

JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON | *No Time*

Vera Cortês, Art Agency

Opening reception on the 28th of May at 22h

From the 29th of May to the 25th of July of 2009

Tuesday to Friday from 11h to 19h

Saturday from 15h to 20h

No Time is the first solo show in Portugal of the British collaborative duo John Wood & Paul Harrison. This exhibition is one of the exercises that results from the project presently being developed at the Ikon Gallery, in Birmingham, under the title “Some words. Some more words”, which will last around one year. Several presentations are foreseen.

If the traditional view of an artist is that of a solitary figure in their studio, then the collaborative practices that have proliferated in recent contemporary art promote the idea of dialogue as a source of creation. John Wood (born 1969) and Paul Harrison (born 1966) have worked together since 1993. Their partnership epitomises collaboration as intrinsic to the process, both mutually supportive and antagonistic, a dynamic where one plus one equals much more than two.

Their work arises out of a curiosity with the world around them, as the outcomes of recurrent questioning: “What if we did this?” and “Why not?” Initial ideas take the form of experiments with objects or people – the artists themselves. Characteristically humour is derived from choreographed events, the artists, like the objects, subjected to assorted actions and tests. Sequences of exchanges could be construed as a form of play: both as a joyful activity without immediate outcome other than a thing in itself, and as a physical performance, for the camera.

The development of new work starts with sketches as a means to exchange ideas. While the final outcome may be a video, print, photograph or sculpture, the notion of drawing as a means of planning, mapping space or representation remains at the core of their practice.

Wood and Harrison’s practice often involves an engagement with the materiality of objects and the force of gravity, the phenomenon that shapes the way things – or us – stand and fall.

Such investigations of time and space are often shot in purpose-built environments that could be compared to a laboratory. Their experimentation follows a pseudoscientific method: the artists set the scene, define the starting point and control the conditions and parameters of action. Then, they set things in motion. Often chance can play a role in defining what actually happens; even when conditions are carefully controlled there is room for surprise.

Wood and Harrison’s practice engages with notions of pictorial or cinematographic illusion, visual plays on frame, scale and perspective. That the viewer is not able to see what happens outside the picture evokes a series of ideas enabling a variety of tricks and magic to be suggested.

The videos sometimes use the language of animation, the technique of showing successive still images to create an illusion of movement. These situations resemble deadpan incidents from silent films such as those acted out by Buster Keaton. Episodes have a gravitas, a seriousness created by the absence of any outward emotion which becomes a source of pathos, a melancholic humour.

Wood and Harrison use art as a platform to subvert reason and the functionality of things, while retaining direct connections to everyday life. They play futility against utility, creating space for innovation.

Sponsors:

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JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON NO TIME

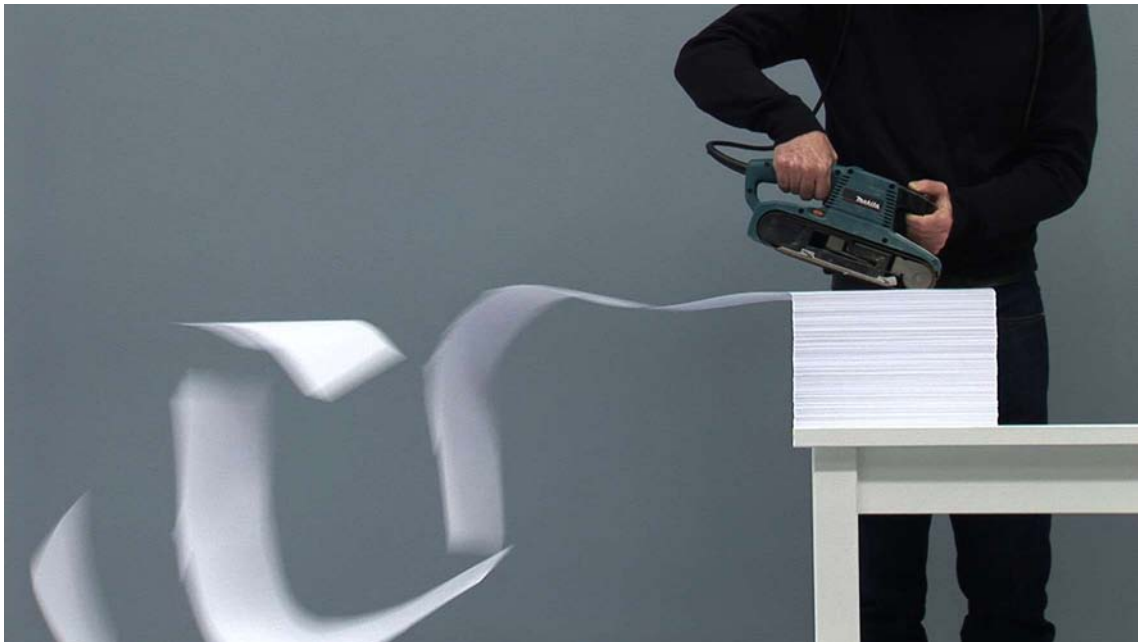
vera cortês, art agency
from 29th may to 25th of July 2009



JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON NO TIME

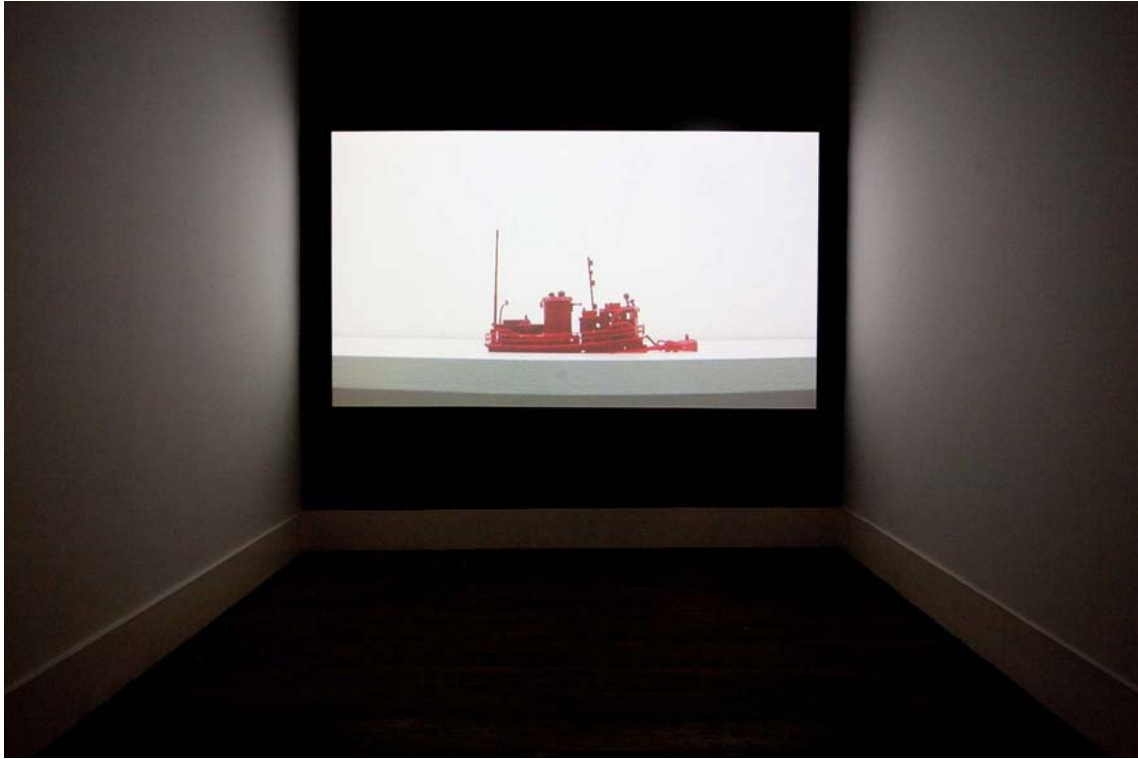


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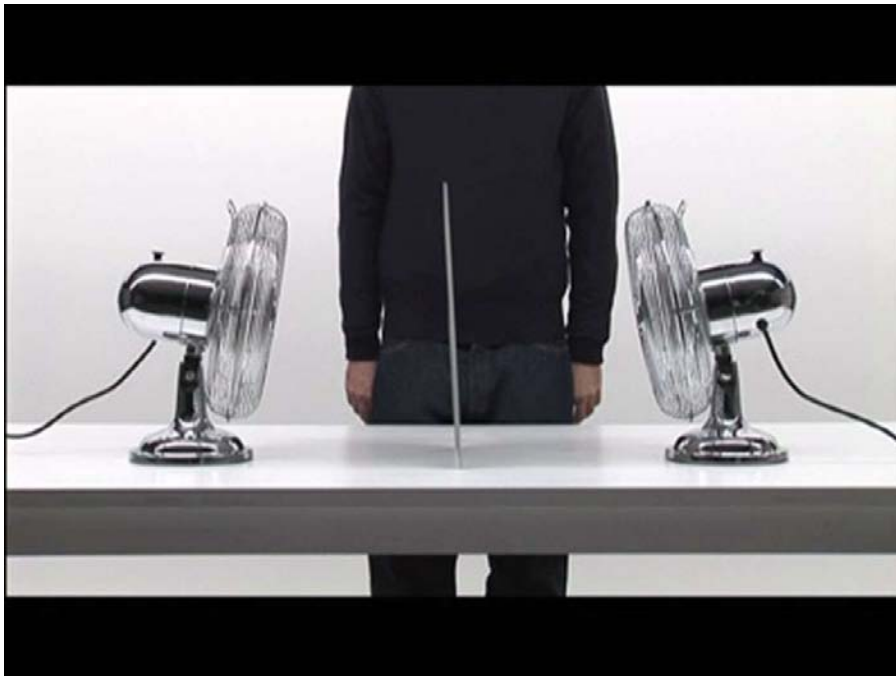
One more kilometre | 2009 |
HDV | 16:9 | color | sound | 2'45"

JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON NO TIME



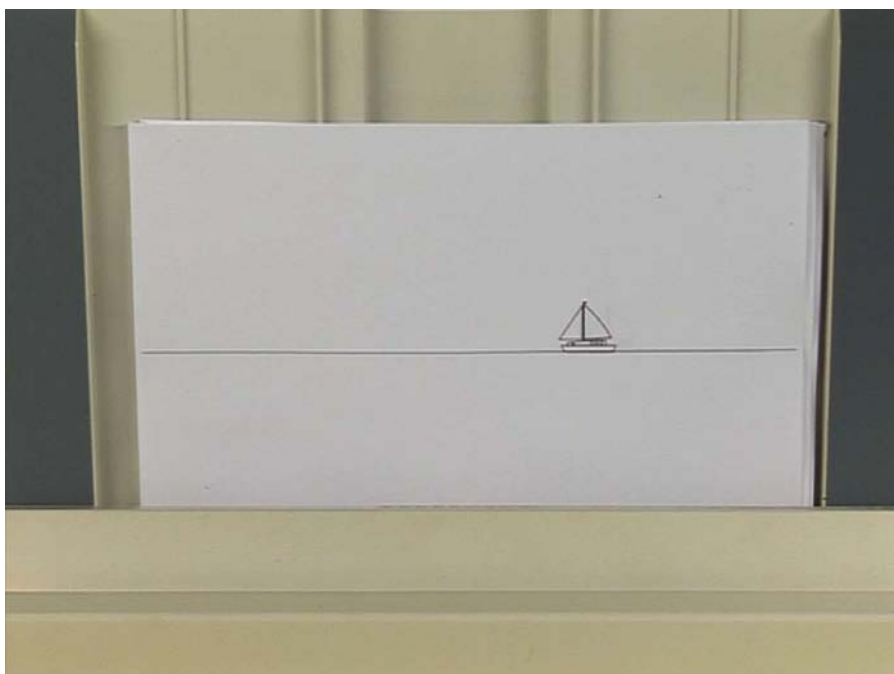
Shelf | 2007 |
HDV | 16:9 | color | sound | 27'02"

JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON NO TIME



Fan / Paper / Fan | 2007 |
HDV | 16:9 | color | sound | 3'16"

JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON NO TIME



Photocopier | 2007 |
DVD | 4:9 | color | sound | 2'56"

