads, weaving through houses, in and out of letterboxes, windows and doors, the sculpture traced a line across time, public and private space, temporarily connecting different lives and times, people and places.

The collective activity of passing the line of thread was done, not to memorialise the past but to reflect on the present, and how history is woven through our lives today. There was no immediate visible trace of the installation after the event but the act of collaboratively making the work marked the place and the people there, with a memory perhaps more present, personal and alive than a memorialised structure.

The Event of the Thread was initiated by artist Hannah Leighton-Boyce and commissioned by Helmsore Mills Textile Museum and Lancashire County Council. The project was funded through the support of Arts Council England. The book provides an overview of the project; including an essay by Dani Abulhawa discussing the historic background to the project and the unravelling of the live event, accompanied by extracts of a conversation between Paulette Terry Brien (Director, International 3) and artist, Hannah Leighton-Boyce. Afterwords by Helmsore Mills Textile Museum, and Paul Kelly, Senior Arts Development Manager at Lancashire County Council.

A short film documenting the day can be viewed via <http://www.hannahleightonboyce.com>

About Hannah Leighton-Boyce

Hannah Leighton-Boyce was born in Stroud in 1980; she studied at Winchester School of Art and Manchester School of Art, and currently lives and works in Manchester, UK. She is currently developing a new work for a solo show at Touchstones Museum and Arts Gallery (2016), which was selected to receive a New Opportunities Award in by New Expressions 3 and Visual Arts South West. Recent exhibitions include *For Posterity*, Castlefield Gallery (2015); *The Event of the Thread*, Helmshore Mills Textile Museum (2014); *Godsbridge*, The Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle (2014); *Contemporary Art Society North*, PS Mirabel, Manchester (2013); *The Manchester Contemporary with Castlefield Gallery* (2013); *Cloth & Memory {2}*, Salts Mill, West Yorkshire (2013); *The Frost Art Museum Drawing Project*, The Frost Art Museum, Miami (2013).

<http://www.hannahleightonboyce.com>

Intended readership

This publication is intended for anyone with an interested in sculpture, textiles, contemporary heritage, artist books and those who are interested in socially engaged and place-based arts practice.



Distribution/sales

The book can be bought online via Mid Pennine Arts <http://midpenninearts.org.uk/shop>
