

Infinity

Artists : Gemma Cossey and Jane Ponsford
Curated by Jane Boyer



Infinity is a big place.

For artists Gemma Cossey and Jane Ponsford, the concept of infinity is a consequence of rules, parameters, and processes.

The tension between planning and serendipity, compulsion and meditation is at the heart of their work. Both Gemma and Jane work through a visible compulsive repetitiveness to arrive at an unanticipated serene fusion of elements. They surprise themselves, which in turn, surprises us.

Talking with both artists in their studios revealed astonishing gems of insight into their work. Gemma's fixation on process when working on a piece borders on a complete immersion in her task. But what's surprising about this, is not the fact of the meditative immersion, but that she is lucid in her presence; she doesn't lose herself in the task, she follows the task to its ultimate conclusion – a conclusion she often had not anticipated. For Gemma, the point is not the tranquility, but the rigour in following a path, both physically and intellectually.

A visit to Jane's studio revealed a similar, but slightly different set of forces at work. For Jane, the meditation comes in the context of the work; the collecting of materials, the preparations in order to make. The making then becomes a physical gesture of fluency. "While the work is partly directed by a compulsion to pile up, to place together, to fold, and to make collections of similar marks or shapes ordered by a structure or system there is also a role for chance and error and serendipitous discovery and the meditative and calm nature of the experience of walking and collecting feeds into these processes," Jane explains.

Gemma says, "...the use of a paint pen has allowed me to paint a continuous line across a surface, one that is fast-flowing enough to travel over the texture of acrylic or gesso on canvas or panel. Beginning with a line that follows the surface edge, the lengthy process then establishes its own rhythm, and although controlled by a set of rules, in a sense the painting develops arbitrarily. This is an ongoing interest; exploring the relationship and conversation between two processes: one that is intended and planned, and another that is allowed to evolve intuitively or serendipitously."

Infinity, curated by Jane Boyer, brings together two artists working in different media, but with a similar vision of purpose. It's not in the similarities between their works, but in the divergence of their methods that make this two-person exhibition so intriguing. Through their work we see a multiplicity of ways the means deliver us to an infinite end.

DATES/NOTES:

Private View : Tuesday 7th November 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Gallery hours : Every Thursday to Sunday: 3pm - 7pm or by appointment
Exhibition Open : Between 8th November – 2nd December 2017

Venue : **Arthouse1**
Address : 45 Grange Road. London SE1 3BH
Transport : Nearest tubes: Borough, London Bridge or Bermondsey

Contact : Rebecca Fairman Tel: 077131 89249
URL : www.arthouse1.co.uk
email : press@arthouse1.co.uk

Artists links : [Gemma Cossey](#) [Jane Ponsford](#)
Catalogue : [Download here](#)