



Kelly Cumberland: Vestigium [Pulvis] (isw)

19 April - 19 May 2013



The Gallery @ Idea Store Whitechapel presents a new installation by Kelly Cumberland. This is the artist's first solo show in London.

Kelly Cumberland is interested in parallels between art and natural processes, examining viral change, growth and deterioration. Installations and objects demonstrate how something seemingly delicate and insubstantial can overwhelm its environment, whilst dissected drawings represent the paradoxical fragility and strength of microbiological structures.

Continuous addition, removal and reduction result in a coherent body of structural variations. Working in sequence the components initially appear identical, however the process ensures each part is unique, retaining the possibility for expansion and modification.

For the exhibition at Idea Store Whitechapel, Cumberland has made ten square drawings, each mirroring the dimensions of the red floor tiles in the gallery space. These units are positioned horizontally next to each other to create one continuous six-metre drawing along the gallery wall. The artist has used black carbon to draw each hand-drawn 'cell' onto heavyweight watercolour paper. The collected 'dust' patterns are layered using intricate and repetitive techniques.

Hovering over the surface of the gallery wall, the drawings appear to be emanating from it, threatening to take over their host despite their geometrical form. Containment and contagion are simultaneously present, adding a disturbing dynamic to the material presence of the work.

Kelly Cumberland lives and works in Leeds. She graduated from Leeds Metropolitan University in 1998 with an MA in Fine Art, having pioneered collaboration between the departments of Microbiology/Radiology and Visual Art. Recent solo exhibitions include 'The Drawing Shed', Project Space Leeds (2010); 'Protoavises [opt]', Atrium Gallery, St James's Hospital, Leeds (2010). Recent group exhibitions include 'Liverpool Independent Biennial' (2012); 'Local Imagination', San Francisco Institute of Art (2012); 'Supermarket 2012', Stockholm Independent Art Fair; 'Hybrid', Sheffield Institute of Arts (2010).