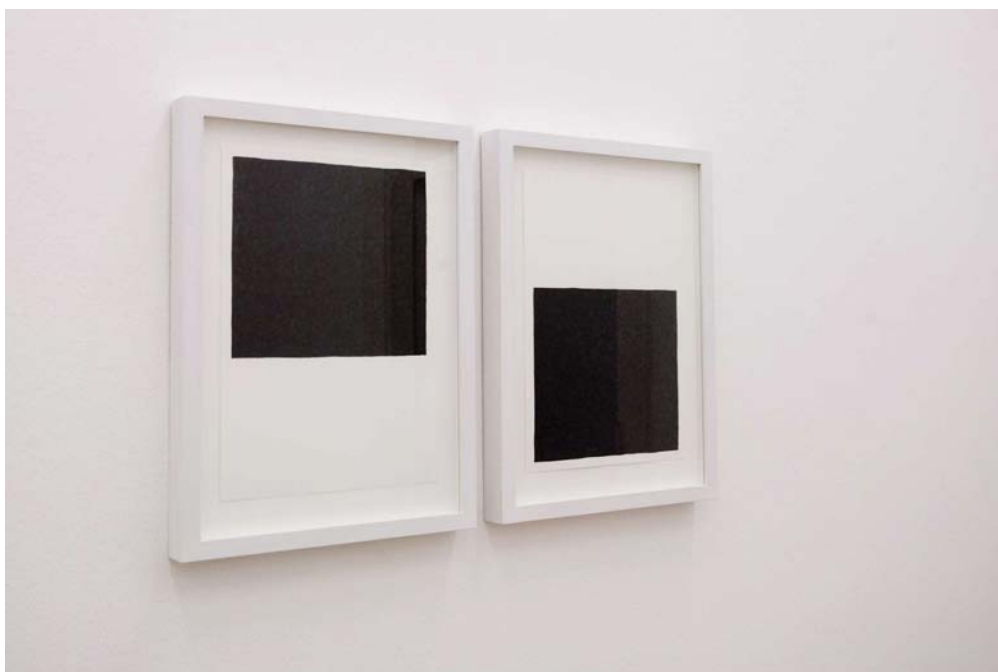
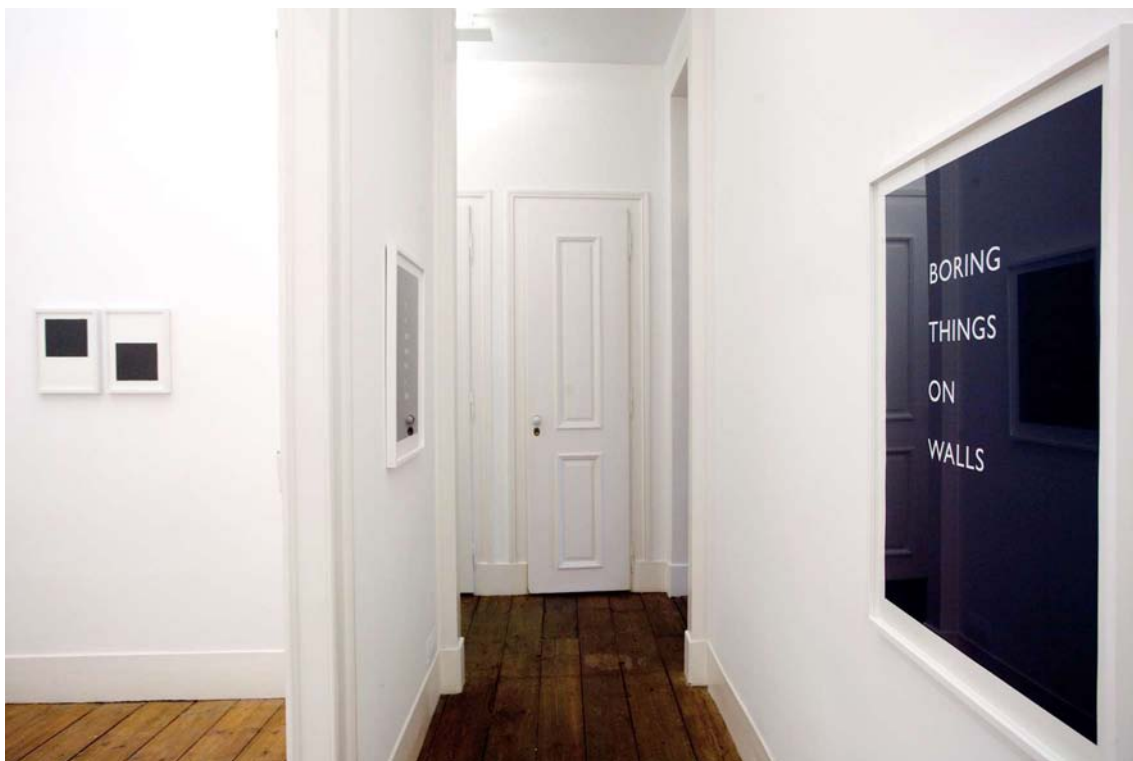
JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON NO TIME



1. THE MAP IS WRONG

Of knowing were you are | 2009 |
HDV | 16:9 | 12'00"

JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON NO TIME



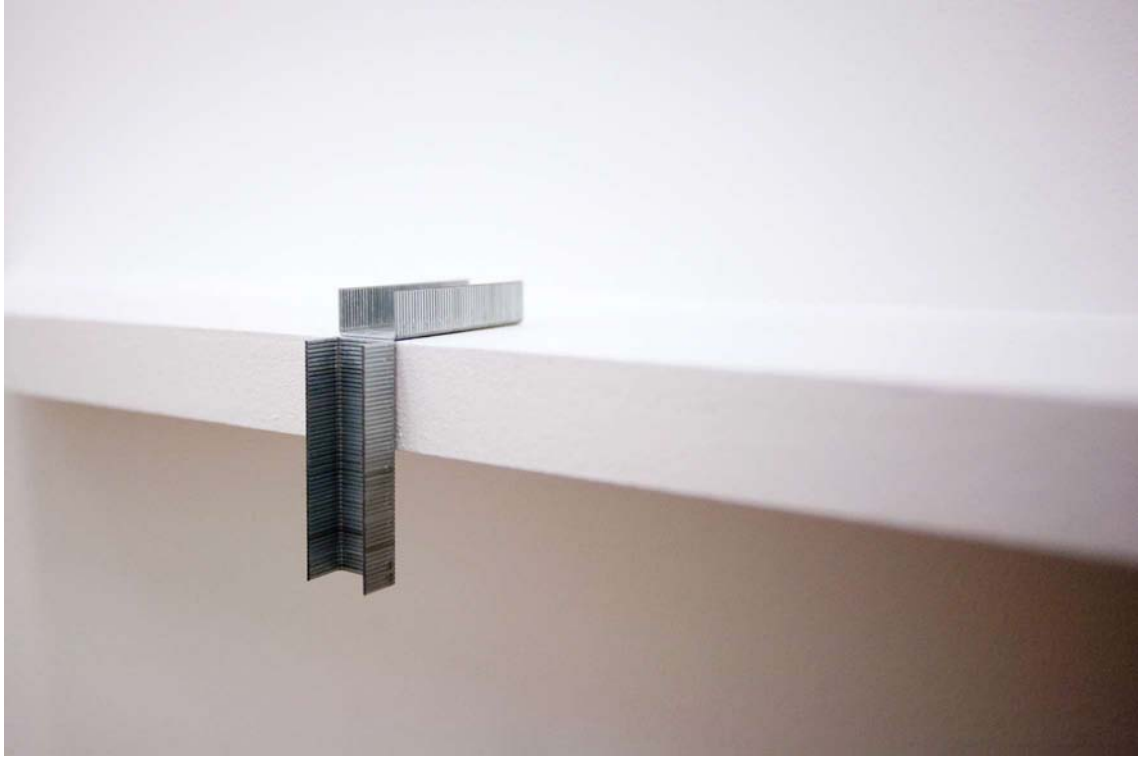
2 Squares | 2009 |
2 x (29,7 x 21 cm) | permanent marker on paper

