

SUSAN DERGES

Susan Derges trained as a painter before turning to photography, and in particular to the cameraless photography for which she, along with contemporaries such as Adam Fuss and Garry Fabian Miller, has become internationally renowned. This simple, elegant process was used in very early photography and, in essence, allows the artist to fix shadows onto light sensitive paper. Removing the camera allows an almost alchemical transformation, to extraordinary and powerful effect.

Much of Derges's work has been made at night in the open air; using the natural world as her darkroom she has quite literally invented a new way of making pictures. Derges tracked the night sky with a camera and returned to the darkroom to combine camera based and camera-less techniques that result in images that are at once recognisable, and yet not quite what they seem.

Most recently, Derges has explored the anthropomorphic qualities of germinating seeds, which she has recorded through hundreds of images made using a scanning bed (in part due to the scarcity of the Ilfochrome positive paper which Derges' practice once depended on). Described as 'consetellations', and influenced by the shape of the Covid-19 virus, Derges has sought to transform fears regarding extinction and loss into a story of renewal, of which the germinating seeds are emblematic.

Susan Derges has work in museums and public collections all over the world, including the Hara Art Museum, Tokyo, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York and MOMA, San Francisco. In October 2010, Susan Derges was one of five artists selected for the exhibition *Shadow Catchers*, a major survey of camera-less photography at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. *A Little Bit of Magic Realised*; an exhibition at Ingleby, ran parallel to *Shadow Catchers*, and focused on the wider career of Susan Derges and Garry Fabian Miller in the context of early historical photographic experiments.

Biography

1955	Born in London, UK
1973-76	Studied painting at Chelsea School of Art, London, UK (BA Hons)
1976-77	British Council/DAAD Scholarship to Berlin
1977-79	Postgraduate Studies at The Slade School of Fine Art, London, UK
1979	Boise Travel Scholarship to The Netherlands
1981-82	Rotary Foundation Award, Japan
1982-83	Postgraduate Research at Tsukuba University, Ibaraki, Japan
1984	JVC Award, Japan
1993	South West Arts Major Award
1993-98	Lecturer, Media Arts, University of Plymouth, Exeter, UK
1997	Visiting lecturer/guest speaker at Mills College, Oakland, California, USA
1997-99	External Examiner – BA Fine Art Photography at Middlesex University, Middlesex, UK

Currently lives and works in Devon

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2023	<i>Many Moons</i> , Hestercombe Gallery, Taunton, UK
2022	<i>Susan Derges: The River Taw "Restored" & Other Works</i> , Danziger Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
2021	<i>Floating</i> , Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK
2020	<i>The River Taw "Revisited"</i> , Danziger Gallery, New York, USA

- 2019 *Mortal Moon*, Queen's House, London, UK
- 2018 *Soul of the Underground*, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK
- 2016 *Susan Derges – 25 Years*, Danziger Gallery, New York, USA
- 2015 *Under the Moon*, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK
- 2013 *Susan Derges – New Work*, Danziger Gallery, New York, USA
- 2012 *Alder Brook*, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK
- 2010 *A Little Bit of Magic Realised*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 2009 *New Work*, Nichido Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan
Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK
- 2008 Johyun Gallery, Seoul and Busan, South Korea
Susan Derges & Hildegard von Bingen, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 2006 Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK
Azure, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 2005 Photographs Without a Camera, Gallery 314, Bergen, Norway
- 2004 *Dark Waters*, The Terrace Gallery Harwood House, Leeds, UK
Water, Foto Fest 2004, Houston, Texas,
Recent Work, Nichido Gallery, Paris, France
Liquid form, Ediciones Wu, Lima, Peru
- 2003 *New Work*, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, USA
Retrospective show Nichido Contemporary Art, Tokyo Design Centre, Tokyo, Japan
Susan Derges, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
- 2002 *New Work*, Michael Hue-Williams Fine Art, London, UK
- 2001 *Natural Magic*, Museum of the History of Science, Oxford, UK
- 1999 *Woman Thinking River*, James Danziger Gallery, New York, USA
Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, USA
Recent Work, Michael Hue Williams Fine Art, London, UK
- 1998 *River Taw*, Newlyn Art Gallery, Newlyn, Cornwall, UK, Musee D'Elysee, Lausanne, Switzerland
Spacex Gallery, Exeter, UK
- 1997 *River Taw*, Michael Hue-Williams Fine Art, London, UK
- 1995 *The Print Room*, The Photographers Gallery, London, UK
James Danziger Gallery, New York, USA
Embodied, Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol, UK
- 1994 *The Observer and the Observed*, James Danziger Gallery, New York, USA
- 1993 *Between Sun and Earth*, The Photographers Gallery, London, UK
- 1989 Gallery ON, Poznan, Poland
Tokyo Science Museum, Exploratorium, Tokyo, Japan (video)
- 1987 O Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan (video)

