

Drawn in the Margins

Flourish Award by Michelle Keegan

LPW Project Space

3rd May – 15th July 2016

Printmaker **Michelle Keegan** is the 2014 winner of the *Flourish Award for Excellence in Printmaking* hosted by West Yorkshire Print Workshop. A Slade School of Art graduate, Michelle's work in etching is minimalist and monochromatic, depicting a series of abstract layers, memories of spaces, places and landscape.

The Flourish award gave Michelle access to the WYPW studio where she developed this series of new work, entitled *Still Navigating*, which was first exhibited as part of a solo print exhibition at Huddersfield Art Gallery in 2015 – 2016.

'I am fascinated by printmaking, I live for it and have never ceased to be excited and amazed by its magic and potential. The process is a fundamental part of my work. The images emerge through allowing the print process of etching and the personality of the metal, on which the images are constructed, to become essential to the visual dialogue. The nature of the process demands clarity of thought, precision and reflection throughout the making process.'

Michelle describes her artistic practice as a way in which to conduct conversations with the landscape and reflect on notions of belonging, identity, rootedness, liminality, and 'home'.

Michelle teaches and runs a small print workshop in Nottingham, which is her professional home, but strongly identifies with Romney Marsh, where she spent much of her childhood and adolescence, as a spiritual home, a place whose desolate and minimal characteristics continually 'haunt' the aesthetic of her work.

'Drainage dykes, sea walls, and electricity pylons are structures of modernity that traverse the flat expanses of the marshland. These act as departure points for sketches that I make on site during visits to the South. The drawings are then playfully distorted into overlapping layers of line and texture on zinc and copper plates.'

The results are intricate and complex multi-layered prints, which act as physically charged and deeply personal maps of the environment.

More information about the artist can be found online at www.keeganarts.com