

Geoff and Eilidh Lucas*Allotment***3 April – 1 May 2016**

Allotment, an exhibition by Geoff and Eilidh Lucas, will open at the Highland Institute for Contemporary Art on Sunday 3 April, 2-5pm. After Sunday 3 April it will be open by appointment only till Sunday 1 May.

Geoff and Eilidh Lucas co-founded HICA in 2008. Their exhibition, which will be the last to be held in the current gallery space, marks the end of HICA's initial period of development. While thus looking to HICA's future, the exhibition also reflects on the nature of the gallery's past programmes and the activity of running the space.

As well as being an artist-run gallery, HICA, at its current location, was conceived as a research project, investigating the history and ideas of Concrete Art. It has also been maintained by its founders as an experimental artwork in its own right: its engagements with contributors and audiences, with local, national and international contexts, part of HICA's particular blurring of art and life. The timing of this exhibition indicates a reviewing of this practice, and comment on the nature of these engagements, in relation to their considerations of the Concrete.

The title, *Allotment*, relates the works in the space directly to the HICA vegetable garden, which has been kept by the artists as a significant element within the life of the gallery. This plot is a standard half-size allotment, measuring 5 rods (roughly 25x5m) and the proportion, 5x1, is maintained throughout the block or cell-like forms that constitute the show. These forms stand as the products of concretizing processes; the results of dialogues between human measurement and natural form, individual activity and material; processes that apply equally to the shaping of an allotment, or an artwork.

This 5x1 proportion also approximates, visually, to a capitalized letter 'I' (i.e. in Arial, bold), a coincidence of form which enables reflections on these processes in the light of our subject/object relations. This formal coincidence further presents self-similar states, for example, between a wooden block and the individual cells that constitute it, suggesting analogies to our own composite selves, or our own part, as individuals, in the continual concretizing processes forming our wider, physical and cultural environments.

The consideration of these differing scales and involvements, these processes, as perhaps entirely 'concrete' if complex and indeterminate, is a frequent focus in Geoff and Eilidh Lucas's work. In *Allotment* this consideration may be judged a particular reflection on the nature of HICA's past programmes, and ongoing projects and dialogues.

Additional to co-founding and developing HICA since 2008 Geoff and Eilidh Lucas have contributed to group exhibitions and projects, including SNO, Sydney; The Pipe Factory, Glasgow; Grey Area, Croatia; CCNOA, Brussels; Schwartz Gallery, London; PS, Amsterdam; The Bart Wells Institute, London; Jeffrey Charles Gallery, London and Glassbox, Paris.

The production of some works in the exhibition, by Geoff Lucas, has been supported by a Highland Visual Arts & Craft Award.

The exhibition will run from 3 April – 1 May, 2016. It will open on 3 April, 2-5pm, or otherwise be open by appointment only.

For more information or images contact:

HICA, Dalcrombie, Loch Ruthven, Dores, Inverness-shire, IV2 6UA, UK

T: +44 (0)1808-521-306

info@h-i-c-a.org

www.h-i-c-a.org