

# A TABLE OF ELEMENTS

EXHIBITION, CONVERSATION & WORKSHOP



JOANNA JONES HELEN LINDON CLARE SMITH

REPORT 2015



SALT: Sea and The Environment Festival in Folkestone  
co-curated by  
**Allegra Galvin**, Folkestone Quarterhouse,  
**Diane Dever**, Folkestone Fringe  
**Karen Shepherdson**, Canterbury Christ Church University.

*The Exhibition opened with a curated conversation with a group of invited guests from different walks of life about climate, inner and outer weather*

## **Climate allows humans to live culturally with their weather ...**

(Mike Hulme)



### **The Conversation**

Tuesday October 20th from 6-9pm  
23 Wear Bay Road, Folkestone, CT19 6BN

The conversation was held in the 'A Table of Elements' exhibition space, with sustenance and refreshment provided.

After the curated conversation there was a chance to preview Joanna Jones' film, [La Mer](#), that charts the forms and structures of twenty four painting actions over a couple of months brought together skilfully by film maker Dominic de Vere. The evolution of the painting accompanies an interpretation of Debussy's La Mer, by Sally Beamish for the Trio Apache.

The evening was hosted in a stimulating, intimate and friendly atmosphere where the conversation ranged from the effect of the moon on women giving birth, to possible future architectural design to deal with sea level rise, from the 'hyper-globe' to being alone in a camper van in the Arctic.





*Thank you so much for the event last evening - beautifully organised and timed, just the right amount of art on the walls, a good number of people (and great people!)*

*Very inspiring company, conversations and atmosphere (sic)!*

*The format was just lovely and the work on the walls so strong as was your film Joanna. It felt like a well mixed group of people and I can only hope that I am invited again to such things in the future!*



*The net result for me was a renewed energy for my own projects and the furtherance of my website which has been simply too long in the making. I will link you all to it once it is live to view.*

**The Exhibition:**

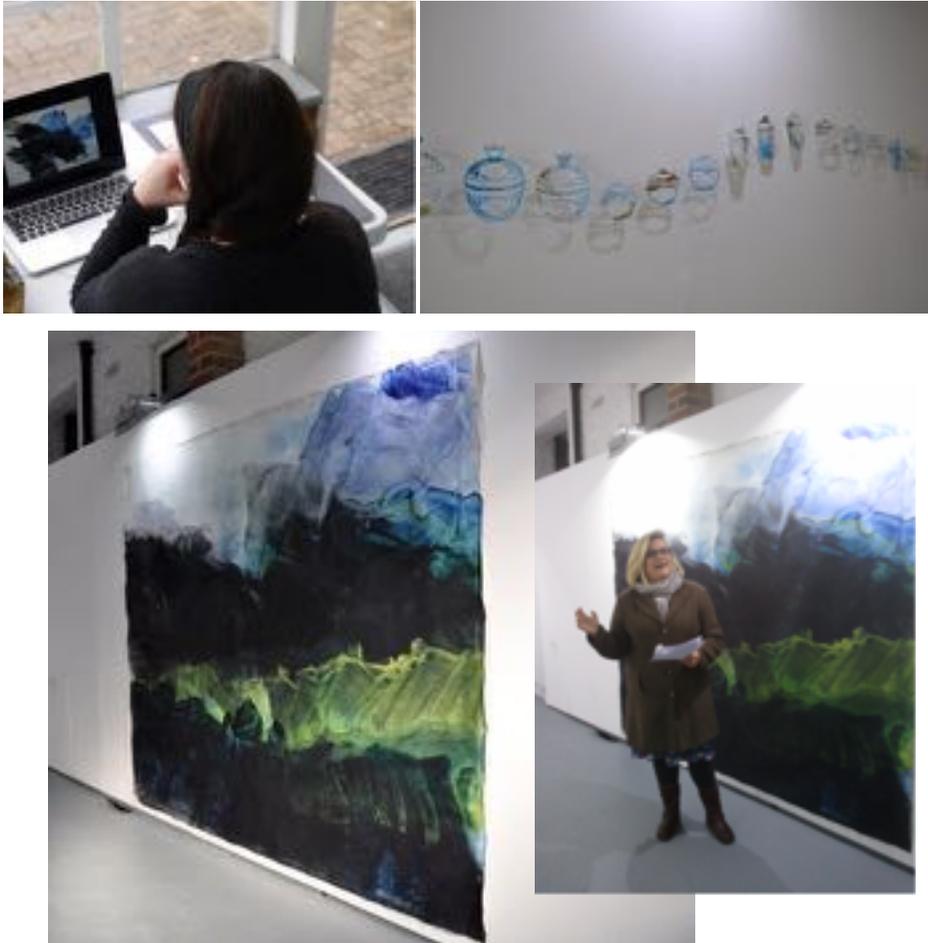
22 October – 24 October, Lindon Studio, Folkestone

The Exhibition showed the work of artists Joanna Jones, Helen Lindon and Clare Smith. The works in the exhibition are linked by the element of water - more specifically the sea.

**Helen Lindon's** studio is a few metres from the shore:  
*"As I make my work I see, hear and feel the sea churning and pounding... relentlessly rising and falling through all seasons and all weathers. I love it and fear it and wonder at it - in awe of its immense power and beauty. The sea defences here are constantly under stress from the crashing waves and in the not too distant future, the relationship between land and sea will change dramatically - the ice caps are melting, sea levels are rising and wild, extreme weather conditions are becoming familiar."*

**Joanna Jones'** film, *La Mer* charts the forms and structures of twenty-four painting actions over a couple of months skillfully brought together by filmmaker Dominic de Vere. The evolution of the fluid egg tempera painting is accompanied by an interpretation of Debussy's *La Mer*, in three movements, by Sally Beamish for the Trio Apaches. Debussy started his work in 1903 in France and completed it in 1905 at the Grand Hotel Eastbourne on the English Channel coast. The painting is included in the exhibition.

