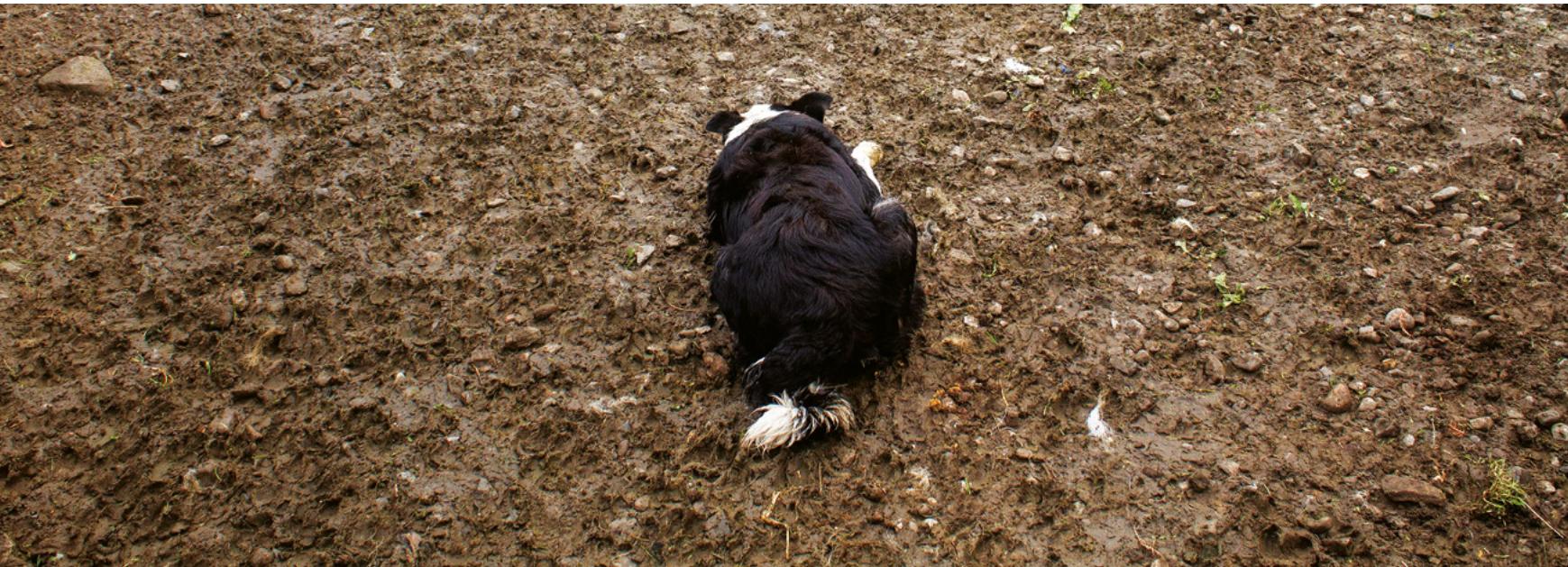




Joo-Hee Yang



~ 10.10.2017 - 06.07.2018 ~



Joo-Hee Yang

**Artist in Residence
Highgreen
October 2017 – July 2018**

Joo-Hee Yang came to Highgreen from Seoul in South Korea via France to take up the post of VARC's artist in residence 2017 - 2018. Yang had spent a number of years moving every few months internationally from exhibition to exhibition and was looking for a break from relentless production.

Yang has welcomed VARC's ten-month residency as a period long enough to allow reflection, questioning and the naturally slow development of a new direction in her practice.

Yang has long held an interest in the culture of a place. In Tarsier this has taken the form of an enquiry into how people see their identity in relation to their surroundings. Yang has asked twenty local residents to respond to the question 'Who are you?'. This theme has mirrored the artist's own personal reflection. Yang has transcribed these responses and identified common themes and threads running through them. She has drawn together phrases from across these transcriptions under poetic headings to form a book of visual poetry, and a small edition of this has been produced.

Evident in this enquiry, and throughout her residency, is an expression of a sense that, as artists and individuals, we are continually looking to make sense of who we are and our place in the world. And that this is a continuing process where neither we, nor anything around us, stays the same.

Joo-Hee is also interested in how an individual feature, object or person is each unique and holds its own story; and yet is also part of a whole, a collection or a community. Teeth from found sheep's skulls are displayed as a 'collection'. Each tooth can now be seen as a single unique object, and yet in life functioned as a chewing mechanism working together with others in unison. Scans of the teeth create images of ghostly beauty that seem divorced from their original practical purpose. As with Yang's 'Who are you?' enquiry, this piece of work prompts reflection on the changing nature of things; in life teeth as part of a perfectly functioning mastication process and after life as sculptural objects.

Using a remote controlled vehicle, Yang filmed an hour each day covering a period from sunrise to sunset. This has resulted in a nine-hour long film in which the light and weather makes each day's record wonderfully different and immensely detailed. On viewing this film later Yang finds that each image appears other-worldly and of a different place altogether from her memory of it.

