

**STOCKPORT ART GALLERY**

**BARBARA NICHOLLS**

**“What Passing Bells.....”**

**A visual and aural perception of War**

**October 13<sup>th</sup> – November 13<sup>th</sup> 2001**

Imagine war remembered but not in live personal recall, impossible in an artist so young, but instead in memory revealed and released in time by a kind of archaeological alchemy. The artist stakes out and maps the earth and what is rescued and collected is then pieced together into images using materials which have a strong symbolic charge and resonate with different meanings. These are beautifully evoked by Nicholls' work: a woman's memory of lost love, stitched from the remnants of his uniform; images of the trenches, the bodies and the open sky; the reconstructions of calibrated and chartered battlefields; the photographic landscapes of desolation; the gaily coloured columns marching towards chaos and destruction; the silken sky blasted by leaden holes; voices of veterans heard against the rattle and scream of battle.

This work is both vigorous and delicate and is meticulously constructed. It is also thorough in its research from the visual and sound archives of the Imperial War Museum and with particular reference to the exploits of the Cheshire Regiment. Barbara Nicholls was born in Cheshire and although the work has universal significance she has chosen to focus her research on the records of the Cheshire Regiment and her installation is specifically created with the War Memorial Space at Stockport in mind. This gives her work a particular poignancy.

Barbara Nicholls has exhibited several times in London and abroad but she has chosen the North of England to mount her first major show. She graduated in Fine Art from Goldsmiths College, subsequently took her M.A. in Fine Art at the University of East London where she is presently studying for her Doctorate.

Barbara Nicholls works from her studio in London and has taught on several university programmes including six years on the B.A. programme at Brunel University.

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Monday – Friday : 11.00 – 17.00

Saturday: 10.00 – 17.00

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