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Pencil | 2009 |
122-HB | STAEDTLER HB

JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON NO TIME



Staple / Shelf | 2009 | 8mm staples

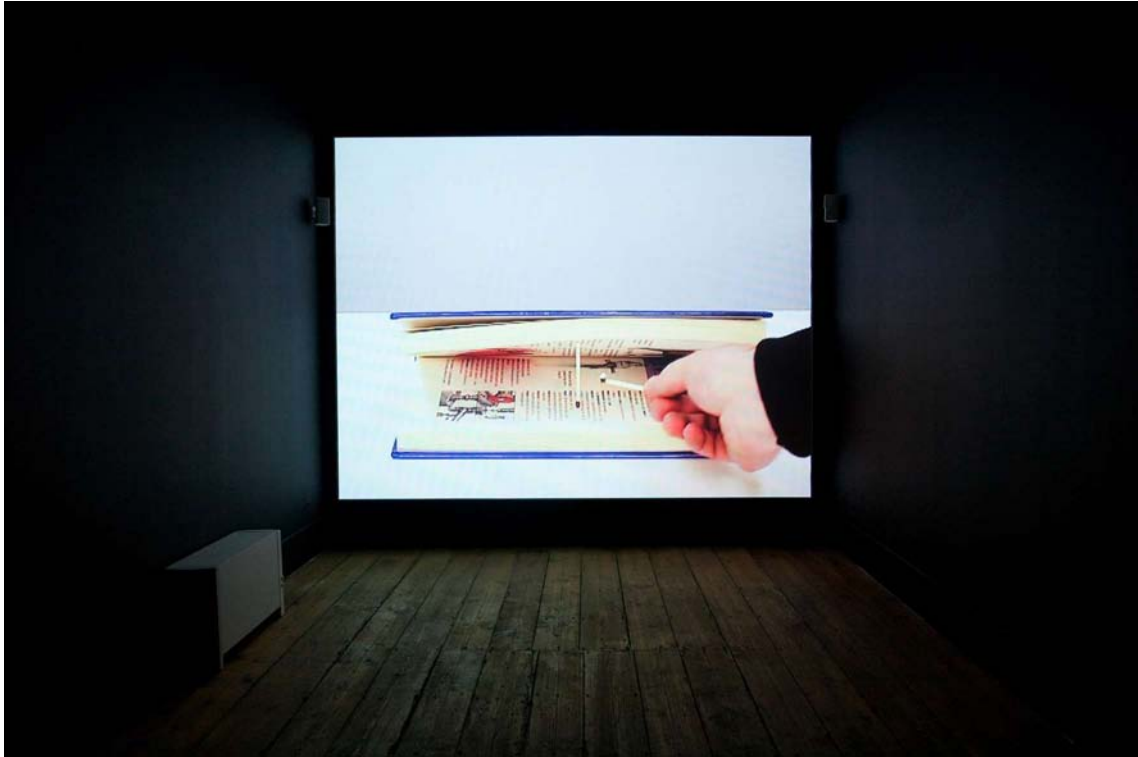


Pritt stick | 2009 | 40g pritt stick

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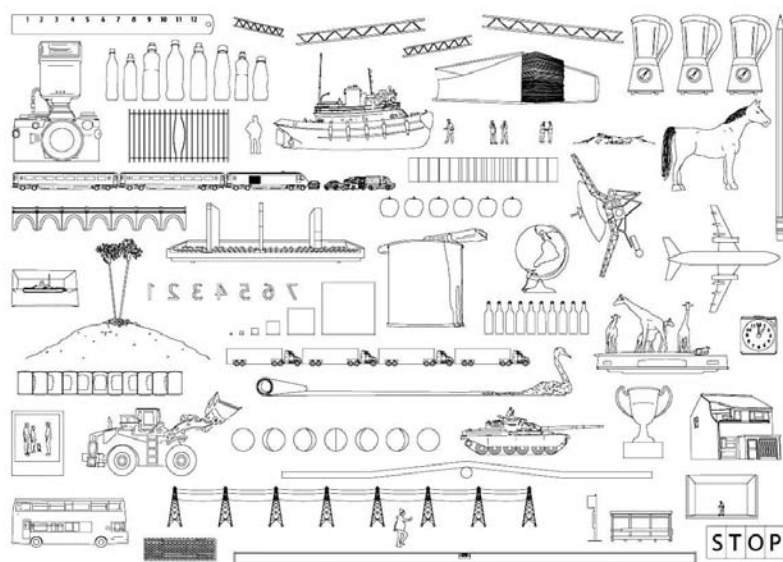
JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON NO TIME



Notebook | 2004|

Mini DV | 4:3 | color | sound | 4 channel video supplied with single channel compilation

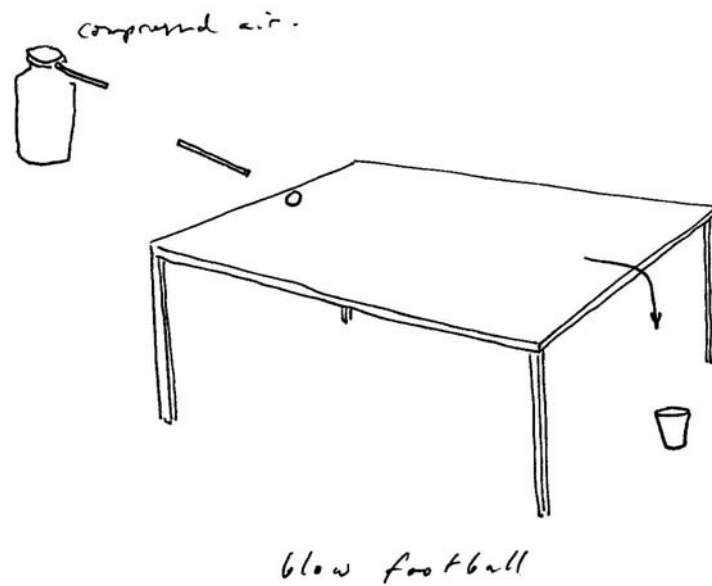
JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON NO TIME