Another strand of enquiry has resulted in a stack of used sheets of paper given to the artist by Unison Colour. These sheets are the by-product of the hand-rolling of the range of artists' pastels made by this company based down the road at Thorneburn in Terset. The papers each hold the story of the creative and practical process

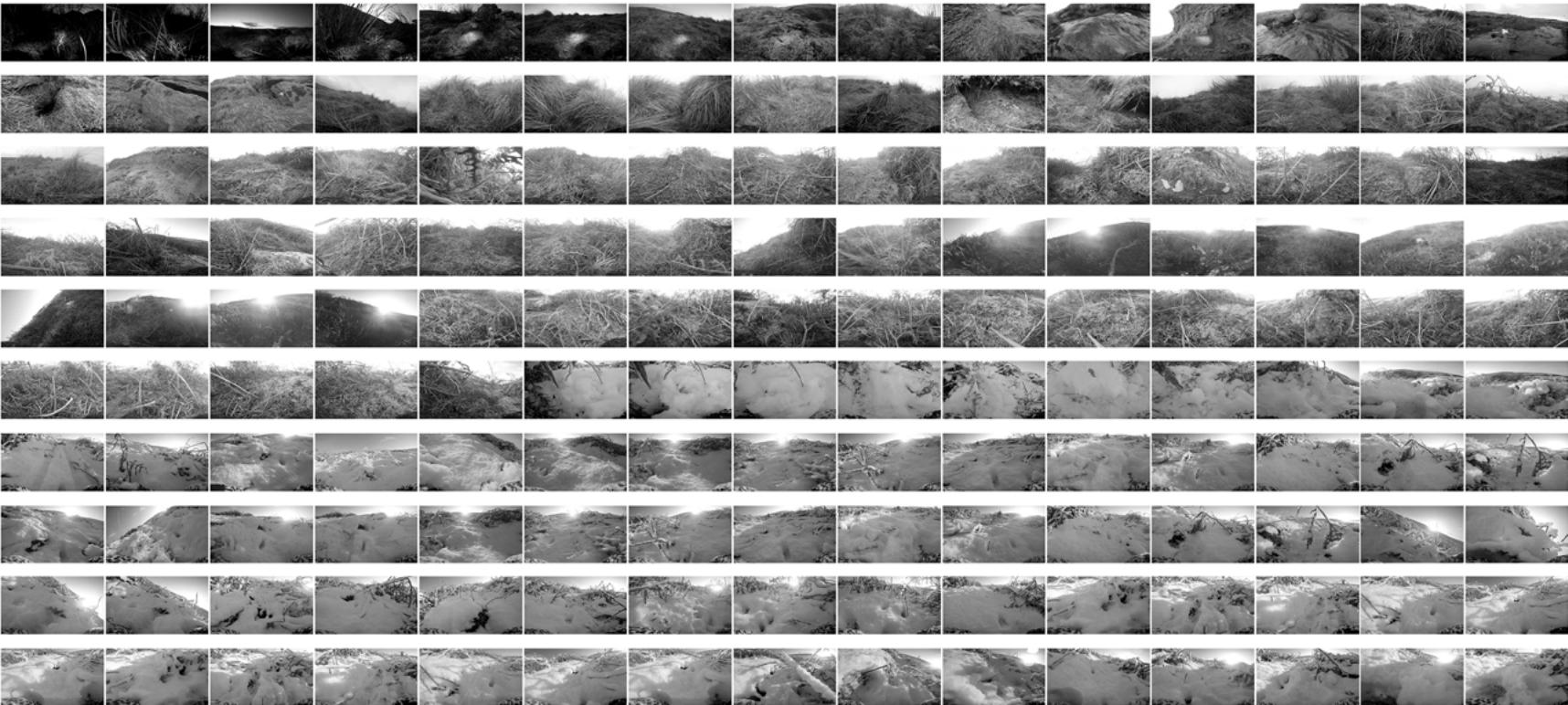
of making these coloured pastels; a different colour for each sheet and each sheet used twice. Visitors can grasp this whilst also appreciating the physical form of the stack of papers with their crinkled edges.

