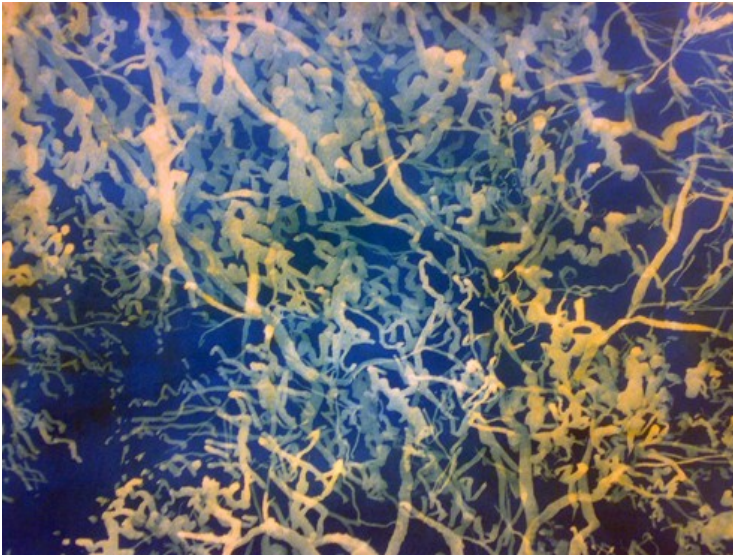


# C4RD Resident Artists

The Centre for Recent Drawing throughout the year provides the opportunity to view the work of C4RD's Resident Artists in *Work in Progress* presentations. For a few days at C4RD the artist will be available with the work in the central exhibition space to answer questions and provide an insight into their working methods and the thought processes behind their production. The Resident Artist for this presentation was Alex Gough, whose experiments in line, colour and light attempt to grapple with Sublime experience.



"Since my adolescence, I have always been enchanted by the blue colour, unique to the waters and sky of the Lapland forests of Finland. It is an experience that can only be clumsily articulated through words, but a traditional conception of the sublime comes close: the feeling of insignificance experienced amidst the phenomena of nature. In this insignificance I can feel both a sense of liberation but also entrapment.

In recent years I have tried to articulate this experience in my painting. I do not intend to represent place, but try to present a sublime experience with the colours, subject matter and techniques I use.

The current series of drawing's displayed, were influenced by photographs I took on my last trip to the Lapland forests. All my experiences there were tainted by the blue refracted light from the sky and reflected on the land on water. It intensified the colour of the forests bark causing the trees to glow a rusty orange hue. This effect emphasised the ubiquitous nature of light and its effect on the world we perceive.

This relationship has influenced the method of drawing I have developed in this series. I have used dark blue ink on paper and digital images. With a wooden utensil, I have applied a reacting agent to the ink in patterns reminiscent of the complex and almost abstract pattern of intertwining branches found in the forests, turning the blue into a pale orange. The appearance of these drawings depends on the inks inherent qualities and its chemical response to the agent. In a similar way, the forests appearance depends on response between its natural qualities and the light that gives it visibility."  
Alex Gough

## Centre for Recent Drawing

2-4 Highbury Station Road LONDON N1 1SB

[www.c4rd.org.uk](http://www.c4rd.org.uk) +44 (0) 20 32396936

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