



Finlay Taylor: Mouth Mollusc Butterfly

24 June - 24 July 2011



The Gallery @ Idea Store Whitechapel is pleased to present 'Mouth Mollusc Butterfly', an exhibition by Finlay Taylor.

A visceral engagement with the pervasiveness of nature is a main concern in Taylor's work across different media, including photography, printmaking, sculpture, artists' books and video. A fascination with the natural world is also conveyed through the artist's use of animals as protagonists in the work.

In his snail drawings, for example, Taylor exposed paper to the elements, allowing the molluscs to eat into the surface and create intricate abstract compositions through this process of nourishment and destruction, emphasising the inevitability of mutability and decay. In 'Special Effects' (2001), the artist treated the paper in such a way as to make the snails spell out short texts, in this case the words of the title.

The overwhelming presence and otherness of nature are themes that recur in more recent work. A series of photographs depict butterflies on people's tongues, either feeding on saliva or resting. The images manage to fascinate and repulse the viewer with their startling depiction of an unusual proximity between the human and animal, holding our attention despite the initial shock. Other photographs, such as 'Viva La Vida' (2010) and 'Wet Weight' (2011), prey on similar voyeuristic inclinations, with their sumptuous yet morbid depictions of snails gorging on organic matter. Also included are 'Monarch Flight' (2004) and 'Fall' (2011), photographs that manage to capture surreal and disquieting aspects of the butterflies in their habitat.

Finlay Taylor lives and works in London.. Recent group exhibitions (all 2011) include 'April is the Cruellest Month', 'Breeding', Lido Projects, St Leonards on Sea; 'cabin:codex', Centrespace DJCAD and Dundee Contemporary Arts, Dundee; 'Night Time Day Light', Millimetre Projects, London.