

Bob Bicknell-Knight

Bit Rot, 2020

Solo exhibition at Broadway Studio + Gallery, Letchworth, UK.



Broadway Studio and Gallery are delighted to present Bit Rot, a solo exhibition by artist, curator and writer Bob Bicknell-Knight.

Working within various artistic mediums, Bicknell-Knight's work responds to the hyper consumerism of the internet, exploring ideas of surveillance capitalism, utopian and dystopian ideologies and the digitization of the self.

Bit Rot, also known as bit decay, data rot and data decay, is the slow deterioration in the performance and integrity of data stored on storage media. The process occurs over many years, due to imperfect insulation on flash drives, floppy disks losing their magnetic orientation and by storing CDs and DVDs in warm, humid environments, causing them to physically and visually rot.

In Bit Rot, Bicknell-Knight exhibits new paintings, sculptures and videos, depicting relics from the past and the present, set in a near future where nature has overwhelmed various forms of technology in a world not dissimilar to our own. The paintings and video works utilise imagery and footage taken from the video game Horizon Zero Dawn.

The 2017 game follows Aloy, a hunter in the year 3040, who inhabits a future Earth that has limited access to technology and has become overrun by animal like machines controlled by a rogue artificial intelligence. The works began with Bicknell-Knight wandering through this virtual world, using in game photography techniques to document the degradation of technology and modern life in a number of different in game environments. The in-game objects have become monuments to virtual users who would have previously inhabited them within the digital space. The cars, buildings and roads in the paintings and videos are relics

from a future world, with these elements frozen in time and space due to unknown interventions.

The sculptures within the exhibition are real world objects that have been overwhelmed by artificial interventions, from faux grass to plastic flowers, mimicking the digital nature displayed within the game world, created and crafted over hundreds of hours by a small workforce of video game developers.

Within the exhibition the two videos are displayed on and around an aluminium modular extrusion system, used in office partitions and within forms of autonomous production. The films contain manipulated footage captured from within the video game, presenting a number of the digital landscapes over a 24-hour period, complete with digital birdsong and running water. The original footage has been altered, transforming the once hyper real landscapes into moving paintings, presented in the same aesthetic style as the physical paintings. The videos are housed within 3D printed USB drives, digitally sculpted to resemble copper minerals, a material commonly used in CPUs and computer chips.

Another series of paintings in the show feature individual flower varieties, captured at different times of day within the in-game world. A series of 24 paintings, each depicting the intricacies of the same digital flower at a different hour in a given day, are available to purchase and view at the gallery's reception desk.

