

Members' Showcase

A Contemporary Group North Activity

Issue 17

September 2024

Members' Showcase

provides a platform for contributors to our monthly meetings to display the work they have shared.

Contributors have curated their own images and provided the accompanying text making this a collaborative group venture.

21st September 2024 —Meeting in person at Clements Hall, York

Chaired by Patricia Ruddle

Contributors:

John Elvin

Adrian James

Harry Silcock

Philip Melia

Barbara Pollard

Martyn Pearson



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John ElvinThe House

I first visited this house fifty something years ago and stayed with the family several times. In those days it was a comfortable, if rather old fashioned and slightly faded family home. I didn't visit again for many years during which time the family largely moved out, and the last member moved to a nursing home and eventually died.

I went back a few years ago and recorded what effect so many years of neglect had done.

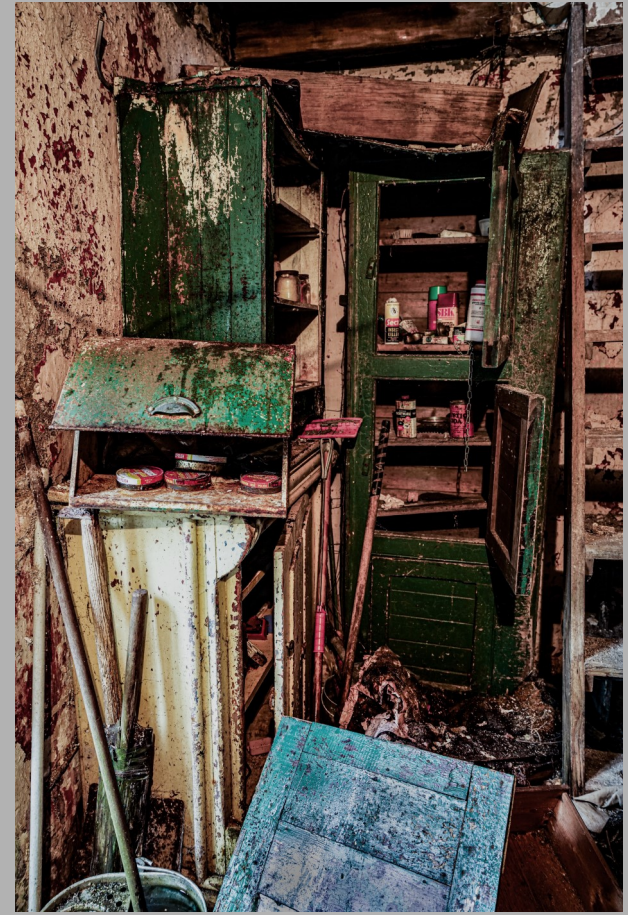
The house was never reoccupied, mainly because serious faults became apparent in the structure, and it had been neglected for many years.

After this, the house deteriorated further; it was broken into, and anything perceived to be valuable was stolen.









Extralac 14

why?

Thompsons

Larne B-I activities

Contact Your Local Depot

FARM FEEDS

DEPOTS

MACE SUPERMARKET PROVEN BEST VALUE IN LARNE			
17p	4p	8p	4p
6p	8p	10p	7p
6p	11p	13p	53p
44p	11p	26p	15p
6p	8p	FREE TUMBLERS AND TIGHTS	

MACE SUPERMARKET
UPPER CAIRNCastle ROAD
CRAIGHILL - LARNE











Adrian James You need hands

Hands are complex and beautiful pieces of natural engineering. They give us both a powerful grip and the ability to manipulate small objects with great precision. Our opposable thumbs, which can work together with our fingers, are what sets us apart from every other creature. The muscles that make this possible give us our capacity for delicacy of touch, fine movement, and strength, a combination that wouldn't otherwise be possible. In addition, our fingertips are extremely sensitive to temperature, pressure, vibration, texture and moisture, enabling us to feel, and therefore to control, what our hands are doing.





It is our hands, therefore, that give us the ability to make things with which to perform everything from mundane tasks to fine works of art. However, these skills, developed and refined over millennia of human evolution, declined during the industrial revolution in western Europe following the invention of machines and the growth of large-scale mass-production.



