SITE DRAWING : DRAWING SITE

THE STELLA ELKINS TYLER GALLERIES, PHILADELPHIA
JINSE GALLERY, CHONGQING

ALEC SHEPLEY
Drawing is an integral part of my practice and is something I do in and around the wall and floor-based assemblages and tableaux I construct, and residencies I undertake in galleries and studios in different parts of the world. In this sense they are site drawings – but they are also drawings as site – drawing helps me ‘see’ what I am doing and work out problems. Drawing is ‘a friend’ to me and apart from being purely pleasurable it helps me reflectively and forms a fundamental procedural function within my practice as an artist. This small exhibition, although not a survey or an ‘evolutionary show’, spans the last ten years and brings together two sets of drawings that I have made alongside my larger projects mentioned above and serves as a document of the entropic processes within my practice.

The wall and floor–based assemblages and tableaux consist of amalgams of found and especially constructed objects, models, photographic imagery and texts often with urban connotations. These larger works, the subjects of these drawings, are manipulated like collages and can be initially understood as sites where something once was, a place where things once were whole, or living, but which are now fragmented, dispersed, spliced or visible only by faint indexes.

However, themes of fragility, provisionality, fragmentation, ‘un–framing’, entropy and ruin can serve as a positive metaphor – for renewal and change – and what I am attempting to do is to enjoy this provisional aspect of life in drawings of deliberately disjointed, assemblies of stuff.

Alec Shepley
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For further information see, standing in the ruins, at: www.alecshepley.org.uk

“Note to the reader: add to my ‘Taxonomy of Small and Disjointed Realities’ by sending me a drawing of your own pile of stuff! Make a drawing on the back of one of the postcards in this book and send it back to me for inclusion.”