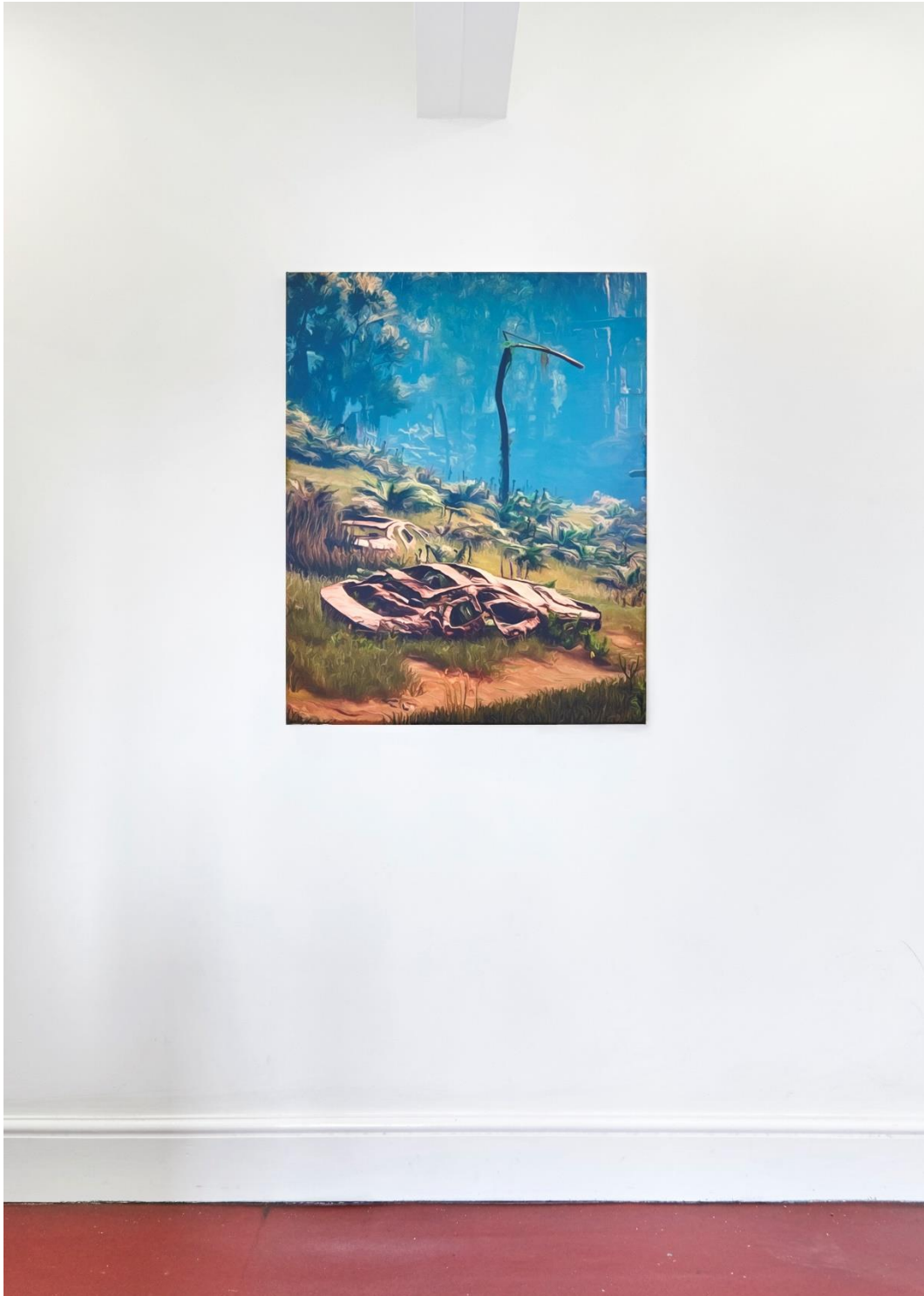


Bit Rot, 2020  
Installation view



Bit Rot, 2020  
Installation view





Bit Rot, 2020  
Installation view



Empty Machines, 2019  
Ink and acrylic on canvas  
100 x 80 cm  
Unique



Bit Rot, 2020  
Installation view



Bit Rot, 2020  
Installation view



Pedagogical Ruins, 2020  
Ink and acrylic on canvas  
40 x 60 cm  
Unique





Relic XVIII, 2020

Found shoe, 3D printed PLA plastic, silk flowers, floral wire, artificial grass, spray mount, glue  
Unique



Data Dump III, 2020 and Data Dump IV, 2020  
Ink and acrylic on canvas  
60 x 30 cm  
Unique



Relic VIII, 2020

Found phone, plastic flowers, floral wire, artificial grass, spray mount, glue  
Unique



Bit Rot, 2020  
Installation view





Data Dump I, 2020 and Data Dump II, 2020  
Ink and acrylic on canvas  
60 x 30 cm  
Unique





Sunken Relic, 2019  
Ink and acrylic on canvas  
80 x 140 cm  
Unique



Forgotten Remains, 2020  
Ink and acrylic on canvas  
80 x 140 cm  
Unique



Relic V, 2020

Canon DS6041, 3D printed PLA plastic, silk flowers, floral wire, artificial grass, spray mount, glue

18.5 x 17 x 16 cm

Unique





Relic VII, 2020

3D printed polyamide, silk flowers, floral wire, artificial grass, spray mount, glue  
Unique