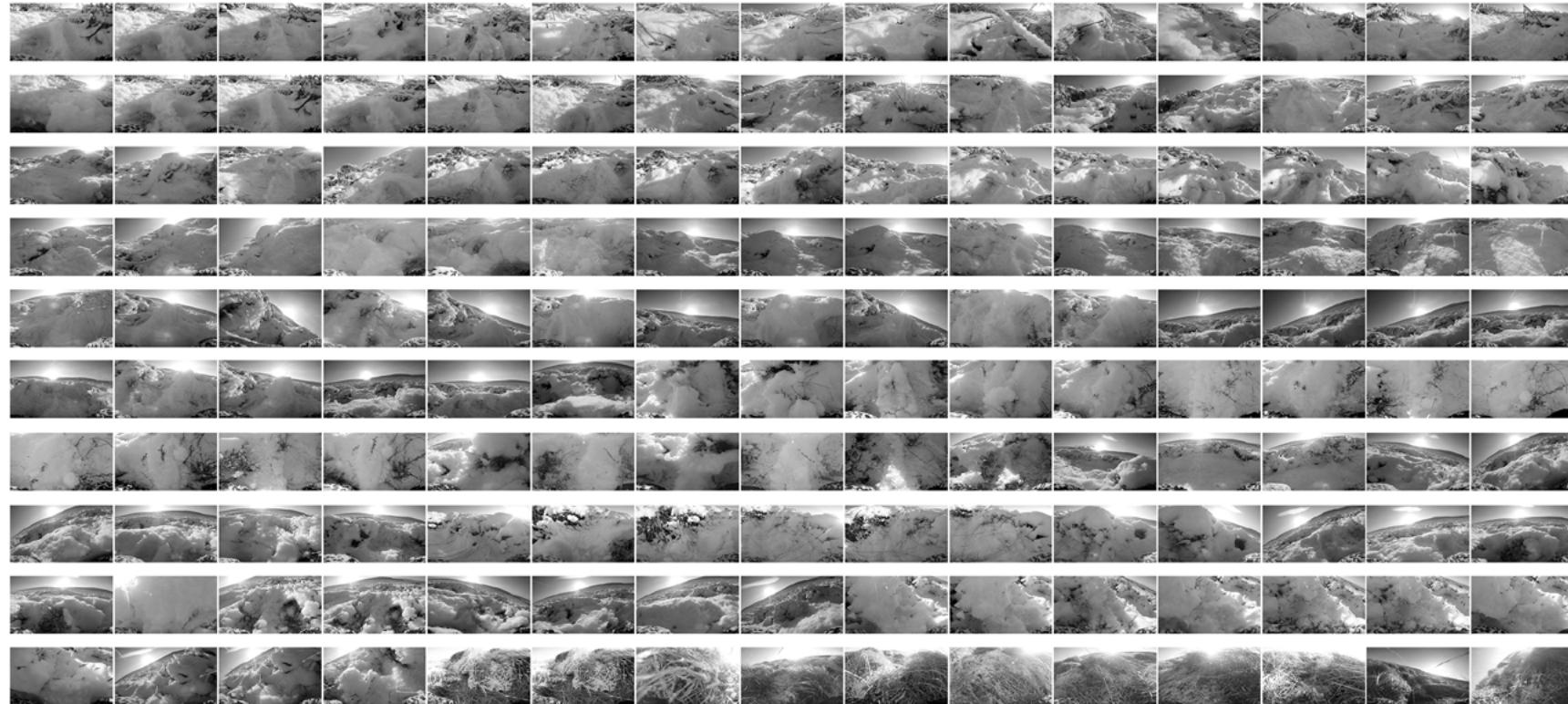
Joo-Hee Yang has made the most of her ten month residency. She has used her time to pause and reflect on her own practice and sense of self. And each of the artist's works evidence her same reflective approach and her preoccupation with identity, sense of being within the context of community and culture, and an acute awareness of the continuum of the process of change.

