

Argentea Gallery

PRESS RELEASE:

The Writing of Stones

Gin Rimmington Jones

17th September – 31st October

Opens: Thursday, 17th September, midday-6pm

Argentea Gallery is excited to announce that it is re-opening on Thursday, 17th September with *The Writing of Stones*, a solo exhibition by photographic artist Gin Rimmington Jones.



The Writing of Stones (2019)
© Gin Rimmington Jones

After the hiatus of the last few months, this exhibition of black and white photographs of a remote, semi-desert region in Southern Spain, speaks to the appreciation of, and perhaps intensified relationship with, the natural world and suspension of time. Taking inspiration from Roger Caillois' book of the same name, *The Writing of Stones* reveals a poetic and philosophical encounter with the earth

and its surfaces, where the intersecting narratives of humans and the natural world are writ large in its stones.

This striking body of work is the result of two artist residencies at Joya-AiR, Almeria, Spain in 2019 and 2020 where Rimmington Jones photographed the hot, bone-white terrain of the imposing marble quarries and deserted, dry-baked gorge of the Los Gasquez region. Working daily in quiet solitude she felt as though she “had been walking with the soul of the earth, where the solemnity of these lithic spaces puts the brevity of our human season into context.”



Imprint #01 (2019)
© Gin Rimmington Jones



Dark Mountain (2019)
© Gin Rimmington Jones

Rimmington Jones has had a deep connection to stones throughout her life:

“I have collected stones my whole life, as if in their weight and density the curvature of time is made manifest. When you hold a stone it is as if you are holding time.”

In fact a 14 year old Rimmington Jones once wrote:

“A stone does not live or maybe it does, maybe it lives like us. We might be like stones to them, who knows. I wish we did, they are one of the many mysteries, to me anyway.”

Each image in *The Writing of Stones* expresses this deep, metaphysical connection to stone. Her direct focus on the smooth, white planes of the marble quarry that 'returned the strength of my gaze' illustrates the tension between the innate beauty of the natural environment and human enterprise. The use of scale and in-camera multi-exposure techniques to layer surfaces of the dried-up fluvial gorge and quarry reveal more than just the stone's hard surface; it evokes the sublime, and invites an appreciation of landscape as intimate encounter. They are not easily readable landscapes, offering no contextual locus but instead shift between abstraction and representation that challenges the instant appeal of traditional landscape photography. However, there is a magnificence in the images that succeeds in communicating the artist's deep fascination with, and contemplation of, stones.

The Writing of Stones opens Thursday, 17th September and will continue until Saturday, 31st October

In accordance with our continued commitment to reducing the risk of spreading the coronavirus, our exhibition openings will now take place throughout the day. The gallery will therefore be open from midday until 6pm to allow staggered entry and facilitate social distancing.

About the artist:

Gin Rimmington Jones is a photographic artist based in Brighton. She graduated with an MA in Photography from Brighton University in 2018. Her series *Somewhere among us a stone is taking notes*, which was longlisted for the Jerwood/Photoworks Award, will also be shown as a complement to the main exhibition. She was the winner of the inaugural Metro Imaging/Satori Mentoring Award 2019/20.

About Argentea Gallery:

Argentea Gallery is dedicated to showing the very best contemporary photography from both British and international artists.

Our aim is to support the careers of both emerging and established artists by promoting an awareness and appreciation of contemporary photography and by providing a platform where ideas and practices can be explored and tested. In pursuit of this we will present a programme of well researched, stimulating and thoughtful exhibitions supported by appropriate events and publications.

In addition to the curated programme, we also have a Print Room holding portfolios of works for sale by selected artists across a broad price range.

Beyond our represented artists we can also source and advise on the purchase of work from other photographers and collections on your behalf.

Jennie Anderson is a curator, photographic consultant and founder of Argentea Gallery. She holds a first-class degree in photography and, to enhance a scholarship of art history and collections, a Master's degree in the history of photography from Sotheby's Institute of Art, London. Alongside curating the gallery's exhibition programme, she participates in portfolio reviews, jury panels and international art fairs. She is passionate about mentoring the photographers she works with and works closely with collectors and curators to place their work in both private and public collections.

jennie.anderson@argenteagallery.com

Anna Sparham joined the gallery in May 2019 after relocating from London back to her hometown, Birmingham. She has spent the last 15 years working at the Museum of London, predominantly as Curator of Photographs. Alongside developing their historic and contemporary photography collections, Anna realised several temporary exhibitions and publications including London Street Photography (co-curated 2011), Soldiers and Suffragettes: The Photography of Christina Broom (2015) and in 2018 London Nights. Prior to moving to London, Anna graduated with a first-class degree in photography from Nottingham Trent University before pursuing a career in the heritage sector. She is an independent curator and researcher and now brings her extensive experience to the commercial photographic scene.

anna.sparham@argenteagallery.com

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