Bit Rot, 2020  
Installation view





Bit Rot, 2020  
Installation view



Bit Rot, 2020  
Installation view



Phase Change I, 2020  
HD video with sound  
40 min 11 sec  
Edition of 3, 1AP

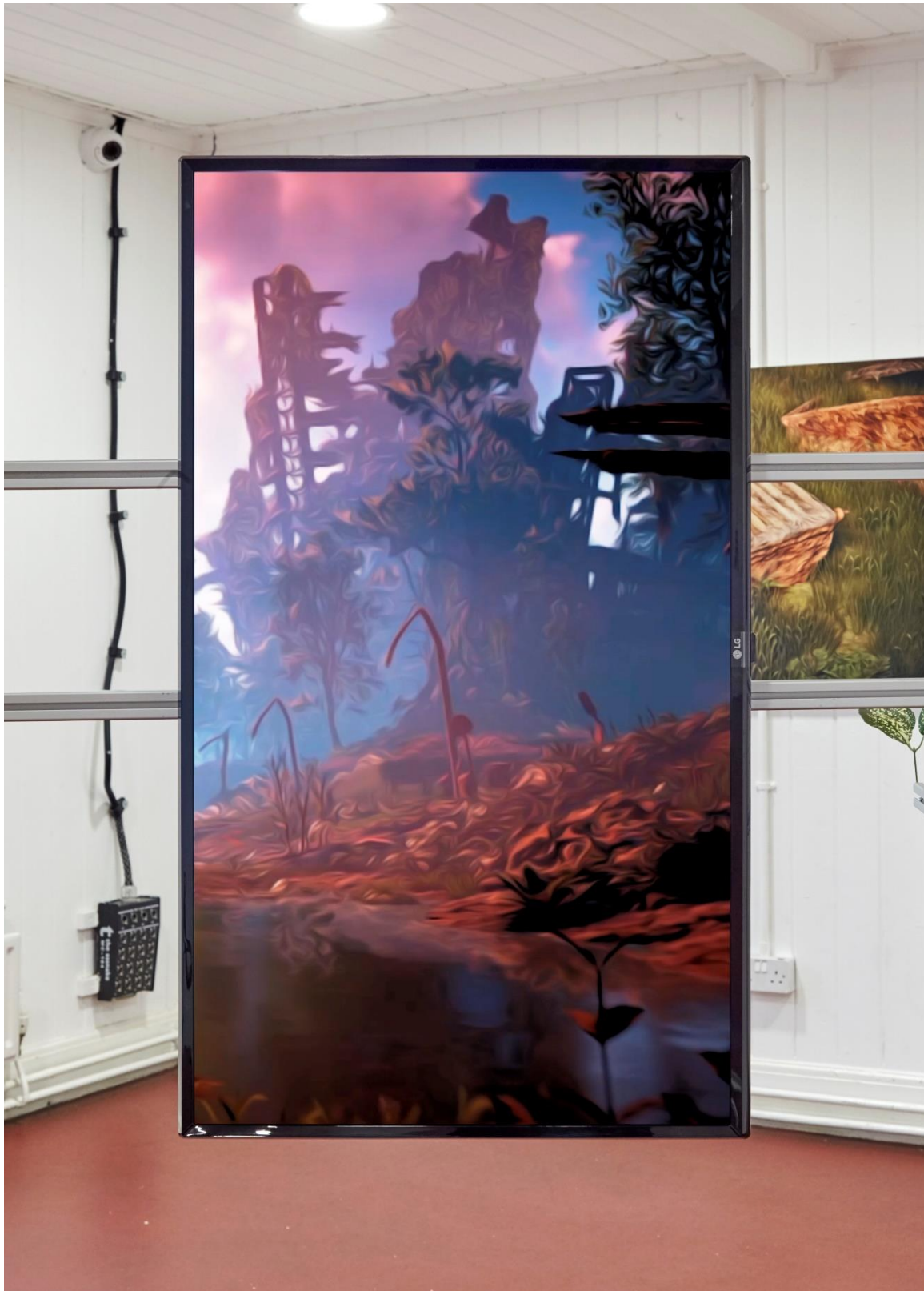
Watch the film by going to [https://youtu.be/f\\_tJ3wFpJ0](https://youtu.be/f_tJ3wFpJ0)





Phase Change I, 2020  
HD video with sound  
40 min 11 sec  
Edition of 3, 1AP

Watch the film by going to [https://youtu.be/f\\_tJ3wFpJ0](https://youtu.be/f_tJ3wFpJ0)