Happily, however, today there remains an important repository of these creative manual skills, and the knowledge that informs them, amongst today's artisans and craftspeople. They are committed to the creative process of making things by hand; to the tactile experience of working with and shaping different materials using their hands and tools; and to making things that are personalised and unique, rather than uniform and mass-produced.

Collectively therefore, these images of working hands, both young and old, reveal not only our human creativity but also our unequalled ability to fashion things of beauty from raw materials. Together, they demonstrate the dexterity, control and skills needed to work both at large scale and in fine detail. In short, they show what human hands are capable of - an unmatched ability to make things by hand.









Harry SilcockStreet photography in Spain









Philip Melia

SICHUAN

7

DAYS

STRANGERS

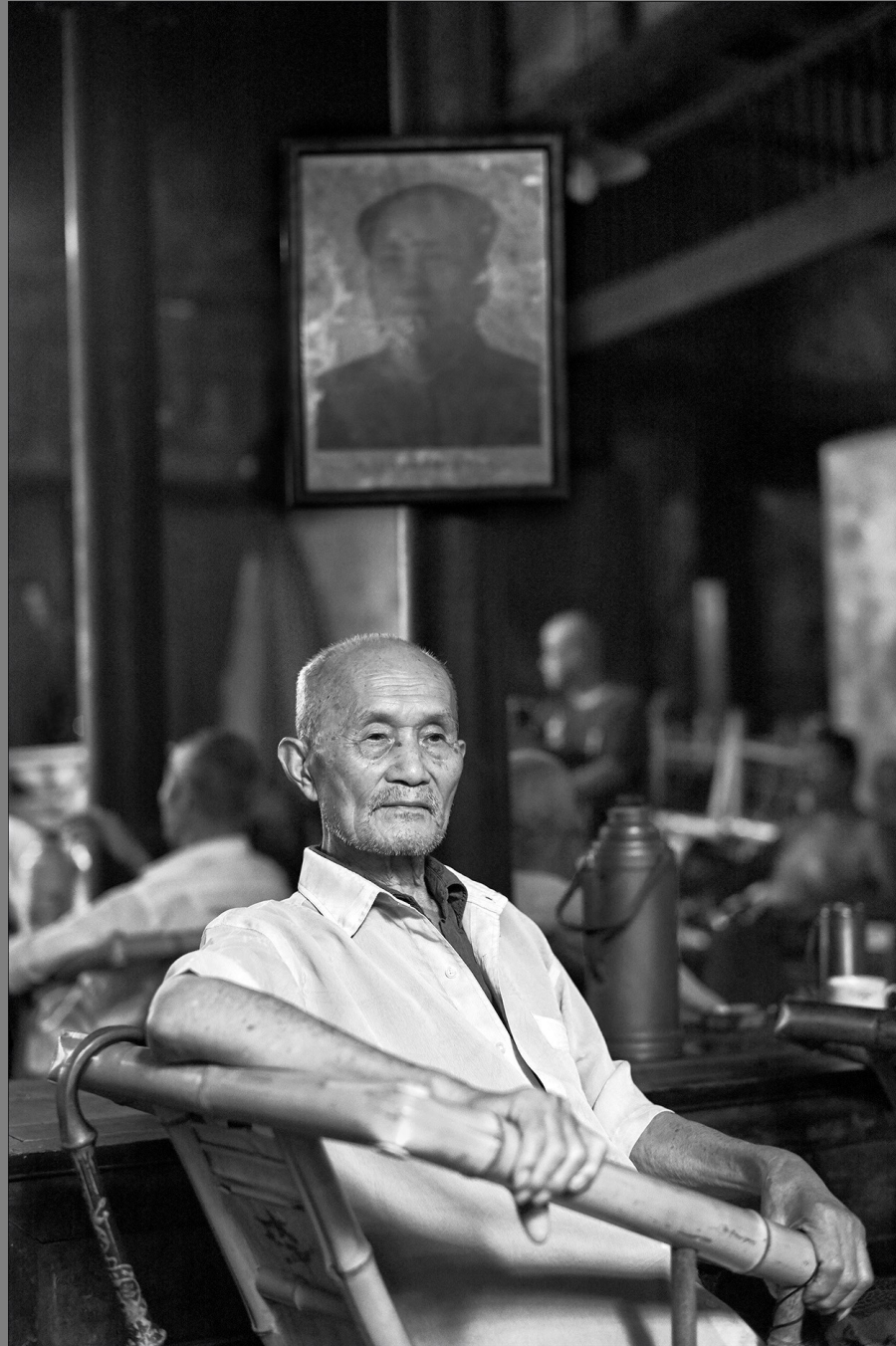
PORTRAITS















Barbara Pollard

Philip Larkin's poetry is beautifully written and can be highly enjoyable or profoundly uncomfortable to read, reflecting as it does the full gamut of everyday life. The poems of Larkin, who lived and worked in Hull, are the inspiration for this collection of images made in the city of Hull in the summer of 2024.