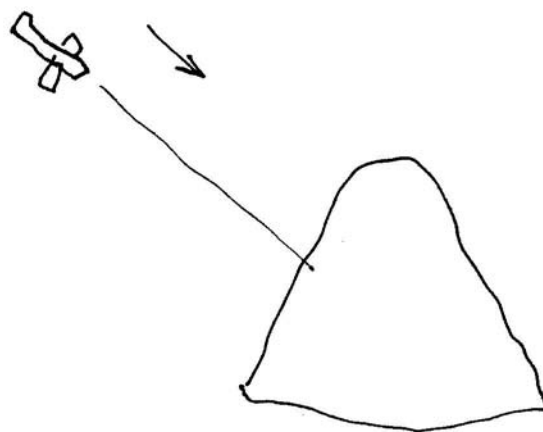
7654321 | 2008 |
silkscreen print | 55,5 x 44,5 cm

JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON

NO TIME



Notebook (Ball / Cup)
2004 | marker pen on paper | 14,8 x 10,5 cm



elastic plane / hill / slide down

Notebook (Plane / Hill)
2004 | marker pen on paper | 14,8 x 10,5 cm

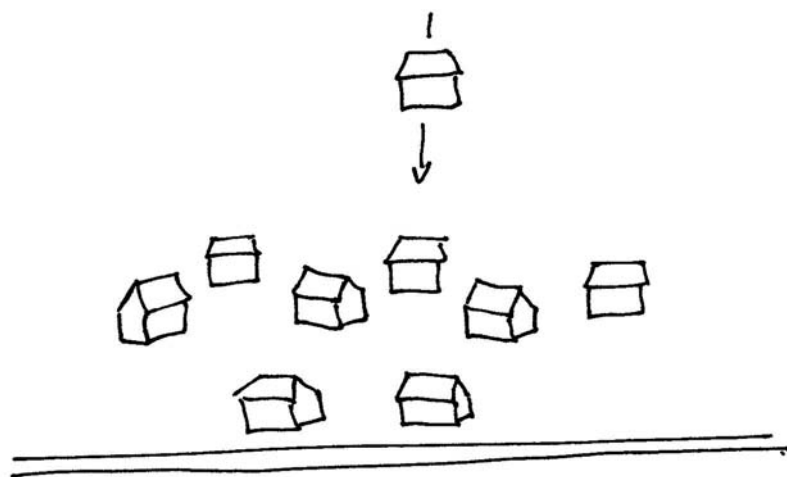
JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON

NO TIME



falling rubble

Notebook (Falling rubble)
2004 | marker pen on paper | 14,8 x 10,5 cm

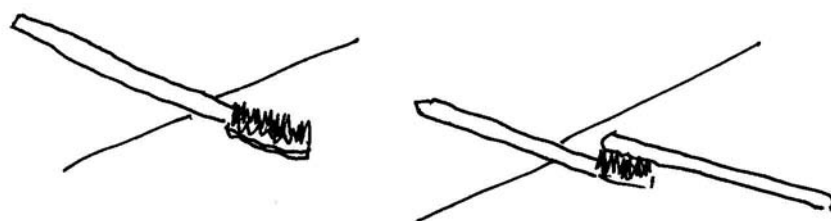


town (instant)

Notebook (Houses)
2004 | marker pen on paper | 14,8 x 10,5 cm

JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON

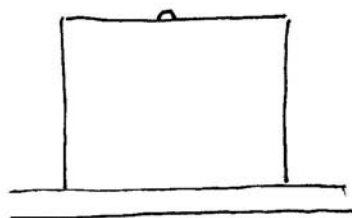
NO TIME



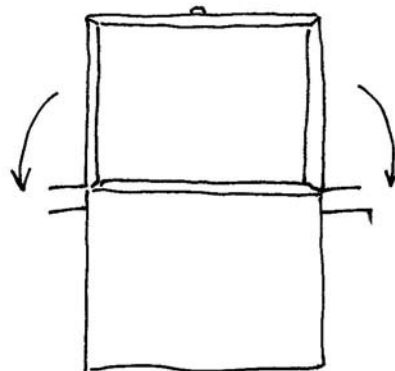
2 toothbrushes

Notebook (2 toothbrushes)
2004 | marker pen on paper | 14,8 x 10,5 cm

(sand)



box file opening.



Notebook (Boxfile)
2004 | marker pen on paper | 14,8 x 10,5 cm

JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON
NO TIME



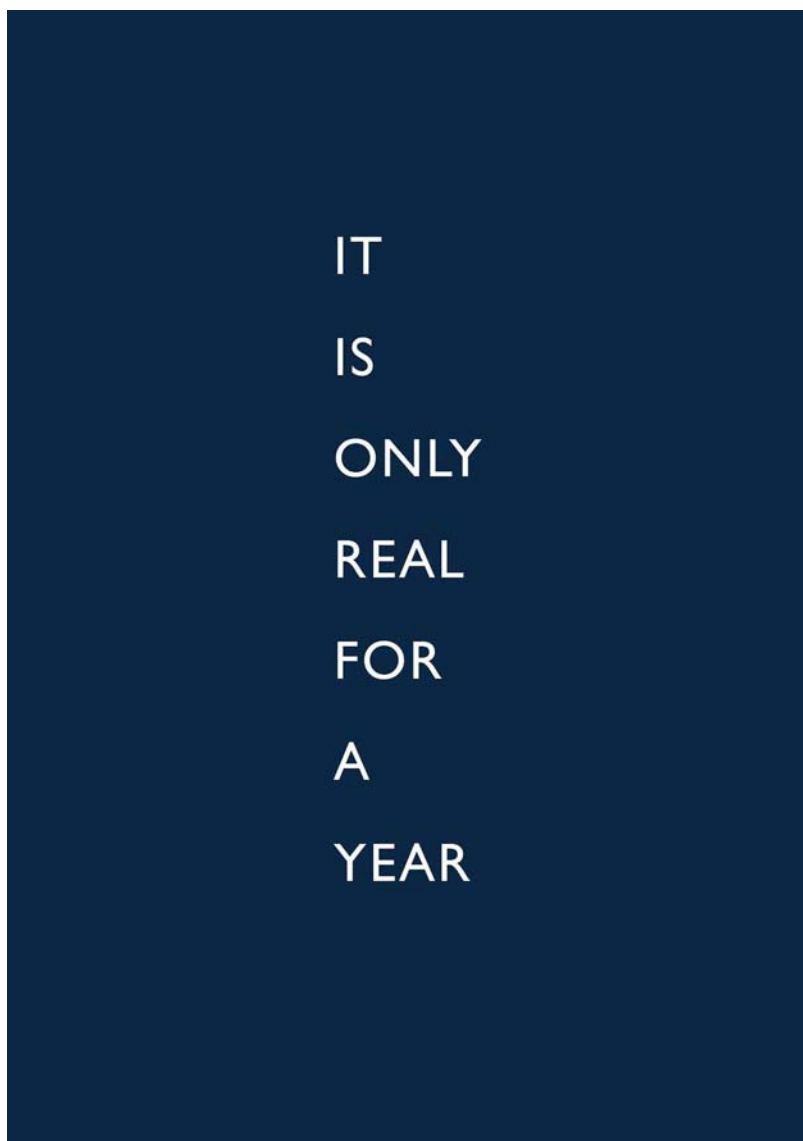
From the series SOME WORDS, SOME MORE WORDS,
BORING THINGS ON WALLS