Phase Change I, 2020  
HD video with sound  
40 min 11 sec  
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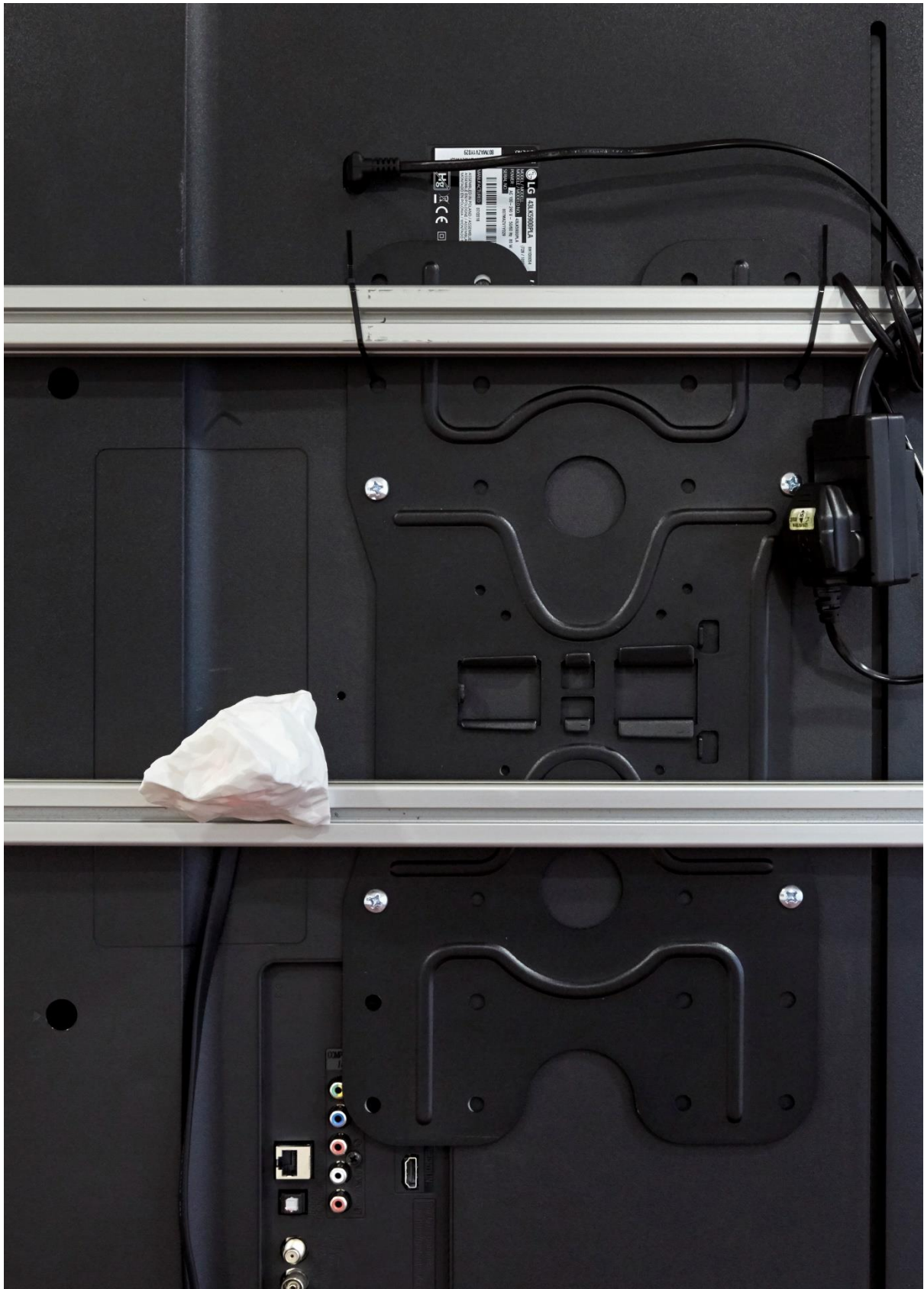


Phase Change I, 2020  
HD video with sound  
40 min 11 sec  
Edition of 3, 1AP

Watch the film by going to [https://youtu.be/f\\_tJ3wFpJ0](https://youtu.be/f_tJ3wFpJ0)



Copper Mineral II, 2020  
3D printed PLA plastic, USB drive  
8.7 x 7.2 x 5.8 cm  
Edition of 3, 1AP



