



John Plowman: Archive

25 March - 1 May 2011



Seventeen small sculptures that John Plowman made between 2004 and 2007 and have been languishing on a shelf in his studio since then form the basis of this installation.

Akin to a shelf of unread books, they are nevertheless an essential part of the lexicon of Plowman's artistic practice. Like the library, these sculptures can be seen as a store of information, a repository of knowledge.

For the exhibition at Idea Store Whitechapel, the artist has re-engaged with these

neglected works. In keeping with the library setting, he has devised a classification system consisting of five categories, each named by one of the vowels. Within each category, each sculpture is identified by its respective letter and a number.

Reclassified, the sculptures are now usually stored in five bespoke boxes. For the exhibition they will be displayed on a shelf, with their cases arranged on the floor opposite.

The installation will reference the library context yet resonate as a subjective, alternative presence within the existing system of ordering and classification.

John Plowman is an artist whose expanded practice encompasses both studio and curatorial activity, each of which informs the other. Beacon, the curatorial project he established in 2004 with Nicola Streeten, presents projects in non-gallery spaces, offering a new perspective on art practice through collaboration between artist, audience and context (www.beaconartproject.com).

Recent group exhibitions include Profusion, Calke Abbey, Derbyshire (2010); Not Ready Yet, 5 Smithy Row, Nottingham (2011). He recently curated The Moment of Privacy Has Passed, an exhibition of artists' sketchbooks at the Usher Gallery, Lincoln (2010/11). John Plowman is currently Reader in Fine Art at the University of Lincoln.