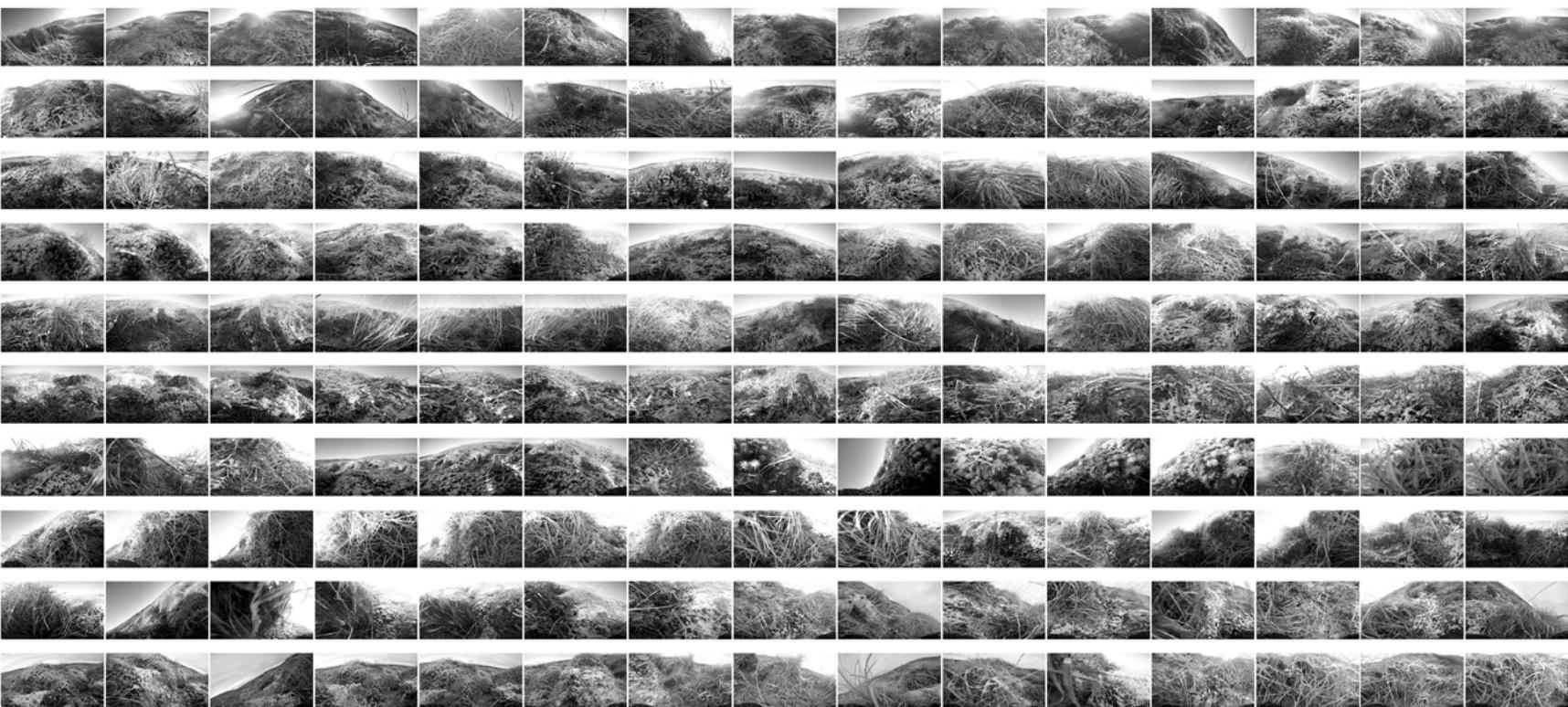
Janet Ross, 2018

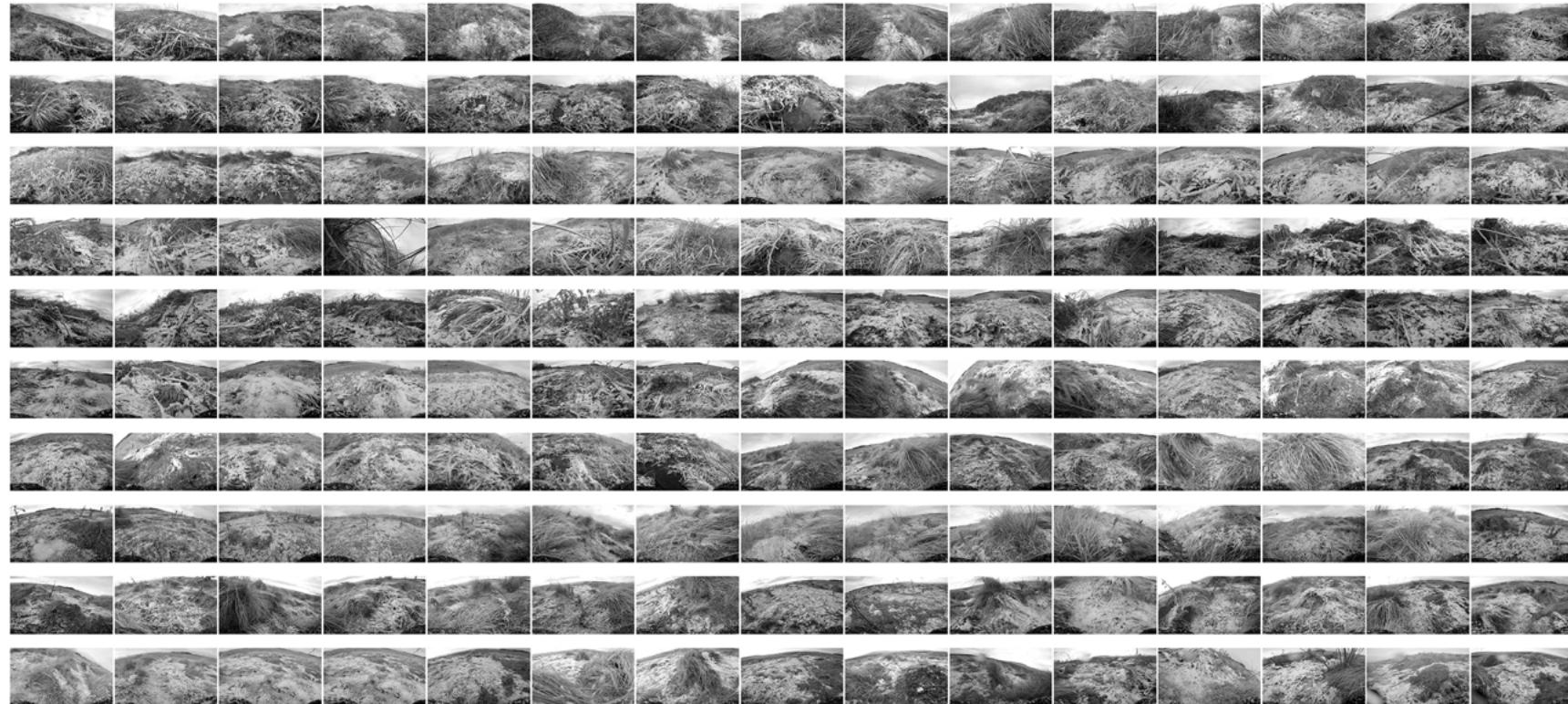