1985 JVC VIC Centre, Tokyo, Japan (video)
Gallery Okazaki, Tokyo, Japan

1984 Art Space Niji, Kyoto, Japan

Selected Group Exhibitions

2023 *Twenty-Five*, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK

2022 *Earth: Digging Deep in British Art 1915 - 2022*, Royal West of England Academy, Bristol Artful
Craft, MAKE Southwest, Bovey Tracey
Here and Elsewhere, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK
Opening Doors, Danziger Gallery, New York, USA
“Where did all the animals go?”, Grob Gallery, Genève, Switzerland
Eye on Nature, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK

2021 *The Expanded Landscape*, J.Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, USA

2020 - 2021 *Shadows and Light*, Southampton City Art Gallery, Southampton, UK
Time Present - Photography from the Deutsche Bank Collection, Palais Populaire, Berlin, Germany

2020 *Squaring the Circles of Confusion*, Royal Photographic Society, Bristol, UK
Sea Garden, Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, UK
The Spring of Escapism, Grob Gallery, Genève, Switzerland

2019 *Criminal Ornamentation: Yinka Shonibare MBE curates the Art Council Collection*, Attenborough Arts
Centre, Leicester, UK
Moonlight, Hasselblad Foundation, Gothenberg, Sweden

2018 *Jacob's Ladder*, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK
TWENTY, Ingleby, Edinburgh, UK

2017 *Women in Colour*, island, New York, USA

2015 *Still Moving*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
Beneath the Surface, Somerset House, London, UK
Watershed; Art, Play and the Politics of Water, Bexley Heritage Trust

2014 *Shadows on the Wall: Cameraless Photography from 1851 to Today*, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
de Marseillaise/ Fifteen Years of Collecting, Huis Marseille, Netherlands
Natural Order, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London
Photomonth, Krakow
Power of the Sea, Royal West of England Academy, Bristol
Apiculture: Bees and the Art of Pollination, Peninsula Arts, Plymouth

2013 *Once upon a time and a very good time it was...* Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh

2011 *Infinite Balance: Artists and the Environment*, Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, California,
USA
Dust On The Mirror, Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore

2010 *A Little Bit of Magic Realised* (with Garry Fabian Miller) Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
Coast, Zuiderzee Museum, Enkhuizen, The Netherlands
Shadow Catchers, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
Dust on the Mirror, Djanogly Art Gallery, Lakeside Arts Centre, Nottingham UK (toured to Lasalle
College of the Arts, Singapore)

2008 *Water*, Prix Pictet, Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France
Paris Photo, Paris, France
Night A time Between, Royal West of England Academy, Bristol, UK

- The History of Photography*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
Night, RWA Galleries, Bristol, UK
On Time, The East Wing Collection VIII, The Courtauld Institute of Art, London, UK
- 2007 *Picturing Eden*, The Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego, California, USA
Something That I'll Never Really See: Contemporary Photography from the V&A, Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, Norwich, UK
Trace and Transience, Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World, Exeter, UK
- 2006-8 *Gregor Mendel: Planting the Seeds of Genetics*, The Field Museum, Chicago, USA (touring)
- 2006-7 *Alchemy*, Harewood House, Leeds, UK (touring)
- 2006 *Picturing Eden*, George Eastman House, New York, USA
Bodies of Water, Victoria Art Gallery, Bath, UK
Southampton City Art Gallery, Southampton, UK
- 2005 *Made in Britain*, Huis Marseille stichting voor fotografie, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2004 *Lightfall*, Brewhouse, Taunton, UK
Photo Synthesis, Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter, UK
From Here To Eternity, with Vija Celmins, Garry Fabian Miller, Richard Long, James Turrell, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
Now Showing IV, Houldsworth Gallery, London, UK
FotoFest 2004 – The Tenth International Month of Photography, FotoFest, Texas, USA
Making Faces: The Death of the Portrait, Musée de l'Elysée, Lausanne, Switzerland
- 2003 *Recycling Lucifers Fall*, Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London, UK
Several Exceptionally Good Recently Acquired Pictures, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, USA
Synthetic Lightning – Complex Simulations of Nature, The Center for Photography at Woodstock, New York, USA
Cara a Cara, Culturgest – Gestão de Espaços Culturais, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2002 *Four Photographers*, with Garry Fabian Miller, David Williams, Patricia Macdonald, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
Now What is Photography? Gana Art Gallery, Seoul, South Korea
Metamorphing, Science Museum, London, UK
- 2001 *Summer Exhibition* Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, USA
From The Dark Room, Michael Hue-Williams Fine Art, London, UK
Sea Change, Spacex Gallery, Exeter, UK
- 2000 *Particle Accelerators: At the Intersection of Photography*, Science and Technology, Photographic Resource Center, Boston, USA
This is Not a Photograph, Choate Art Gallery, Pace University, USA
Summer 2000 Unique Photographs, Paul Kasmin Gallery, New York, USA
Anti-Memory, Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, Japan
Now! Modern Photographs from the Permanent Collection, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA
- 1999 *Phenomena*, The Ansel Adams Gallery, California, San Francisco, USA
Ingleby Gallery (with Patricia Macdonald), Edinburgh, UK
20 Twenty, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, USA
- 1998 *Woods and Water*, Kettles Yard, Cambridge, UK
River Taw, Inverleith House, Royal Botanical Gardens, Edinburgh, UK
Dust Breeding, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, USA
Silver and Syrup, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
- 1997-98 *About Painting*, Robert Miller Gallery, New York, USA

