

**Tuula Närhinen**  
**DEEP TIME DEPOSITS**

**Below Zero Finnish Art Prize 2020**  
**Beaconsfield Gallery Vauxhall**

**Residency** 16 January–25 February. Open to visitors Fridays and by appointment. Foreshore walks with the artist on 31 January and 14 February leave Beaconsfield at 11.30

**Exhibition** 26 February–5 April 2020. Wednesday–Sunday 11.00–17.00

Opening event Sunday 1 March 14.00–17.00

15.00 Tuula Närhinen in informal conversation with curator/researcher Taru Elfving

Closing event Sunday 5 April 14.00–17.00

14.00 *Reflections on Deep Time Deposits* formal talk by Tuula Närhinen

15.30 *Rainmaking* with composer Tytti Arola and performers

The second recipient of the Below Zero Finnish Art Prize, Tuula Närhinen, understands water as a dynamic agent and a naturally occurring archive of the Anthropocene. In a quest to ‘fathom the subconscious of River Thames’, Närhinen builds a portrait of this central waterway with reference to 19th century photographic chemistry and to the layers of deep time embedded over thousands of years and visible through fragments preserved in London’s unique, anaerobic river-mud.

The artist has been researching human anthropogenic impact on the Baltic Sea and other waterways for many years, poetically transforming her findings into artworks. During her Beaconsfield residency, Närhinen works every day on the Thames foreshore in the tradition of the London Mudlark making a daily selection from the rich pickings of flotsam and jetsam to be found on London’s beaches. The artist immediately exposes her finds to natural light on paper she has prepared with compounds used in early photography and processes her images back at the gallery. Närhinen’s process is a tribute to the English botanist Anna Atkins, who used the cyanotype photogram ‘blueprint’ process to catalogue British algae between 1843–1852. It was within this mid Victorian time period that the Lambeth Ragged School (now Beaconsfield Gallery Vauxhall) was built and Doulton’s Lambeth Pottery was flourishing on the Albert Embankment, making ceramic pipes for London’s new sewage system. Närhinen is using contemporary Royal Doulton crockery to experiment with mud chromatography in *A Nice Cup of Thames Low* and *Tribute to Mudlarks* – an acknowledgement of current political shifts, and the economic significance of mudlarking for the poor of the industrial revolution.

Simultaneous with the fieldwork, Närhinen builds her image of the river in Beaconsfield’s Upper Gallery that opens as an exhibiton on 26 February. On the final day of the exhibiton, the artist will formally present her reflections on *Deep Time Deposits: Tidal Impressions of the River Thames*, followed by a collaborative Rainmaking event with the Finnish composer Tytti Arola and local performers.

<https://beaconsfield.ltd.uk/projects/tuula-narhinen/>  
<http://www.tuulanarhinen.net>



Tuula Närhinen, *Deep Time Deposits* (2020), installation detail, Beaconsfield Gallery Vauxhall.

### Notes for editors:

Tuula Närhinen (b. 1967) is visual artist based in Helsinki, Finland. Her works explore the pictorial agency of natural phenomena such as water and wind. She constructs experimental visual interfaces that connect the observer with the fabric of the world. Images that emerge from this interaction unravel the inherent pictorial potential in naturally occurring events. Re-adapting instruments derived from natural sciences, she has developed methods for letting trees trace the shape of wind on their branches and found techniques that enable the waves of the sea to inscribe themselves on paper. Her installations showcase the DIY instruments implicated, encouraging the spectator to participate in the re-presentation of an event.

Närhinen holds a doctoral degree (Doctorate of Fine Arts, DFA) from the University of the Arts Helsinki. She is a graduate of the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts (MFA), and the Helsinki University of Technology (M.Sc. in Architecture). Find her at [www.tuulanarhinen.net](http://www.tuulanarhinen.net)

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**<https://beaconsfield.ltd.uk/rainmaking-with-tytti-arola/>**

**<https://www.tyttiarola.com>**

To participate as a rainmaking performer on 4 and 5 April, email an expression of interest to [admin@beaconsfield.ltd.uk](mailto:admin@beaconsfield.ltd.uk)