Curiosity

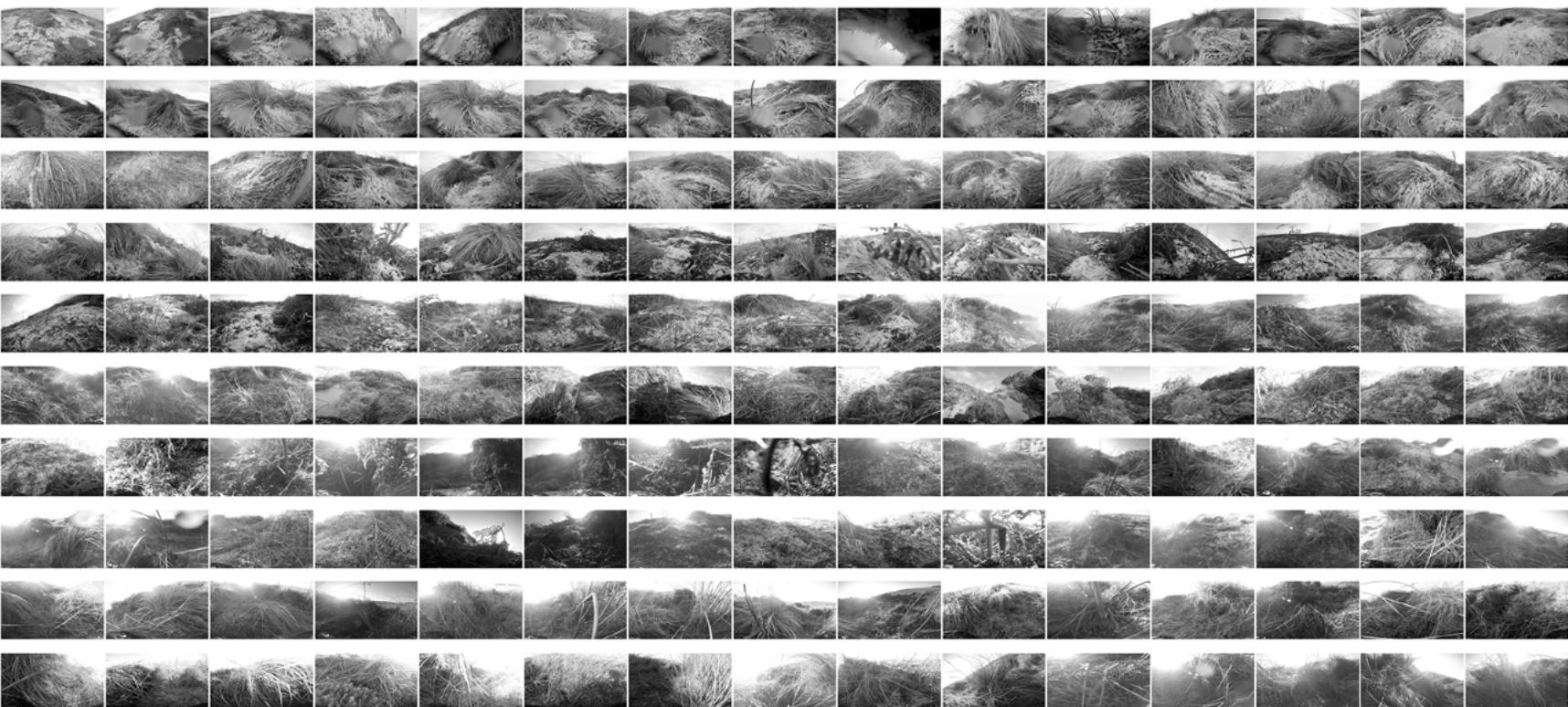
Video ~sunrise ~ sunset ~ 2017 - 2018 ~ Highgreen

