



Sophie Michael: Intra-Spectral

13 January - 12 February 2012



The Gallery @ Idea Store Whitechapel presents an exhibition of photographs by Sophie Michael, the artist's first solo show in the UK. The work has been made in response to the spaces of the Idea Store.

Michael explores the presence of materials through film and photography, in an enquiry into the exchange between the two dimensional field and its actual location in time and space. For her exhibition at Idea Store Whitechapel, the artist looks at how architect David Adjaye's use of bright industrial colour, transparent and opaque surfaces and graphic lighting creates a space which reflects itself and the objects held within it in unexpected ways,

and unfolds as people move around it.

Michael's series of photographs echo this multi-layered design of the building. The existing colours, textures, and shapes found around the Idea Store have become the 'palette' for the photographs and their frames; clear glass, mid blue, Lego red; glossy lime, white and black mattes.

Exposures were superimposed in-camera as the artist walked around the Idea Store. Colour filters were also used and the camera was tilted at a different angle each time to confuse the viewer's sense of horizontals and verticals. The resulting analogue images are woven together partly by chance. A set of blinds collides with a wall of drawings to produce rainbow patterns; beanbags emit light; two clocks read one minute apart from each other; red and blue mix to make lilac. The saccharine, kaleidoscopic imagery asks us to question what the eye sees and the mind understands.

As well as photographs, Michael's practice includes 16mm and Super 8 film, sculpture and installation. She cites a range of influences, including structural film, 1960s advertising, 1940s visual music films and the work of Charles and Ray Eames. The artist manipulates film and choreographs found 'retro' objects, colours and forms in order to animate images and stir up anachronisms. The work invites the viewer to explore ways in which nostalgia is present in the here and now.

Sophie Michael is currently a student on the Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art course at the Royal Academy Schools in London, and graduated from the Slade School of Fine Art in 2008. Recent film screenings (all 2011) include 'Alternative Visions; Space is the Place: Recent Avant Garde Shorts', Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley; 'A Past Merely Overlaid With Presentness', Culture Lab OnSite, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne; 'Wavelengths 1: Analogue Arcadia', 36th Toronto International Film Festival, Toronto. Michael was recently featured in the in the 20th anniversary issue of Frieze magazine (September 2011), in which twenty emerging artists were selected by previous cover artists.