

IKON

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS
0121 248 0708 / www.ikon-gallery.org
Open Tuesday-Sunday, 11am-5pm / free entry

Julie Brook

Pigment

22 July – 27 September 2015



Julie Brook, *Pigment* (2013). Otjize, NW Namibia, 8.30 mins HD.

Ikon is pleased to present *Pigment* (2013) by British artist Julie Brook, from 22 July – 27 September, in the gallery's Tower Room. Brook's film, shot in a cave in Namibia in 2013, is the outcome of the artist's unexpected meeting with three Himba women in Otjize, NW Namibia, who invited Brook to collect red pigment with them.

Traditionally crushed and mixed with animal fat and aromatic herbs this pigment is used by the Himba to rub onto their skin. Brook uses the same technique to grind the pigment but uses it dry to make drawings. The strength and confidence of the physical activity involved and the sheer beauty of the dusty russet atmosphere, illuminated by shafts of golden sunlight, make it absolutely compelling.

Brook is an artist drawn to wild and remote landscape, often making outdoor sculptural interventions and film works. These take inspiration from the spirit and actuality of their

location - be it the Orkney islands, the Hebrides or the Libyan desert - and are thus expressive of personal experience.

“When I’m asked about the language of my work, I see it as both a response to my environment, and the expression of the environment’s effect on me. It’s a process, a rhythm which I initiate, but as it gets more involved, it too begins to dictate terms. And I must find a formal language that can express this. Solitude is the heart of the matter. It gives me a sense of inhabiting the landscape.” Julie Brook

Note to Editors:

1. Ikon presents this work in the Tower Room – please note this is only accessible via a number of steps.
2. Julie Brook was shortlisted for the Daiwa Foundation Art Prize 2015 and her work can be seen at the Daiwa Foundation Japan House Gallery, London (11 June-17 July). She will be part of a BBC documentary about Land Art being filmed in autumn 2015, where she will make new work in Scotland. Future exhibitions include the National Art Gallery of Namibia, Windhoek (2016) and An Lanntair, Isle of Lewis, Outer Hebrides (2016). She is also planning to lead a two year visual arts educational project with primary school children in Skye and Uist. Previous solo exhibitions include *made,unmade* (Burgh Hall, Dunoon; Little Buckland Gallery, Broadway, Gloucestershire (2014); and Dovecot Studios, Edinburgh; Wapping Project, London; Bonhoga Gallery, Shetland (2013).www.juliebrook.com
3. Ikon is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art venue situated in central Birmingham. Established in 1964 by a group of artists, Ikon is an educational charity and works to encourage public engagement with contemporary art through exhibiting new work in a context of debate and participation. The gallery programme features artists from around the world and a variety of media is represented, including sound, film, mixed media, photography, painting, sculpture and installation. Ikon’s off-site programme develops dynamic relationships between art, artists and audiences outside the gallery. Projects vary enormously in scale, duration and location, challenging expectations of where art can be seen and by whom. Education is at the heart of Ikon’s activities, stimulating public interest in and understanding of contemporary visual art. Through a variety of talks, tours, workshops and seminars, Ikon’s Learning Team aims to build dynamic relationships with audiences, enabling visitors to engage with, discuss and reflect on contemporary art.
4. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 5pm. Admission is free.
5. For the latest news and events follow @ikongallery on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
6. Ikon Gallery is supported using public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council.
7. For more information, high-res images and to request an interview with the artist please contact Rebecca Small or Emily Luxford at Ikon on 0121 248 0708 or email r.small@ikon-gallery.org or e.luxford@ikon-gallery.org

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS
0121 248 0708 / www.ikon-gallery.org Open Tuesday-Sunday, 11am-5pm / free entry
Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon. Registered charity no. 528892



Julie Brook, *Pigment* (2013). Otjize, NW Namibia, 8.30 mins HD.