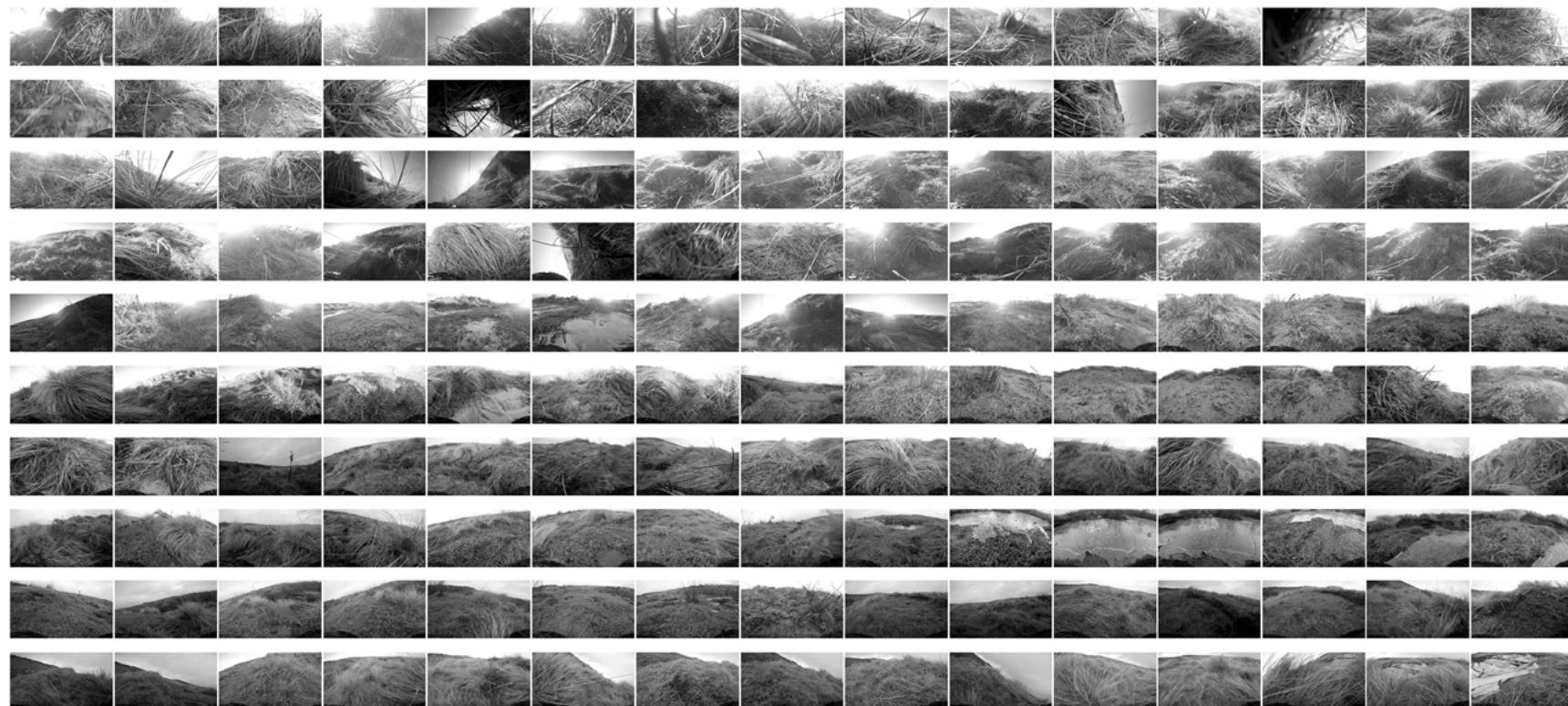


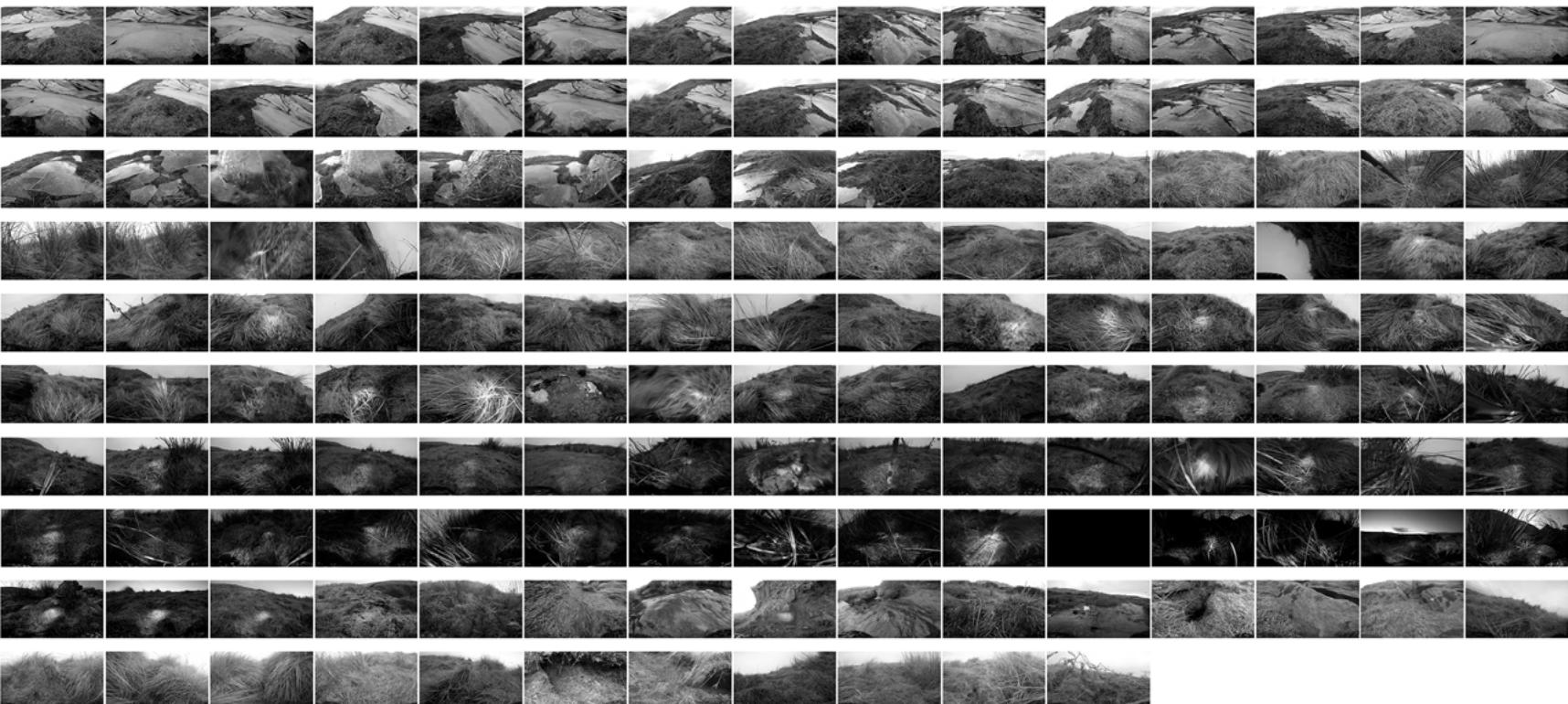












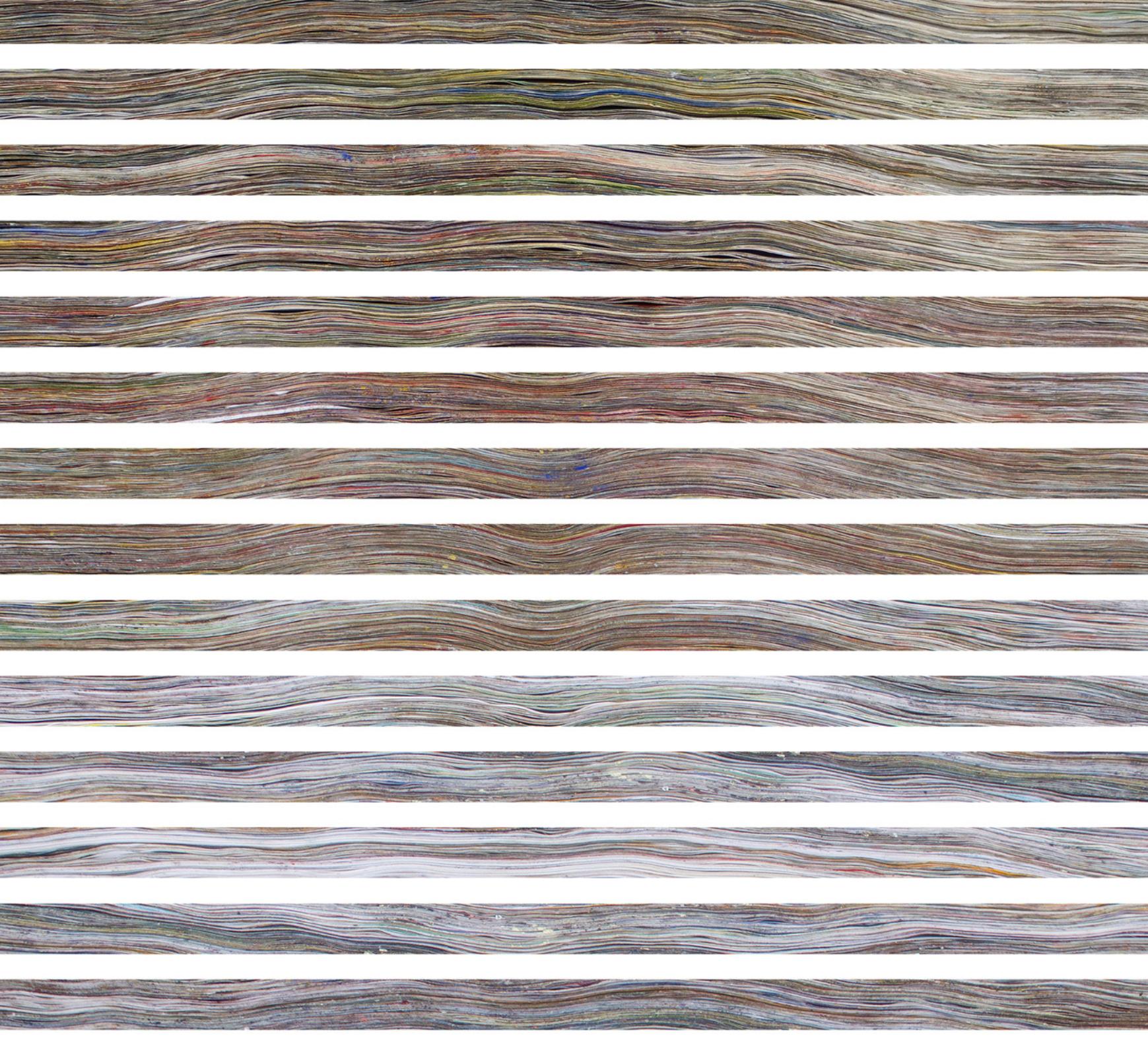
Discovery

Used paper from hand-rolling process ~ Unison Colour pastels ~ 2017 - 2018 ~ Highgreen

“If you look at any walls soiled with a variety of stains, or stones with variegated patterns... you will therein be able to see a resemblance to various landscapes graced with mountains, rivers, rocks, trees, plains, great valleys and hills in many combinations or again you will be able to see various battles and figures darting about, strange-looking faces and costumes, and an endless number of things that you can distil into finely rendered forms.”

