

PRESS RELEASE



Rachel Garfield
The Struggle, 2012

Rachel Garfield and Stephen Dwoskin
Here There Then Now, 2009

Exhibition: 19 April – 3 June 2012
Thursday-Sunday 11am-5pm
Artist on-site every Sunday
Preview: Wednesday 18 April from 6.30pm
Artists talk with Magic by Ian Saville: Friday 25 May

Described as “the book of the last decade”, Alain Badiou’s philosophical take on the 20th century, *Le Siècle*¹, provides the touchstone from which Rachel Garfield embarks on her own exploration into some of the big questions that have preoccupied generations straddling two centuries.

The Struggle is a new series of essay films exploring the impact of politicised familial interactions on the formation of subjectivity in the individual – starting with *Part 1: The Struggle*: a study focusing on individuals whose parents were left-wing activists, and the socialist magician Ian Saville.

Rachel Garfield is an artist whose work has often dealt with disjunctions of narrative to explore the relationship between the social and the political spheres, and the tensions in the formation of identity through a subjectivity that doesn’t quite cohere. The new body of work moves into an investigation of inter-generational discussions, to see how epochal shifts in thinking might play out now and into the future.

This inter-generational interest opens out in the earlier work shown in this exhibition, *Here There Then Now*, in which Rachel Garfield and the acclaimed experimental film maker Stephen Dwoskin engage in a conversation about the role of the artist in their generation, each filming the other’s home. *Here There Then Now* highlights Garfield’s ongoing relationship with the traditions and concerns of avant-garde documentary film.

In the new series Garfield specifically engages with people whose identities have been formed in homes where the ethical environment has been dominated by socialist politics, religion or the military. The artist’s evolution of this subject will be played out through a long residency with Beaconsfield, supporting the production and tour of this new series of work. Garfield will be available for discussion each Sunday during the exhibition as she works on site.

Further information: Beaconsfield, 22 Newport Street, London SE11 6AY
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¹ Badiou, Alain. *Le Siècle*. Seuil. January 7, 2005