



Sam Nightingale

Spectres of Film:

Islington's Lost Cinemas

and other Spectral Spaces

03 May - 30 June 2012

Private View : 03 May 2012 18.00 - 21.00

Opening Times : Thurs - Sat 12.00 - 18.00

Artist Talk : 28 June 2012 18.30 - 19.30 (call to book)

'Picture Playhouse' *Islington's Lost Cinemas*
© Sam Nightingale

A Brooks Art is delighted to announce the first solo exhibition by London-based artist Sam Nightingale. *Spectres of Film: Islington's Lost Cinemas and other Spectral Spaces* is part of an ongoing series of projects that span geographical extremes (from London to Australia) and moving image history (from pre-cinematic devices to Internet auction sites) in order to visualise film's abandonment. Sam Nightingale's practice is concerned with enlivening and imploding the hidden spaces within and between built structures – the uncertain spaces of story, memory and imagination. His passion for early cinema technologies and structures has led him to photograph cinemas in rural Australia as well as in the UK.

Spectres of Film... will include the exhibition of three works that address the architectural site and spectral spaces of film. These include: the photographic series, *Islington's Lost Cinemas*; the film-sculpture, *Film*; and the artist's book, *Picture Has Not Been Checked* as well as new work recently shot in Australia. This is an exhibition rich with association for those interested in local history, film and cinema history as well as contemporary art audiences.

The photographs that make up the series, *Islington's Lost Cinemas*, locate and celebrate the little known history of cinema in the London Borough of Islington. While the cinemas themselves may have all but disappeared, *Islington's Lost Cinemas* reveals a history that is often overlooked but still present in the urban everyday. However rather than mourn the loss of these cinemas, Nightingale's project looks to articulate the latent (or spectral) presence of this history through photographing what remains: depicting urban spaces that are at once in the present and out of time. The artist is keen to involve others in *Islington's Lost Cinemas* and is developing a website where Islington residents can contribute memories, stories and images of the Islington cinemas, the first part of which will be launched during the exhibition.

The changing life of film is also taken up in the limited edition artists' book, *Picture Has Not Been Checked*, which results from collecting recycled film images found on the Internet auction site, eBay. Here a new lease of life is given to these films where they become valued commodities to be traded through digital networks – projected, re-projected and photographed on a series of bedroom walls with the aid of DIY domestic technologies, such as one presumes, the humble torch. Old and new technologies come together in *Film* where the flickering cone of light that normally dances across the projection screen is here transformed into a stream of celluloid flowing across the computer screen, which is itself housed within a contemporary version of Thomas Edison's Kinetoscope.

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