Da Vinci, quoted in Zöllner, Frank, *Leonardo da Vinci: The complete paintings and drawings*, Taschen, 2003, p. 259











Tea time

Used paper cup ~ tattoo ~ 2017 - 2018 ~ Highgreen



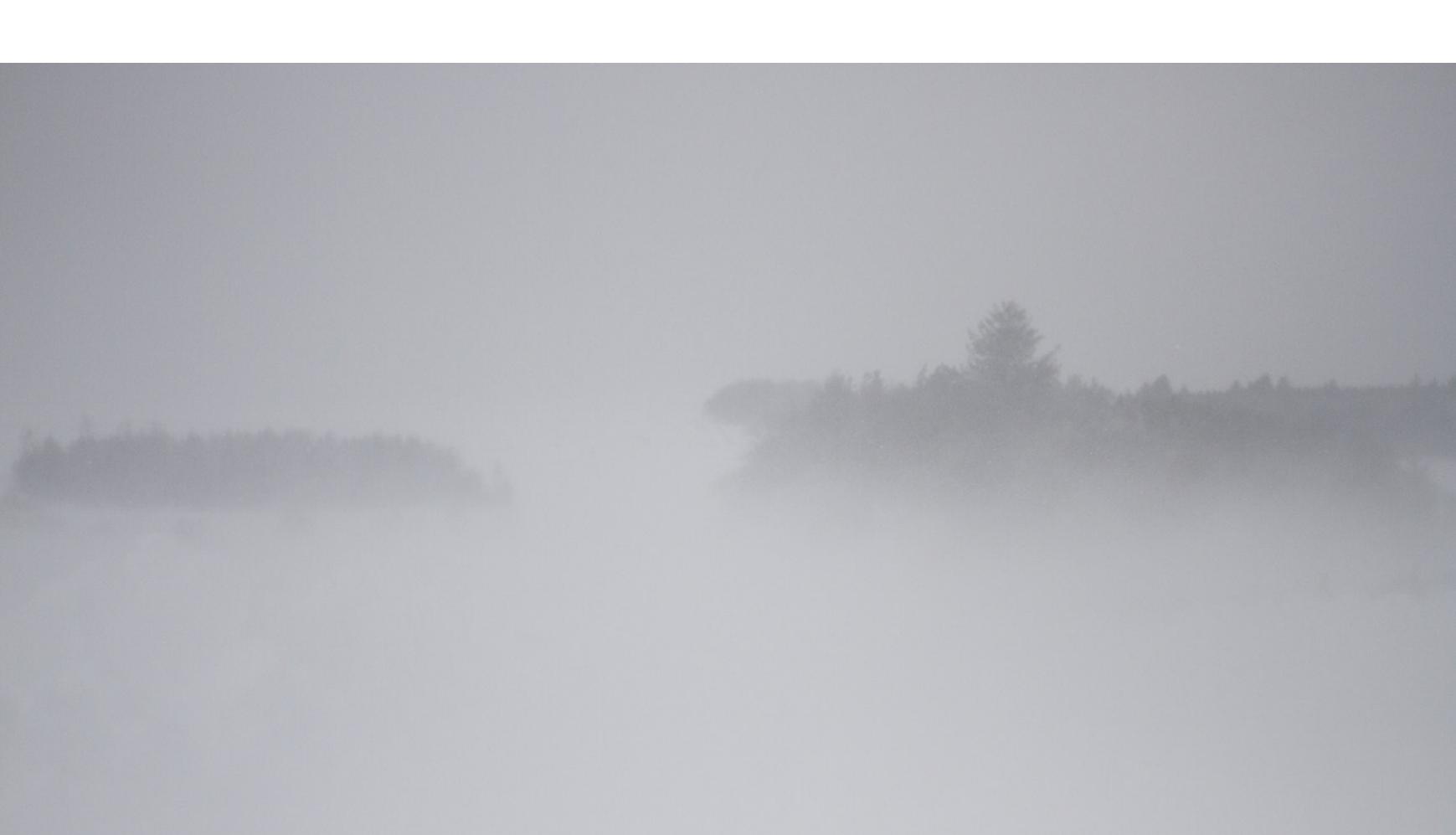






Discovery

Sheep's teeth ~ 2017 - 2018 ~ Highgreen





'I was born in a particular landscape'



'I enjoyed my stay in this particular landscape, the fold among the pine trees.'

Joo-Hee Yang ~ 2018

About VARC

Visual Arts in Rural Communities funds and manages an on-going programme of artist residencies. Through the residencies it offers opportunities to artists to develop new work, and benefit to the community and visiting groups through creative activity and engagement with art and artists. It also aims to benefit young people with special needs, particularly those with autism spectrum condition, through creative projects with artists.

VARC is very grateful to its supporters and funders, particularly the Gillian Dickinson Trust and SCREAM who have aided our development of arts projects this year for young people with learning difficulties. VARC would also like to thank Cynthia and William Morrison-Bell for their continued and generous support.

www.varc.org.uk

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