

EMMA HAMILTON: AT THE EQUINOX

The phenomenon of light and its movement throughout the year in this polarized landscape results in naturally polarized people, often experiencing higher highs and lower lows. Many local people have learnt to embrace and harness this energy. Darkness and isolation are some commonly mentioned triggers that consume the minds and bodies of Northerners.

In this period of the year, the light makes me nervous. It seems that we are able to measure the passing of time through the changing position of the sun, and hence I am constantly nervous of it 'running out'. However, once the sun is set and the light is replaced with the cloak of darkness, the association between time and light is broken, freeing the mind and body from anxiety.

These island communities can be seen as simultaneously connected and isolated. The strong history of boat trade and worldly exploration combined with geographical isolation has resulted in resilient microevolutions strong enough to engage with, but not be altered by exterior influence. However, the large homogenising systems that are gradually dominating the world are nevertheless underway here.

Strong forces have been playing out in the skies over the past days as solar storms have met the Earth's magnetic fields, exploding in unprecedented streams of light. The sea is calm, the ground is turning, the Aurora Borealis comes out to dance and the occasional star shoots across the sky. Everything is freezing, which is a blessing in disguise. The excessive November mud has hardened; as you walk you can hear that familiar winter crunch under foot.

The amplified range of light across the seasons is mirrored in nature, embodied within the geological formations that characterise these islands. Some stone has a strong linear element with steep angles diving into the adjacent sea. In other parts it has been carved out by wind, water and ice, taking on a wave-like formation. It is clear how difficult it is for the arctic tundra to get a grasp on this barren landscape, but somehow it manages.

These exposed coastal islands experience large weather variations. It seems there is a lot of instability as we transition between seasons, with the weather patterns colliding against one another. The calm and ferocious moments are equally as beautiful.

The peachy wash in the sky has been growing stronger throughout the week and today we witness the return of the sun! For a short period the sun broke above the rugged glacial carved mountains that characterise this remote Northern coastline. It is hard not to let the great swing from midnight sun through to total darkness consume you.

Andrew Devine

Edited by Emma Hamilton

**Artist book available,
please enquire at the gallery desk or contact:
emmajhamilton@live.com or info@successarts.org
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At the Equinox (finding an Arctic Circle) (detail), 2016, medium format slide film.

Artist biography

Emma Hamilton has exhibited widely in Melbourne, as well as showing her practice in Sydney, Perth, Launceston, Mildura and Nantes (France). In 2014 the Australia Council for the Arts awarded her a three-month residency in Paris at the Cité Internationale des Arts. Emma completed a Masters of Fine Art by Research at the Victorian College of the Arts in 2013.

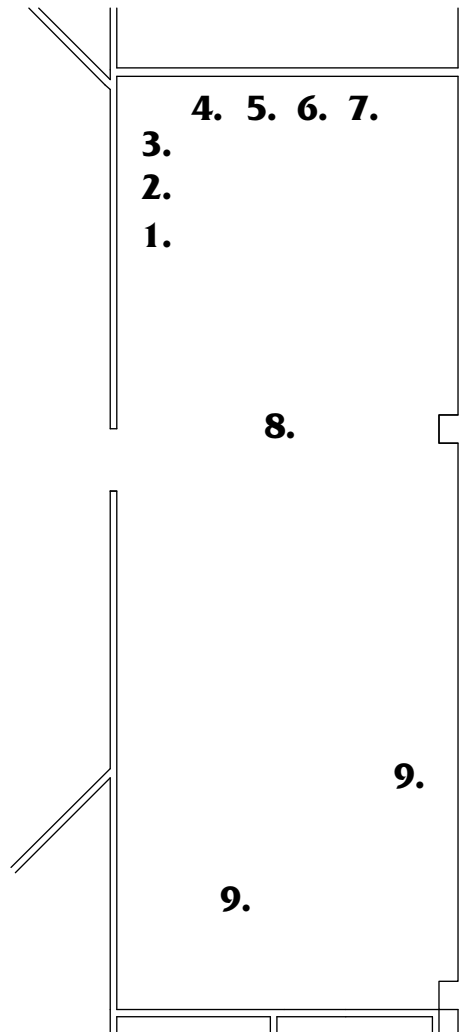
Andrew Devine

Andrew Devine is an architect currently living on the remote Norwegian island of Fleinvær, working on the project Fordypningsrommet Fleinvær.



Equinox Sun Spot VI, 2015, black and white film photograph.

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1. Equinox Sun Spot I (2015)
inkjet on cotton rag
edition 1 of 6

600

6. Equinox Sun Spot VI (2015)
inkjet on cotton rag
edition 1 of 6

600

2. Equinox Sun Spot II (2015)
inkjet on cotton rag
edition 1 of 6

600

7. Equinox Sun Spot VII (2015)
inkjet on cotton rag
edition 1 of 6

600

3. Equinox Sun Spot III (2015)
inkjet on cotton rag
edition 1 of 6

600

8. At the Equinox (Sun, 23 September, 10:20am)
(2015-16)
Image transfer

POA

4. Equinox Sun Spot IV (2015)
inkjet on cotton rag
edition 1 of 6

600

9. At the Equinox (finding an Arctic Circle)
(2015-16)
medium format slide film, tripod light boxes

POA

5. Equinox Sun Spot V (2015)
inkjet on cotton rag
edition 1 of 6

600