

Riverglass, was shown at CIWEM's Annual Conference in 2007. The film, which he describes as 'a poetic river ballet to the music of natural sounds,' reveals the river in all its energy, vitality and vibrancy. Creates' series of photographs presents the conjunction of two transitory entities, flowing water and the impermanence of her own presence, hovering above its surface.

'Reflections on Water' is accompanied by panels that illustrate other artists' fascination with the mechanics of water movement, from Leonardo's drawings to the 'pool' paintings of David Hockney. Documentation on the work of other aqua-activists such as Peter Fend and the group, Platform, will also be included in the exhibition.

'Reflections on Water'

can be seen at the Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World in Haldon Forest Park, near Exeter, from 4 July-4 October. The exhibition is open 10am-5pm, Tuesdays to Sundays and all Bank Holidays. CCANW is supported by Arts Council England and Devon County Council. The exhibition has been supported by CIWEM, ARUP, South West Water, Pennon Trust, the Canadian Council for the Arts and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. For further details visit www.ccanw.co.uk.

In October, CCANW will be showing the work of Shai Zakai, Director of the Israeli Forum for Ecological Art.

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Director of CCANW and is a member of CIWEM's Arts and Environment Network.

Note:

Towards the end of September, members of CIWEM's Arts and Environment Network will be organising a two-day workshop at CCANW, which will explore ways in which arts and ecology programmes can become more integrated into the processes of designing water and environmental engineering projects. For further information contact www.ciwem.org/arts.

REFLECTIONS ON WATER

Image: The River, May (July 1987), Allochrome photograph by Susan Derges

Water is both essential to life and the symbol of life. As a substance, its composition, states and cycles have fascinated many artists over the centuries, from Leonardo da Vinci to David Hockney.

The world is today challenged by irreversible changes in the balance of the water cycle. In response, new forms of ecological, socially-engaged art, design and architecture have attempted to explore, expose and find strategies to remedy the exploitation, waste and pollution of water through direct action and sustainable design.

Following their presentation at CIWEM's Annual Conference in 2007, CCANW hosted a new exhibition by American artists, Helen Mayer Harrison and Newton Harrison. For nearly 40 years the Harrisons have been prominent in a movement of artists which has

offered visionary insights into ecological challenges, involving dialogues with politicians, scientists, planners and communities. In their exhibition, 'Greenhouse Britain', the central feature was a giant relief model of mainland Britain onto which a multimedia video projected the predicted rise in sea levels this century due to climate change. Other works proposed housing and landscaping solutions that addressed the challenges that would have to be faced if climate change were to reduce the availability of land for homes and food production.

Other artists have different responses. Realising that the environmental crisis is only part of a deeper social, cultural and intellectual malaise, some have made works that reflect upon the sentiment for nature which our culture has generated. Many focus on how this

conflicts with the physical demands that modern lifestyles have put on the Earth.

The work of all four artists in CCANW's new exhibition communicates a strong desire to reconnect with nature; to immerse the artist and the viewer in images which seem, like ourselves, to be in a continual process of flux and change.

Susan Derges' scroll-like photograms - exposed under the surface of the river at night - deliberately mimic the scale of the human body and counteract any sense of looking at nature through a lens. Vikky Minette's photographs capture the effect of light penetrating the water's surface to reveal the rich colour of peat, undergrowth and rock below. Both Marlene Creates and Andrej Zdravic make use of cameras immersed in river water over four seasons. Zdravic's film,

Clive Adams* discusses how water has inspired art and highlights the summer exhibition at the Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World (CCANW), which brings together the 'reflections' of four contemporary artists: the Canadian, Marlene Creates; Devon-based artists, Susan Derges and Vikky Minette; and Slovenian filmmaker, Andrej Zdravic.