- 1997 *Several Exceptionally Good Recently Acquired Pictures XI*, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, USA
- 1996 *Under the Sun*, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, USA
Elective Affinities, Michael Hue-Williams Fine Art, London, UK
Light, Time, Focus, The Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, USA
Eye of the Beholder: Photographs from the Avon Collection, International Centre of Photography, New York, USA
- 1995 *Possibilities of Extention*, Aspex Gallery, Portsmouth, UK
Heavens Embroidered Cloths, National Museum of Film, Photography and Television, Bradford, UK
- 1994 *Wellsprings*, The Bath Festival, Bath, UK
Growth and Form, The Ruskin Gallery, Sheffield, UK
Umbra Penumbra, Signals: Festival of Women Photographers, throughout the UK
- 1992 Salama-Caro Gallery, London, UK
New Inhabitants, Royal Albert Museum and Art Gallery, Exeter, UK
- 1991 *Post Modern Prints*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
New Acquisitions, The Arts Council Collection, London, UK
 Spacex Gallery, Exeter, UK
Cameraless Photography, Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, Japan
Content and Discontent in Today's Photography, The Ansel Adams Gallery, San Francisco, USA
 Centre for Photography, San Francisco, USA
- 1989 *Machine Dreams*, The Photographers Gallery, London, UK
 AVE Festival of Audio Visual Arts, Arnhem, The Netherlands
 Phenomenart Saibu Gas Museum, Fukuoka, Japan
- 1991 *Post Modern Prints*, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
New Acquisitions, The Arts Council Collection, London, UK
 Spacex Gallery, Exeter, UK
Cameraless Photography, Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, Japan
Content and Discontent in Today's Photography, The Ansel Adams Gallery, San Francisco, USA
 Centre for Photography, San Francisco, USA
- 1985 High Technology Art Seibu Department Store, Tokyo, Japan
- 1984 Hara Annual, Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan
- 1978 The Hayward Annual, Hayward Gallery, London, UK

Selected Collections

Victoria and Albert Museum, London, UK
 Arts Council of England, UK
 Arnolfini Trust, Bristol, UK
 The Citibank Private Bank Collection, London, UK
 The Eden Project, Cornwall, UK
 NatWest Group, London, UK
 Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, UK
 Conoco Ltd, London, UK
 Texaco Plc, London, UK
 National Museum of Film, Photography and Television, Bradford, UK
 British Airways, UK
 Dorset County Hospital, Dorset, UK
 The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA
 San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, USA
 Hess Collection Napa, Bern, London, UK
 Kunstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin, Germany

Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin, Germany
The Hara Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
Saibu Gas Museum, Fukuoka, Japan
The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, USA
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA
Huis Marseille, Amsterdam, Netherlands
Whitehead Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, USA
Institute of Chicago, USA
Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, USA

Selected Publications

2018 *Soul of the Underground*, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London
2012 *Alder Brook: Twenty Photographs with Poems by Thomas A Clark*, Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, UK
2010 *Susan Derges: Elemental*, Steidl, Göttingen, Germany
 Shadow Catchers, Victoria & Albert Museum and Merrel Publishers, London, UK
2006 *Azure*, Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
2002 *Kingswood*, Stour Valley Arts / Photoworks, UK
1999 *Liquid Form 1985-99* essay by Martin Kemp, Michael Hue – Williams Fine Art, London, UK
 Susan Derges: Woman Thinking River, Fraenkel Gallery, San Francisco, USA
1997 *Under the Sun*, Christopher Bucklow, Susan Derges, Garry Fabian Miller, Adam Fuss, Fraenkel
 Gallery, San Francisco, USA