

Large Print Guide

Rachel Pimm:

Plates

14 February – 19 April
2020



Galleries 5 & 6

**Writer in Residence
Commission:**

Rachel Pimm: Plates

I'm listening from Afar
and I say listening
and not writing
because words can't stick to a place
which itself can't stick together
- Rachel Pimm, Disintegration (2019)

London-based artist **Rachel Pimm** (b. 1984) investigates how language and words define a landscape.

For this commission, Pimm undertook field work in volcanic regions such as the Giants Causeway, Northern Ireland, and the Afar Triangle, Ethiopia, in collaboration with sound artist **Lori E. Allen** (b. 1975). The exhibition title is a play on words between the geological terminology of tectonic plates and the images in scientific reference books.

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The artists present a visual and aural topography with sounds, words and images that have been collected from these sites, forming part of Pimm's growing archive of images of biological, geological and physical matter.

The installation is imagined as an assemblage of plates divided into four interconnected zones or layers. Sculptural outcrops of hexagonal structures mimic the geological formations of the Giant's Causeway, where rapidly cooling lava led to the creation of basalt columns.

Pimm unsettles our reading of landscape and its patterns to reveal a perpetual state of erosion and flux. This in turn proposes an approach to 'natural history' that destabilises neo-colonial and patriarchal frameworks in scientific study.

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