2009

584,1 x 59,4 cm

Giclee prints

JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON
NO TIME



From the series SOME WORDS, SOME MORE WORDS,
IT IS ONLY REAL FOR A YEAR

2009

59,4 x 42 cm

Giclee prints

JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON
NO TIME



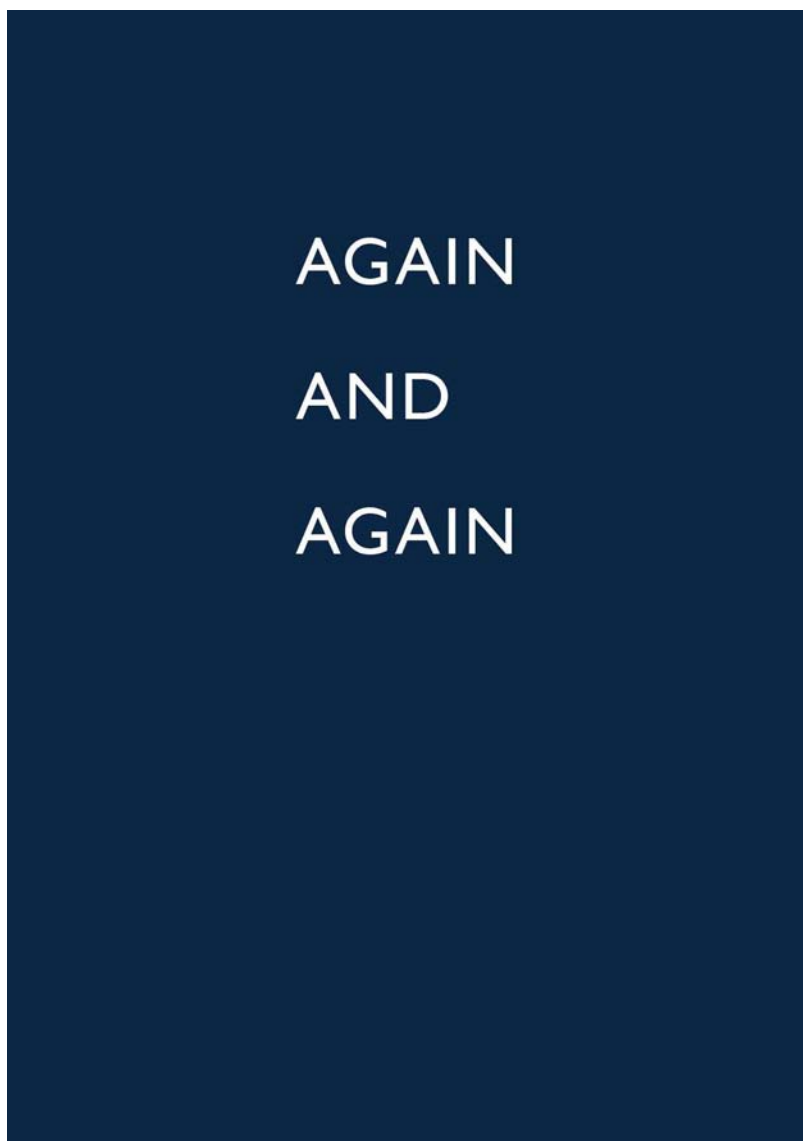
From the series SOME WORDS, SOME MORE WORDS,
STANDING NEAR THIN ICE

2009

59,4 x 42 cm

Giclee prints

JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON
NO TIME



From the series SOME WORDS, SOME MORE WORDS,
AGAIN AND AGAIN

2009

59,4 x 42 cm

Giclee prints

JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON NO TIME

A dark blue rectangular artwork with white text. The text is arranged in five lines, centered horizontally. The words are: AN, UNNECESSARY, SERIES, OF, WORDS.

AN
UNNECESSARY
SERIES
OF
WORDS

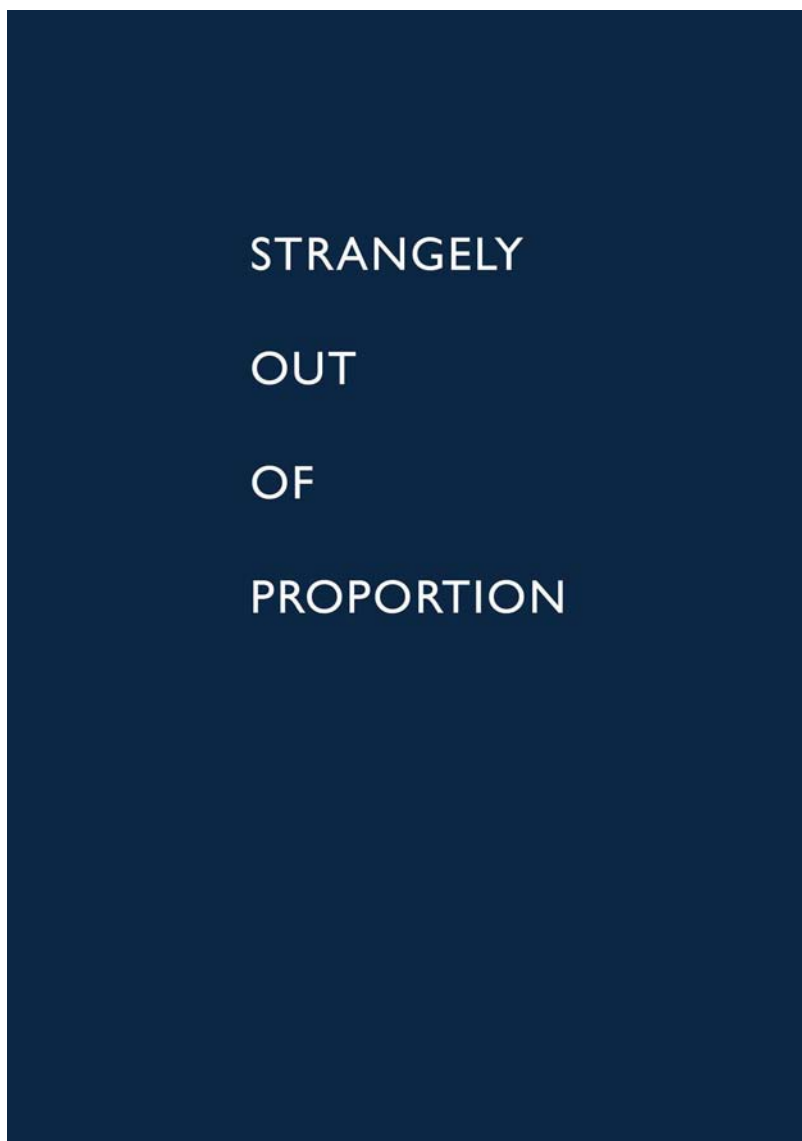
From the series SOME WORDS, SOME MORE WORDS,
AN UNNECESSARY SERIES OF WORDS

