

APT Gallery London
Borders, Codes and Crossings
Recent Works by Barbara Nicholls

3rd – 20th July 2008

The APT Gallery is pleased to present Barbara Nicholls' *Borders, Codes and Crossings*, a new body of work produced during 2007-2008. Operating across a broad range of artistic categories and using an expansive armoury of processes and techniques, Nicholls' work addresses a number of engaging but complex themes. These include questions of aesthetic form, surface and depth, chance and order, the found and the fabricated, systems of archaeological and geographical mapping, and the relationship between work and play.

Superficially, Nicholls' work can be read as alluding to many different forms –crumpled landscapes, torn and folded fabrics, archaeological fragments, maps, ruptured surfaces– these and other points of reference may be deliberate, but they are never conclusive or intended as final points of meaning. Nicholls' practice operates, rather, in an allegorical mode, drawing on diverse materials and resources so as to generate rich, highly individual pieces that demand from the viewer a concentrated response.

The references in this exhibition find a parallel in the working methods Nicholls employs, the artist drawing upon a wide (but never arbitrary) range of technical means, often utilising several seemingly contradictory techniques of accumulation and arrangement within a single work, producing a lively interplay between the work's surface and the accumulated strata supporting it. *Borders, Codes and Crossings* investigates the play of signifying systems, working methodologies and artistic, physical and mental territories, translating the received and easily recognised into a plenitude of enigmatic signs.

Nicholls was born in Cheshire. She graduated from Goldsmiths in 1986 and the University of East London in 2006 with an MA and Doctorate. She has shown Nationally and Internationally including *The Trench* Imperial War Museum London, *London in Six Easy Steps* ICA, *Characters in Fire*, The Gate and the Electric Cinema, British Council Residency and touring exhibition, Brazil.

Her work is currently exhibited in *The Gherkin* St Mary Axe and at the Barbican later this year.

APT Gallery. 6 Creekside Deptford SE8 4SA.
Wednesday – Sunday 12 - 5
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