Man hands on misery to man



Funny how hard it is to be alone



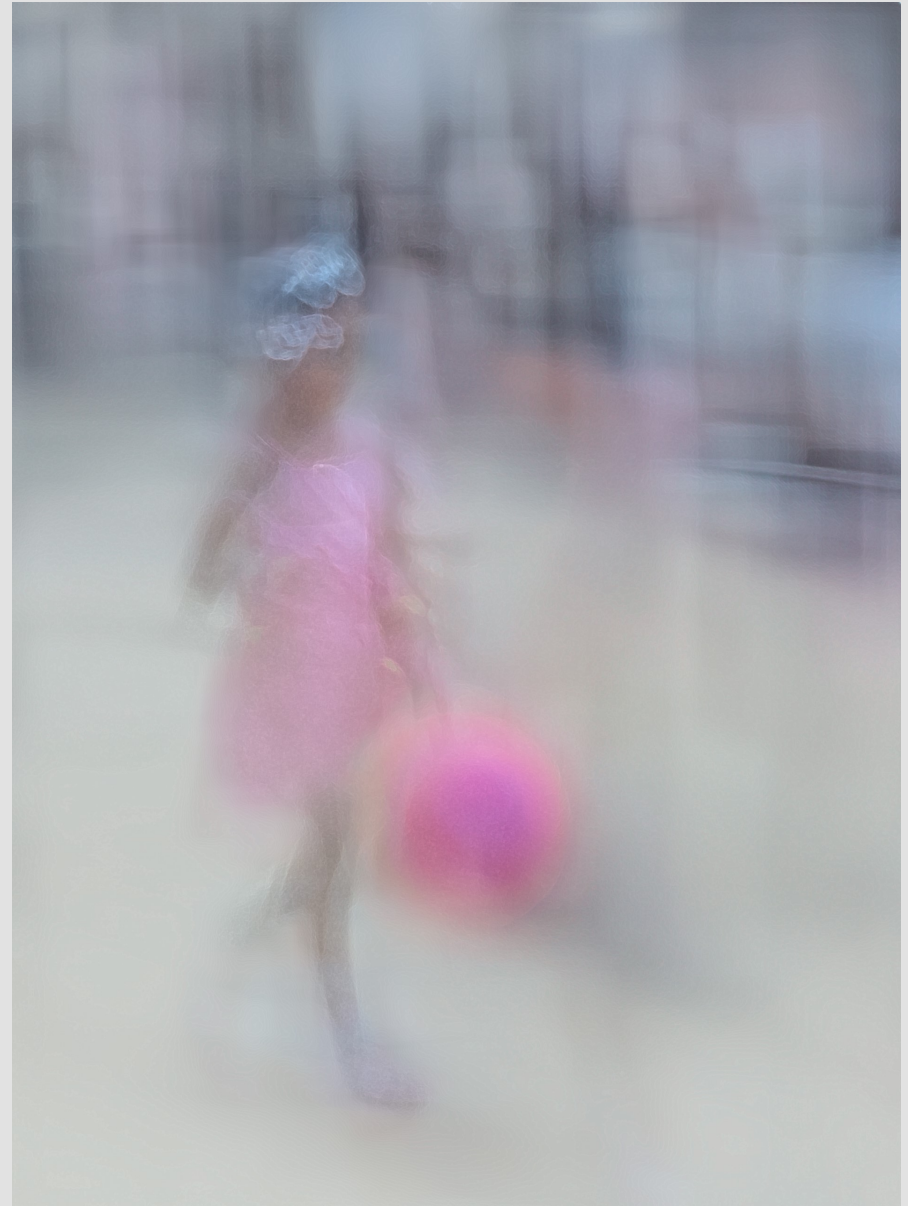
And of great sadness also



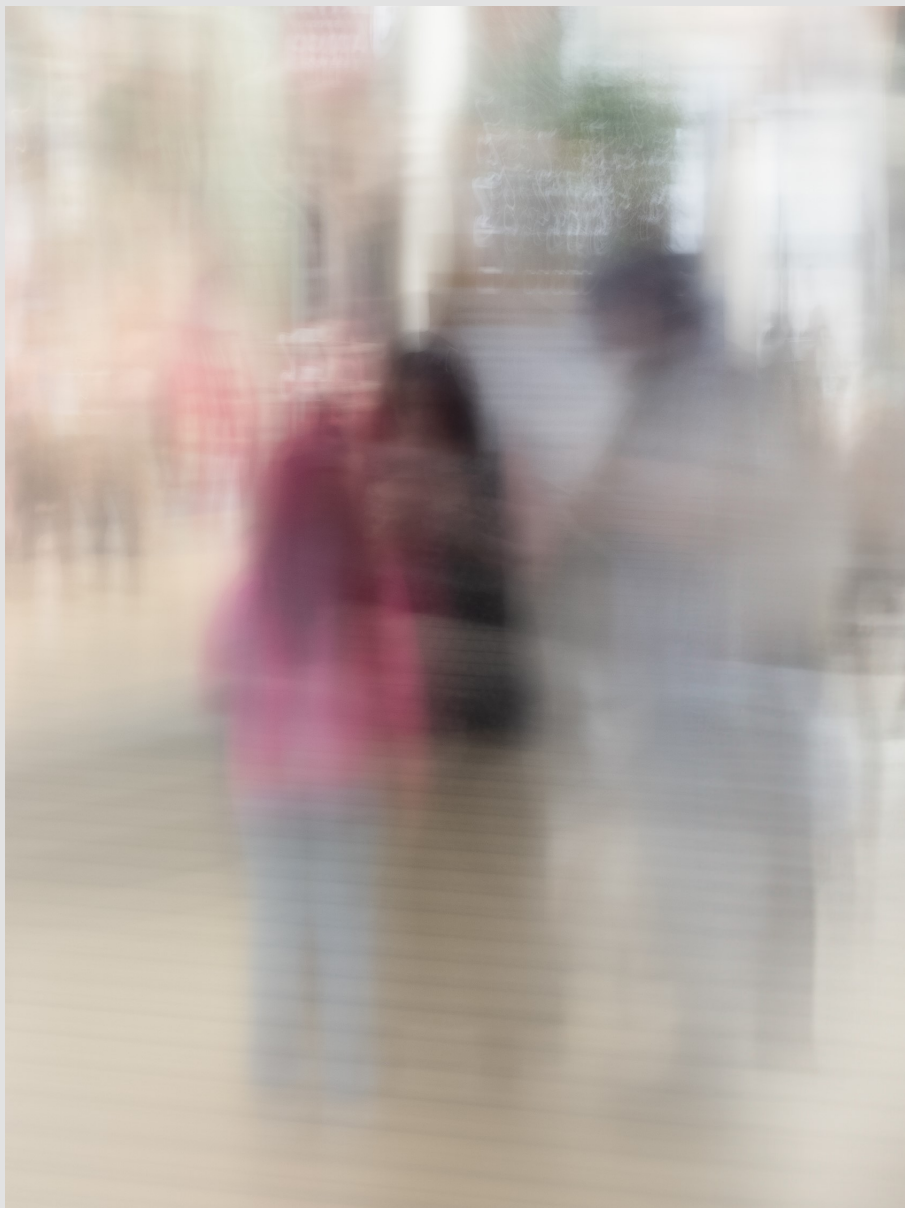
This frail travelling coincidence



And dulls to distance all we are



Never were hearts more eager to be free



We should be kind while there is still time



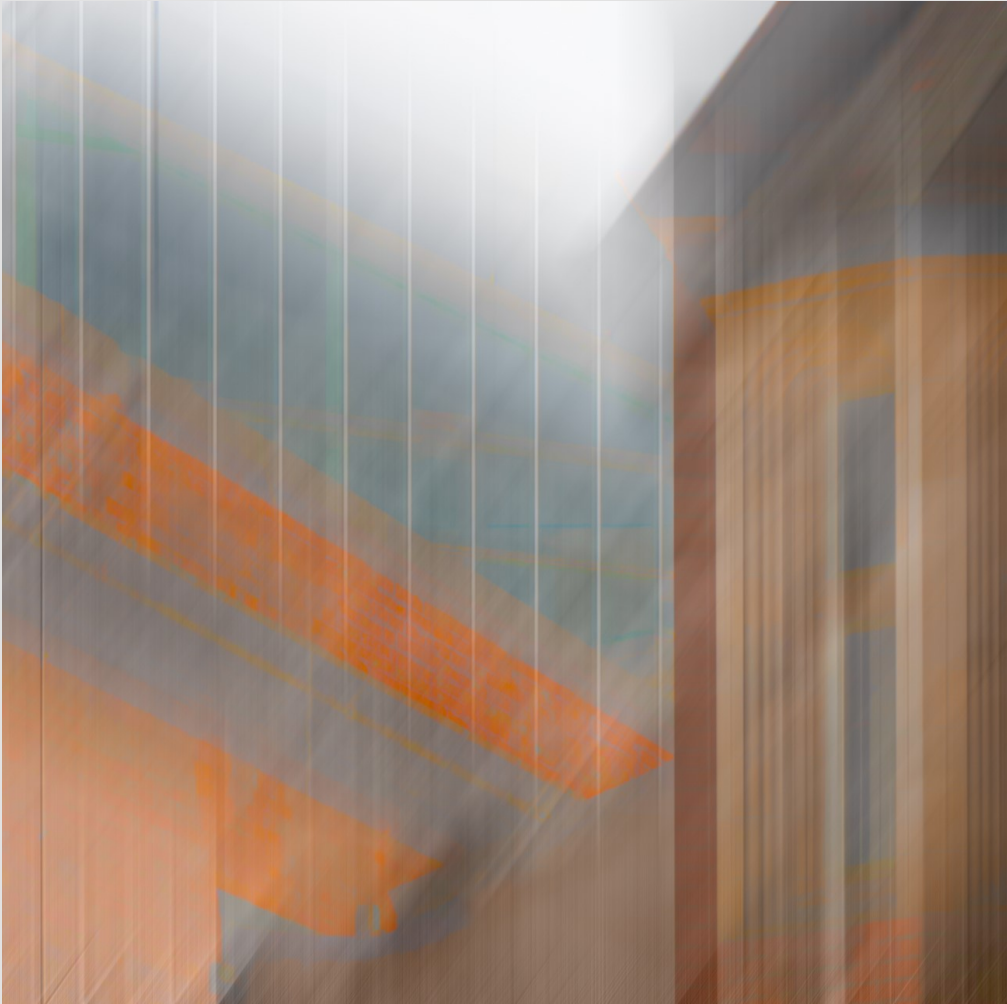
See walking a dead one