2009

84,1 x 59,4 cm

Giclee prints

JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON
NO TIME



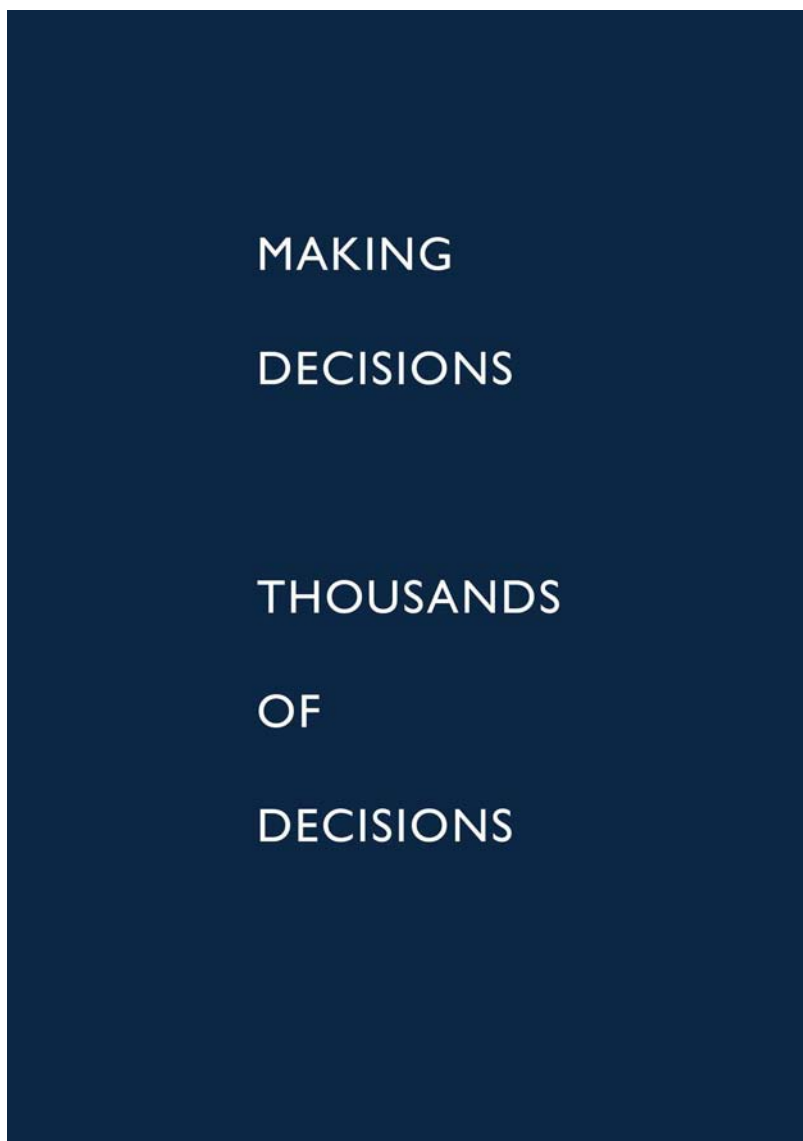
From the series SOME WORDS, SOME MORE WORDS,
STRANGELY OUT OF PROPORTION

2009

84,1 x 59,4 cm

Giclee prints

JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON
NO TIME



From the series *SOME WORDS, SOME MORE WORDS, MAKING
DECISIONS THOUSANDS OF DECISIONS*

2009

84,1 x 59,4 cm

Giclee prints

JOHN WOOD & PAUL HARRISON
NO TIME



From the series SOME WORDS, SOME MORE WORDS, *NO TIME*
2009

42 x 29,7 cm

Giclee prints

WOOD AND HARRISON

Both live and work in England

Solo exhibitions

2009

- High Museum of Art Atlanta, USA (*forthcoming*)
- Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, USA (*forthcoming*)
- Vera Cortês Art Agency, Lisbon
- Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, UK

2008

- Something and something and something else Lowry, Manchester
- Notebook PICA, Perth, Australia
- From one thing to another Picture This, Bristol

2007

- Mori Art Museum Tokyo, Japan

2006

- Selected Works Ffoto Gallery, Cardiff, Wales
- 5 Rooms Ludwig Museum, Budapest, Hungary
- Selected Works Villa du parc, France
- Another Pair Beckett Centenary, Forbury Square, Reading

2005

- Selected Works Space Gallery, Bratislava, Slovakia
- Notebook Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art
- The Only Other Point f a projects, London

2004

- Art Now Lightbox, Tate Britain, London
- Selected Works MOMA, Queens, New York
- Selected Works MIT, Boston, USA

2003

Hundredweight f a projects, London

2002

- Twenty Six (Drawing and Falling Things) Chisenhale Gallery, London and tour
- Selected Works Galerie Markus Richter, Berlin

1999

- Obstacle Course John Hansard, Southampton and tour

1998

- Selected Works Galerie Article, Montreal
- Video Fenster Geneva, Switzerland
- Artimia ICA, Dunaujvaros, Hungary

1996

- Selected Works Crawford Art Gallery, Cork

Selected group exhibitions

2008

- El cuerpo (con)sentido Saragossa, Spain
- Long Distance Information Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- All that cinema Ludwig Museum, Budapest
- Tongue-twister Vera Cortês Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal (*forthcoming*)

2007

- Breaking Step Salon, Belgrade
- Echo Room Alcala 31, Madrid
- Les Jeux Sont Faits Kunsthalle Palazzo, Liestal, Switzerland
- MIMA Collection Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art
- I Am Making Art Centre d'Art Contemporain, Geneva

2006

- Le Mouvement des Images Centre Pompidou, Paris
- You'll Never Know Hayward Gallery touring exhibition
- Smart Art Kunsthalle Osnabruck, Germany
- Still Villa du parc, France
- What Makes You and I Different Tramway, Glasgow

2005

- Irreducible CCA Institute, CA, USA
- To Be Continued Helsinki Kunsthalle, Finland
- Twenty six (Drawing and Falling Things) Carnegie Museum Pittsburgh
- Supernova British Council Touring Exhibition
- Modern Times Monchehaus Museum, Goslar, Germany
- Both Ends Burning Kunstverein Ludwigsburg, Germany
- -tainment Neue Gesellschaft bildende kunst, Berlin
- Crossing Borders Berwick upon Tweed

