

Soft Picture

Clare Lane

The output is an artefact, a soft picture which is an embroidered wall piece, created as a documentary response to a derelict site, its space and the industrial Hattersley Loom within it.

Research Process

Lane embraced the post-industrial space at Sunnybank Mills as an opportunity for experimentation. The work relies on initial documentary photographic imagery, which is then digitally re-painted, printed onto cloth and embroidered. The resultant soft picture contains an image which is both tactile and visual at the same time and seeks to re-engage the audience with the pictorial re-imagining of industrial history from a contemporary perspective.

Research Insights

The work is a product of an exploration of thinking through practice. This has evolved around the relationship between textile practice and the subject matter which pre-occupies it - the transient nature of the derelict (both building and machine). This is investigated through a broader methodological prism of making, un-making and re-making, as a means of opening up a dialogue between textile and place. The soft, clean, crafted and domestically perceived medium of the embroidered textile runs counter to its hard, dirty, disordered and industrial subject and is raising questions about binary thinking, the either or and the other. Could the soft picture be used to open up debate around less binary and more inclusive thinking related to Michel Serres (2008) writings around ideas of 'soft logic'?

Dissemination

The output is disseminated as follows:

- By exhibition: Make, Un-make, Re-make, Sunnybank Mills, West Yorkshire(2017)
- Through conference paper: Re-making the Derelict, Textile and Place Conference at Manchester Metropolitan University 2018
- Through conference proceedings: Soft pictures Re-making the Hattersley, Futurescan 4: Valuing Practice 2019.





