How their lives would all contain this hour



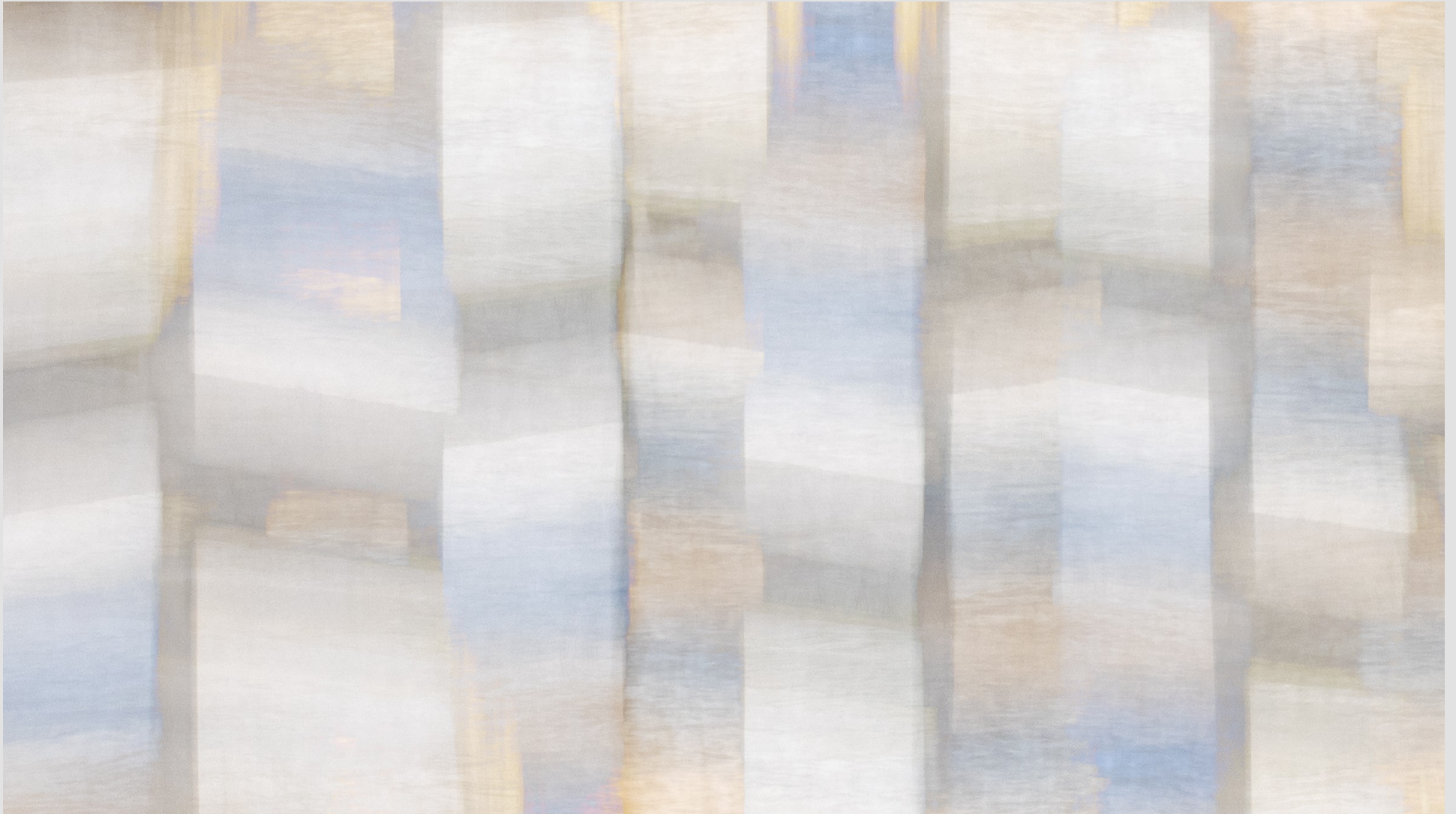
The endless altered people came



Stand in silence here



Strange to know nothing



Nothing and is nowhere and is endless



Somewhere like this is what it means



It speaks I hear



Where light is pewter

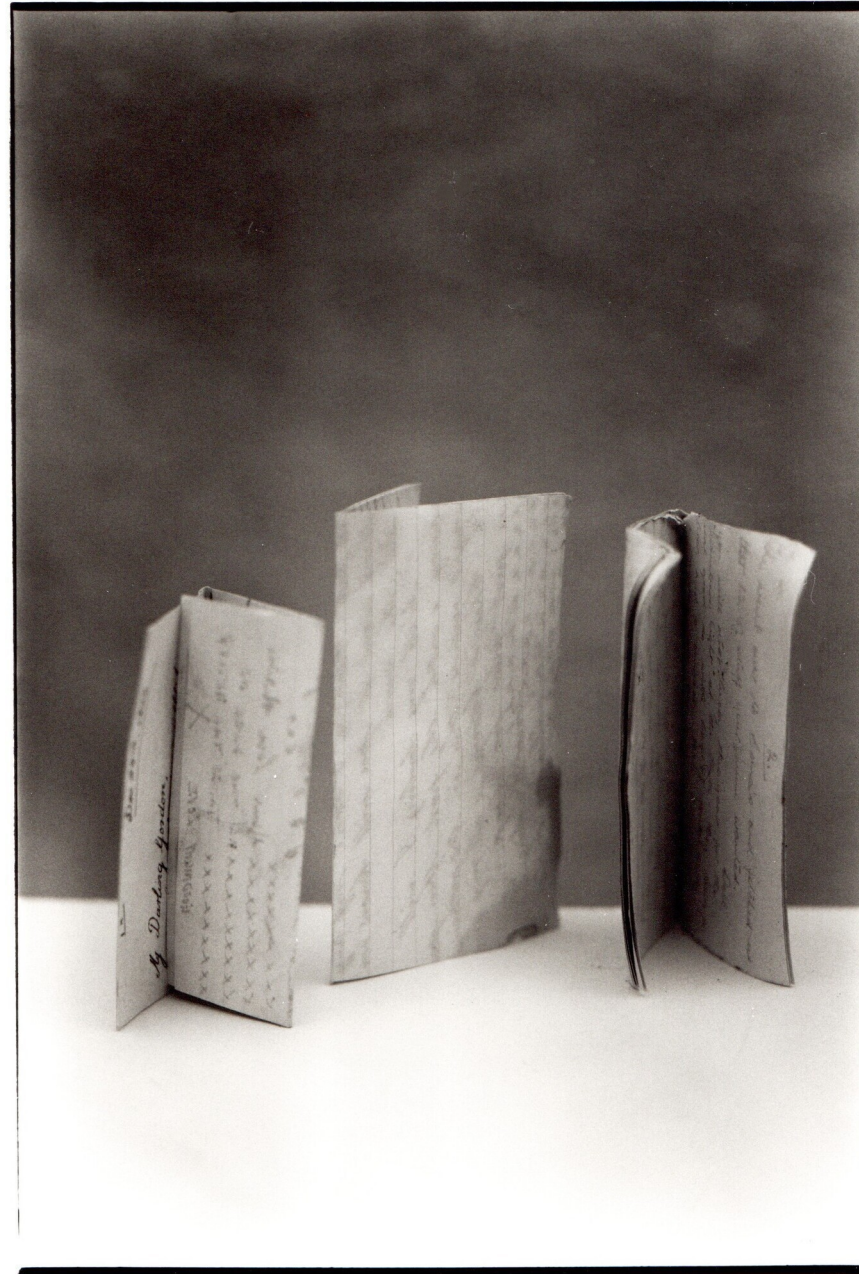
Martyn PearsonLove Letters 1952 to 1954

After the Second World War, the young men of Britain were called upon to meet new challenges in a rapidly changing world. National Service, a form of peacetime conscription, was introduced in 1947 for all able-bodied men between the ages of 18 and 21. In 1952, my father was called up to commence his 2 years National Service.

Through this 2 year period, these two young people who were to become my parents wrote to one another almost every day. In 1954 my father completed his service and returned home to Sheffield, where, in 1955 they were married and set up home together. Since then they have remained in the same house, living their lives and raising myself, born in 1956 and my brother, born in 1959.

Recently my father recovered a plastic bag containing love-letters written between 1952 and 1954. Sadly as the letters had been kept in a dark and damp cellar many are disintegrating and turning to dust.

In tribute to that 1950s young love I now endeavour to photograph these correspondences, not to forensically record what was written, as some things are too intimate, but to document these letters as objects. This work is ongoing.





ink
wash.
suppose H. Lela was
because you couldn't get

