

Aether

Martin Healy

Curated by Mary Cremin

16.10.2014 - 08.11.14

Oonagh Young Gallery is pleased to present **Aether**, a new film work by Martin Healy which continues the artist's exploration of utopian ideology as both material entity and imaginary projection. In this instance, Healy's work explores the belief in the progressive potential of science and technology that characterised the beginning of the 20th century and makes reference to Paul Scheerbart's 'The Perpetual Motion Machine – The Story of an Invention' (1910). The diary is a written record of Scheerbart's quest to build a perpetual motion machine and chronicles the author's efforts to produce a machine he imagined would offer the world access to free energy and as a consequence have profound implications for society. **Aether** ruminates on the relationship between scientific truth (our attempts to explain the materiality of the world) and aesthetic form (the structures we build to do so) at a time when both these fields of inquiry existed in an ethereal and momentary unison.

Lone characters often define Healy's films; in this case an un-named narrator, wandering through a tidal landscape, sets the tone and rhythm of the film work. During his journey, the narrator makes associations between the original search for the aether, the composition of matter and the fundamental drive to understand the natural phenomena that affect human existence. In its analysis of the relationships between the natural world and man-made artefacts, Healy's film is a pensive meditation on the multiple conflicts and consequences of the human desire to harness the physical world.

Martin Healy lives and works in Dublin. He works predominantly through the mediums of photography and video and his works have been shown widely both nationally and internationally. He is a recent recipient of a residency at Cove Park, Scotland. Other residencies include the International Studio Programme Residency at PS1 Contemporary Art Centre, New York, 2000/01; Artists' Residency Programme at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, 2007; Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, 2008; and Temple Bar Gallery & Studios / HIAP-International Residency Exchange, Helsinki, 2010. Martin Healy is represented by Rubicon Gallery.

Solo exhibitions include *The Future Perfect* (screening), Rubicon Projects, Brussels, 2013; *Last Man*, Crawford Art Gallery (screening room), Cork, 2012; *The Inhabitant*, Temple Bar Gallery and studios, Dublin, 2011; *Facsimile*, Lismore Castle Arts, St Carthage Hall, 2011. **Group exhibitions** include *Island: New Art from Ireland*, Galleria Civica Di Modena, 2013; *Still Light*, Gallery Augusta, *Suomenlinna*, Helsinki, 2013; *Beasts of England, Beasts of Ireland*, Visual, Carlow, 2013; *Fata Morgana*, Catalyst Arts, Belfast, 2012; *Cutting a Door*, Eastlinks Gallery, Shanghai, 2012; *Here's the Tender Coming*, Pallas Projects, Dublin, 2011; *Its all true*, MoronoKiang Gallery, Los Angeles, 2011; *Terminal Convention*, Cork Airport / Static Gallery, Liverpool, 2011.

Aether was funded by The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon Visual Arts Project Award