2004

- Density+ _0 Ecole Nationale Superieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris
- Occurrences: Betty Rymer Gallery, Chicago, USA
- 2003 A Century of Artists Film in Britain Tate Britain, London
- Bienal de Jafre Jafre, Spain
- Printemps de septembre Toulouse
- Orifice Australian Centre for Contemporary Art

2002

- Sudden Glory CCAC Institute, CA, USA
- Gwangju Biennale Korea
- Still Life British Council Touring Exhibition, South America
- Exhibition, le corps en situation Ecole Superieure des Beaux-Arts, Le Mans
- Modesty Pavel-House, Laafeld. Austria
- Dichotomy Schauspielhaus, Vienna, Austria

2001

- Monitor: Volume One Gagosian Gallery, New York
- Lets Go to Work 2 Susquahana Art Museum, USA
- Body Worlds Gallerie Markus Richter, Berlin
- Video Project Room Anthony Wilkinson Gallery, London

2000

- The British Art Show 5 Stills Gallery, Edinburgh (and tour)
- Lets go to work Marcel Sitcoske, San Francisco

1999

- This Other World of Ours TV Gallery, Moscow
- Triple X Amsterdam
- Physical Evidence Kettles Yard, Cambridge
- New Video from Great Britain Sala Mendosa, Venezuela, Museo Carillo Gil, Mexico

1998

- Lets Play Risk Juice, London
- Partners Philadelphia Museum of Art, USA

1997

- New British Video MOMA, New York
- Bittersweet Whitworth Gallery, Manchester
- Video Positive Bluecoat Gallery, Liverpool
- Ostranenie Bauhaus, Dessau, Germany

1996

- Cell 2 Barbican Centre, London
- Electronic Undercurrents Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Denmark
- Instant Camden Arts Centre, London and tour

1995

- Composite Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol
- Sixth Mostyn Open Oriel Mostyn, Llandudno

1994

- East Norwich Gallery

Selected screenings**2006**

- Combine Platter MOCA, Los Angeles
- Exploding Television - Satellite of Love Witte de With, Netherlands
- Platform Garanti, Istanbul
- Walter Benjamin Festival Berlin, Germany

2004

- 32nd International Film Festival La Rochelle, France

2003

- Shipwrecks and the Sea Tate Britain, London
- The Video Art Foundation Barcelona

2002

- Stuttgart Filmwinter Germany
- Forum de L'Image Toulouse, France
- Moderna Museet Stockholm

2001

- In The Mean Time De Appel Amsterdam and tour
- Arts Plastiques/ Espai video Barcelona, Spain
- Video Chroniques Marseille, France

2000

- Performing Bodies Tate Modern, London
- Royal College of Art London
- Carte Noire: CineCafe, Centre Pompidou, Paris
- Viper Basel, Switzerland

1999

- Fourth Wall National Theatre, London
- De Geuzen Foundation Amsterdam, Netherlands
- Kasseler Documentarfilm Kassel, Germany
- Oberhausen Short Film Festival Germany

1998

- Performing Buildings Tate Modern, London
- Sixpackfilm Vienna, Austria
- Art Gallery of Ontario Toronto, Canada
- Architectural Association London

1997

- Pleasure Dome Toronto, Canada
- Montreal Festival Canada
- 7th International Video week Geneva, Switzerland

1996

- Film Laden Kassel, Germany
- Flights of Fancy Anthology Film Archive, New York
- Pandaemonium ICA, London

1995

- 29th New York Expo New York, USA
- Forumbhzvideo Bello Horizonte, Brazil
- European Media Art Festival Osnabruck, Germany

1994

- Copenhagen Film and Video Festival Denmark
- Impakt Utrecht, Netherlands
- The Reading Room Camden Arts Centre, London

1993

- World One Minute TV Brazil
- Mediawave Gyor, Hungary

Bibliography

- New Art From London
Chris Townsend, p.76-87 2006

- Not King Kong! Comedy is King!
Shumon Basar, Domus 889 February 2006

- Irreducible Contemporary Short Form Video
Ralph Rugoff , Exhibition Catalogue, 2005

- Video Art, A Guided Tour
Catherine Elwes, I.B.Tauris, 2005

- Now and Then. Art Now at Tate Britain
Tate Publishing

- Artist Interview
Louisa Buck, The Art Newspaper 137 June 2003

- A Room with a View
Richard Dorment, The Daily Telegraph, 7th May 2003

- Double Take
Morgan Falconer, What's on in London April 2003

- Room with a View
Tom Lubbock, Independent Review 13th May 2003

- Exhibition Review
Kate Zamet, Flash Art, July-September 2003

- Printemps de Septembre
Fabienne Fulcheri, Exhibition Catalogue 2003

- Exhibition Review
Sally O'Reilly, Time Out , 4-11th June 2003

- Exhibition Review
Eugene Tan, Contemporary Magazine, issue 52 Summer 2003

- A Dazzling Box of Tricks
Ian White, Art Review May 2003

- Des vrais Saisons
Dr Fabian Stech, Kunstforum Nov – Dec 2003

- Still Life
Ann Gallagher, Exhibition Catalogue The British Council, 2002

- Exhibition Review
Sarah Kent, Time Out February 2002

- Sudden Glory
Ralph Rugoff, Exhibition Catalogue, 2002
- Video:Un Art Contemporain
Francoise Parfait, Regard , Paris, 2001
- Artistic Ideas: The Action Videos of John Wood and Paul Harrison
Lars Henrik Gass, 45th International Short Film Festival Oberhausen,
Festival Catalogue, 1999
- A Private Encounter with the Real
Oliver Sumner, 13th Rencontres Video Art Plastique. Catalogue 1999
- Walking the Plank
Gilda Williams, Art Monthly 205 April 1997

Monographs

- 124 Minutes
224 pages full colour published by Ffotogallery, Cardiff
2006, ISBN-10: 1 872771 64 5
- In Profile: John Wood and Paul Harrison
DVD published by Picture This, Bristol
2005, ISBN: 0-95398772-6-4
- Notebook
56 page full colour, published by MIMA, Middlesbrough
2005, ISBN: 0-86083-065-9
- Twenty Six (Drawing and Falling Things)
Essay by Claire Doherty. 26 texts inc. contributions by: Matthew
Higgs,Richard Wentworth, David Curtis
Picture This, Bristol 2002, ISBN: 0-9539872-3-x
- John Wood and Paul Harrison
With essays by Charles Esche and David Batchelor
Ellipsis, 2000, ISBN: 1 84166 026 4

Collections

Arts Council Collection
 British Council Collection
 Centre Pompidou
 Government Art Collection
 MIMA, Middlesbrough
 Museum of Modern Art, New York
 Tate, London
 Walsall Art Gallery