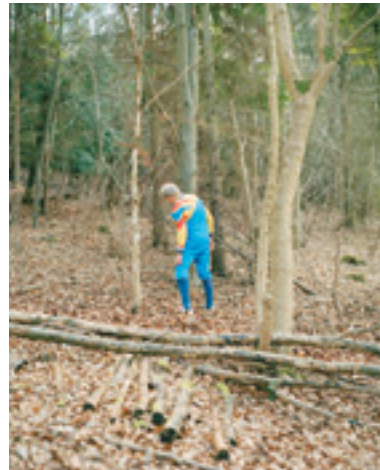
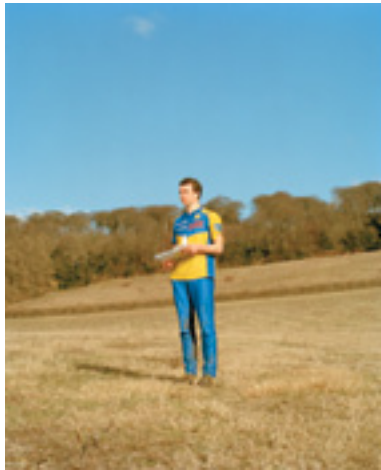

REGIONAL COMPETITION by Nick Ballon

UNCOVERING THE ART OF THE REGIONAL COMPETITOR THROUGHOUT THE UK

Strange figures line the horizon; dressed in their own colour-coordinated attire, enabling the immediate recognition of the competitor, these superhero-styled hikers look to the skies. Should we scrutinise them with unreserved interest, or do we ridicule the ardour of those depicted? By documenting these hobbies, and therefore becoming a participant himself, Nick Ballon has uncovered the art of the regional competitor. Like some unearthly power, the demanding pursuit of the orienteer absorbs entire weekends and consumes the lives of those who strive to succeed.



showcase - 001.



through the social landscape

Our project began as an attempt to capture the spirit of the participants in low key regional competitions which take place in England every weekend. We wanted to observe the idiosyncrasies of hobbies which seemed incredible to us, but which drive and consume the social life of our subjects. So far, our project has taken us from Darts contests in Surrey, to Taxidermy competitions in Derby, via Napoleonic Battle re-enactment in St.Albans, Sugarcraft (cake decorating) in Walsall, Orienteering in the Chilterns and Magic performance in Ipswich. Nick Ballon & David Ryle.