



New Territories of the Filth Dimension

Garry Barker

A solo exhibition of drawings and a ceramic embedded installation.

This exhibition focused on allegorical drawings made in response to stories told to the artist by recent migrants to Chapeltown in Leeds.

The exhibition was an opportunity to show both large drawn images that were designed to be seen in sequence, as well as to exhibit an installation that included specially designed and printed wallpaper, as well as fabrics and ceramics.

The exhibition was also used to showcase a new set of specially designed cards that were used to help audience members generate their own narratives and there was a closing performance piece that was initiated with an artist's talk.

Exhibition

New Territories of the Filth Dimension, Assembly House Project Space, Leeds, 29 May - 5 June 2015.

Garry Barker: New Territories of the Filth Dimension

Free

✓ Family friendly

👁 Visual Art
📍 Galleries

🏠 Assembly House
🌐 Website
📘 Facebook
🐦 Twitter



29 May 2015 - 5 Jun 2015

Dates and times

Assembly House

44 Canal Road, Leeds, LS12 2PL

Show Map

Garry Barker's work is focused on visual story telling. As drawn stories become 'real' for him they also become allegories of possible futures and imagined pasts.

Drawings start from observations made directly from life but aspire to something else, a poetics where marks become images floating on that paper membrane that sits between physical and spiritual realities. In the search for that likeness in unlikeness, in a time of political immorality, global warming and religious fanaticism, there will be drawings of pigs, flowers, insects and buildings, as well as Hellish wallpaper.

[Visit Website](#)

Please check times with event organiser for any last minute changes.

Assembly House





GARRY BARKER
NEW TERRITORIES OF THE FILTH DIMENSION
30TH MAY - 5TH JUNE
PV FRIDAY 29TH MAY 18:00-21:00
ARTIST TALK FRIDAY 5th JUNE 19:00-21:00



ASSEMBLY HOUSE STUDIOS&PROJECT SPACE / 44 CANAL ROAD ARMLEY LEEDS LS12 2PL





12.06.2015 — Review

Gary Barker: New Territories of the Filth Dimension

Assembly House, Leeds
by Paul Bramley



Garry Barker is, in the words of Lester Drake, Director at Assembly House, a 'cult figure' within the Leeds art scene and his socio-political investigations are highly esteemed. His latest exhibition of drawings at Assembly House was born of weighty subject matter – the 'emotional and intellectual conflict' Barker experiences in relation to the foreboding shifting sands of the modern world.

Barker began by eruditely questioning the notion of image making, and its irrelevance in contemporary art practice. His riposte to this uncomfortable claim provided the conceptual depth to his work: words in isolation seem insufficient – they are too restrictive, too easily spun. The allegorical drawings in the exhibition allowed him to subconsciously wade his way through this word/image dichotomy and document his process of conflict resolution between form and text.

If the titles of the works gently alluded to socio-political ideology, e.g. 'I stand in deep mire, where there is no sinking', 'This is why your science is failing', then the drawings themselves plunged the viewer into sensory overload. Thought provoking and meticulously executed, they were highly unnerving, rich in fantasy and filled with dystopian dreams. Figures were captured in mid air as if they have been tipped out of sinister buildings in the sky; vague skyscrapers protruded through the clouds; unsexed, headless forms darted about as if fleeing from some insipid terror while others morphed into tree branches or were eaten by pigs. But the pigs weren't just gluttonous; in a Huxlonian vision they were depicted dancing and reading texts. Intriguingly, a deck of printed cards ('Cards of Identity') encouraged the viewer to intersect these stories and form their own tarot; mirroring the escaped narrative of figures who had made their way onto the ceramics and wallpaper.

Standing in front of one of the large tapestry-like drawings which depicted a journey down through the urban sprawl into the quasi – rural hellscape below, the viewer could not help but think that *The Filth Dimension* was so deeply infused with political, psychological, philosophical and sexual overtones that all the stories were told very well, without words.

Upcoming projects at Assembly House can be found [here](#).

Paul Bramley is a painter, writer and curator based in York.

Image: Gary Barker, *Still Reaching for the Floating City*, 2015. Pen, ink and watercolour. Courtesy Assembly House.



Published 12.06.2015 by Rebecca Senior in [Reviews](#)
386 words