**In Clare Smith's** work the sea, across which people and goods travel, are transported and migrate, is the connector between lands and the means by which her forebears arrived in Malaya (now Malaysia) from Southeast China. Her installation - paper cut-outs (using found atlas pages) of Straits Chinese porcelain and Chinese export ware from cargo shipwrecked in the Malacca Straits - investigates the notion of imported identities.





*Well worth coming to this lovely cosy gallery. A beautiful exhibition full of sea, salt and femininity.*

*A huge thank you for sharing this work. It is rarer than I would wish to experience work that both draws you in and sends you out seeing the world in a new way. More please!*

*What a fine exhibition with the rare privilege to hear directly from the artists themselves.*

*Inspiring work, congratulations on your exhibition. It certainly exhibits an abundance of elemental energies! Wonderful!*

*It's a wonderful, beautifully balanced and delicate show.*

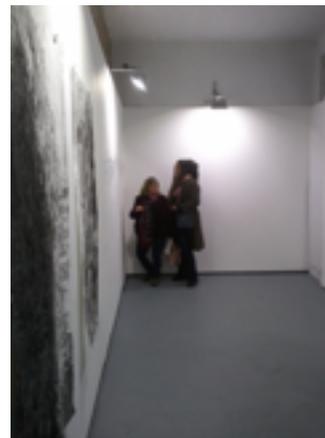
*Fascinating how well the different elements complimented each other, and how fortunate for me to be there, in time to enjoy the waves and colours of J.Jones's Painting taken by Sharon McCarron's poem . Truly enjoyed it.*

*I wanted to get in Joanna Jones painting.*

*Bohemia-on-Sea. Superb company. Superb work.*

*Wonderful! Clever! Beautiful! Macro/micro – fractals – elements – Inspiring*

*Deeply inspiring – climate – sea – elements – refuge + refugees  
Inspirational and elemental.*





### **The Elemental Experimental Workshop**

11am - 4pm Folkestone Seafront Harbour Arm  
Wednesday 21st October

#### **Run by Helen Lindon, Joanna Jones and Clare Smith**

To produce a collaborative art piece in response to the elements: inner mood and outer weather, in particular harnessing the rain and the wind. We made two large pieces (see pics) one of which was exhibited in The Waiting Room on the Harbour Arm over the weekend.

Bookable through The Quarterhouse for £20 pp.

The workshop ran from 11am - 4pm and included lunch and all materials

*It was a truly wonderful, stimulating and elemental experience. We hope to do another collaboration some time in the future.  
(Helen Lindon)*



**The Studio Breakfast**

10am at Lindon Studio

Saturday 24th October

Food provided by The Pullman, bookable through The Quarterhouse  
We had nine paying guests who thoroughly enjoyed the art, the delicious food, meeting new people and the conversation.

Our guests stayed until lunch time!

*Brilliant Breakfast! Wonderful company and conversation.  
Thank you!!  
GREAT ART TOO!*



## Artists' Biographies



**Helen Lindon** has been concerned with ecology and the environment since the 60's. Her work has developed through experimentation with materials and ideas of space, colour and atmosphere. She is now working on the subject of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise. Her present practice investigates ideas of micro/macro - her images could be of a larger universe or looking through a microscope. Many patterns and images are replicated in both. Natural materials - sea, rain water and carbon are used to make large scale drawings using tiny marks. These take hundreds of hours and become for the artist and viewer a contemplation on climate change. Helen trained at The Byam Shaw and went on to become an Associate Lecturer at Byam Shaw, Central Saint Martins and London College of Communication (all University of the Arts, London). She has also worked on artist, student and feminist initiatives. She shows her work mainly in London Galleries but lives and works overlooking the sea in Folkestone.



**Joanna Jones's** practice bridges painting and performance. She returned from mainland Europe to settle in Dover in 1997. After a foundation year at Northwich College of Art, she went on to the Byam Shaw School followed by the Royal Academy Schools. She won first prize in the Greater London Council's painting competition London 1969 before graduating from the Royal Academy Schools in 1970. She was co-founder of the London studio collective, The Works 1973-75. From 1978 to 1997 she lived in Germany, where she established her painting practice exhibiting nationally and internationally. In 2000 she received an ACE Year of the Artist award for a projection on the White Cliffs at Samphire Hoe. In 2006 she took her performative practice into the public realm co-founding Dover Arts Development (DAD) with Clare Smith.



**Clare Smith's** practice involves pattern, chance and process, often using strategies such as cutting, tearing, gluing and stitching. A prevalent element of her work is the grid – its rigid structures which regulate and provide order are fitted into, broken down or rebelled against. Other elements relate to materials, craft and objects. Smith works with drawing, print media, installation and painting to investigate the tensions between identities and traditions informed by her Chinese/English heritage. There is a delicacy and fragility to some of Smith's work, which reflects a constant sense of the precariousness of physical existence. Collaboration is part of Smith's practice and she is also co-founder of Dover Arts Development (DAD). Clare works from a studio in Dover and has an MA in Fine Art from Central Saint Martins.

**all photography was by Clare Smith, Helen Lindon and Diane Dever**



