Beata Gregorczyk: Images Set in Light and Time
7 ~ 16 June 2010
Opening Party: 7 June 6:00 - 8:00pm

The Parfitt Gallery is pleased to present Images Set in Light and Time, an exhibition by Beata Gregorczyk. Referencing places that have made an impact on her senses and feelings, this exhibition brings together a collection of photographs and screenprints on transparent Japanese paper of common weeds with the intention of exploring physical sensations as visual memories. With notions of beauty and the sublime as an underlying concept, the work is formally quite traditional. As Bill Beckley wrote in the introduction to Beauty and the Contemporary Sublime; “Although the sublime may be an eighteenth-century concept, gravity is a seventeenth-century concept and still relevant as we leap from cab to curb.”

Gregorczyk’s native Polish landscape has been an inspiration to her work. Over the centuries a family centred style of farming, unique on a European scale resulted in the breaking up of the landscape. Throughout the resultant mosaic of fields, meadows and boundary strips one can still find many ancient species of weeds. This man made landscape creates a palette of colours and forms that still retain echoes of a more natural, unaltered beauty. The weeds that create this palette exist in contrast to their more common definition; as unwanted nuisances.

In On the Sublime Schiller wrote “the beautiful is indeed an expression of freedom, but not that which elevates us above the power of nature and releases us from every physical influence; rather it is the expression which we enjoy as individuals within nature.” Gregorczyk’s work expands upon this by placing the viewer at the centre of an alternative landscape. She addresses relationships between beauty and seeing, and the memories of experience that in turn enhance and trigger feelings for the natural environment and its evolution through time.

Greorczyk created the work for this exhibition whilst an Artist in Residence within Croydon Higher Education College’s Fine Art Degree programme. This Artist in Residence position has been set up to enable an ongoing selection of artists to create their work alongside Art and Design undergraduates. The artists selected may be in the early stages of their careers or have established international reputations, in either case they propose a project or set of work that will be produced and exhibited within the College and offer formal and informal engagement with students on an ongoing basis. Creating work alongside such a range of artists offers Art and Design students a unique opportunity to gain insight into professional practice within the art world and as such greatly enhances their educational experience at Croydon College of Higher Education.

The Parfitt Gallery is located in the Higher Education building of Croydon College that offers over 30 higher level courses through its Higher Education and its Skills & Enterprise College. There are currently over 1,000 students on courses at Croydon Higher Education College. For more info or to order a prospectus please contact 020 8760 5914 or go to www.croydon.ac.uk

Michael Hall MA RCA
Parfitt Gallery Curator