Copper Mineral II, 2020  
3D printed PLA plastic, USB drive  
8.7 x 7.2 x 5.8 cm  
Edition of 3, 1AP





Relic IX, 2020

Found phone, silk flowers, floral wire, artificial grass, spray mount, glue  
Unique





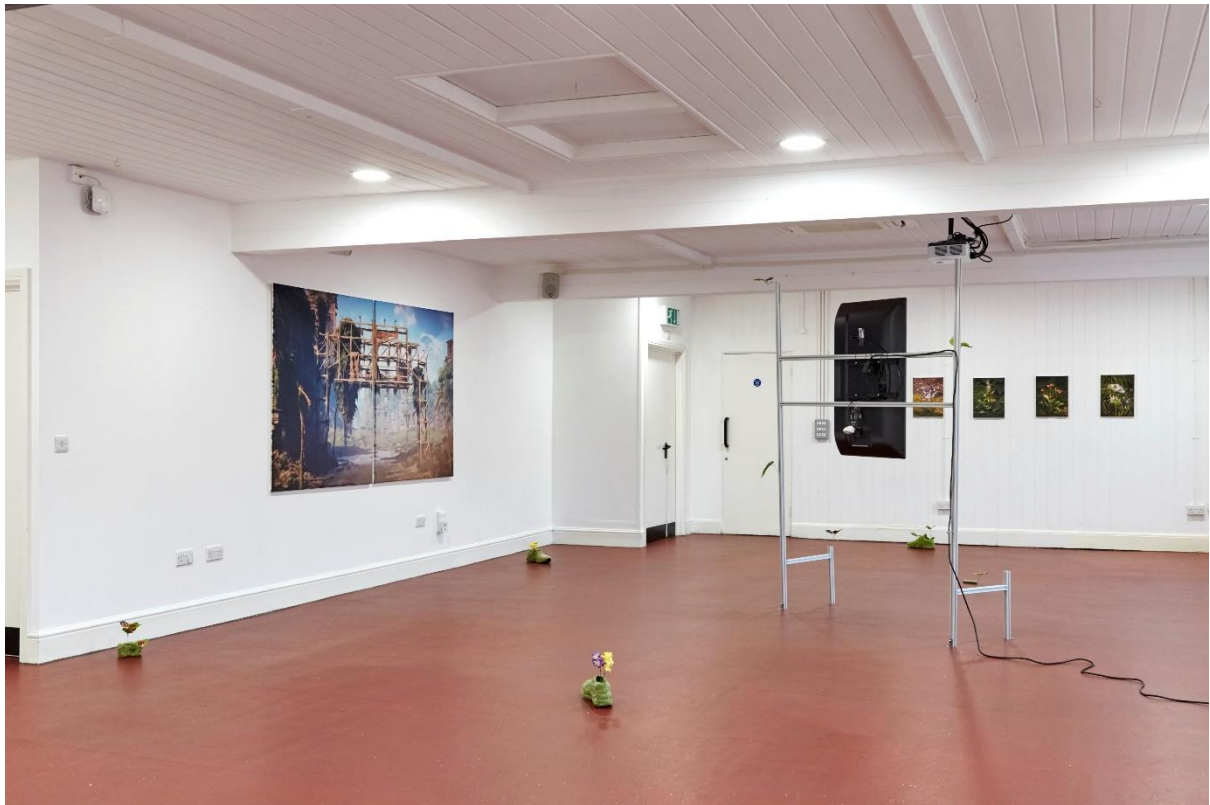
Relic IV, 2019

Hi-Tec Jaguar trainer, 3D printed PLA plastic, silk flowers, floral wire, artificial grass, spray mount, glue  
Unique



Relic X, 2020

3D printed polyamide, silk flowers, floral wire, artificial grass, spray mount, glue  
Unique



Bit Rot, 2020  
Installation view





Relic XI, 2020 and Relic XII, 2020  
Found phone, plastic flowers, floral wire, artificial grass, spray mount, glue  
Unique





Bit Rot, 2020  
Installation view



Relic XIII, 2020

Found phone, plastic flowers, floral wire, artificial grass, spray mount, glue  
Unique



Relic XIV, 2020

Found shoe, 3D printed PLA plastic, plastic flowers, floral wire, artificial grass, spray mount, glue  
Unique

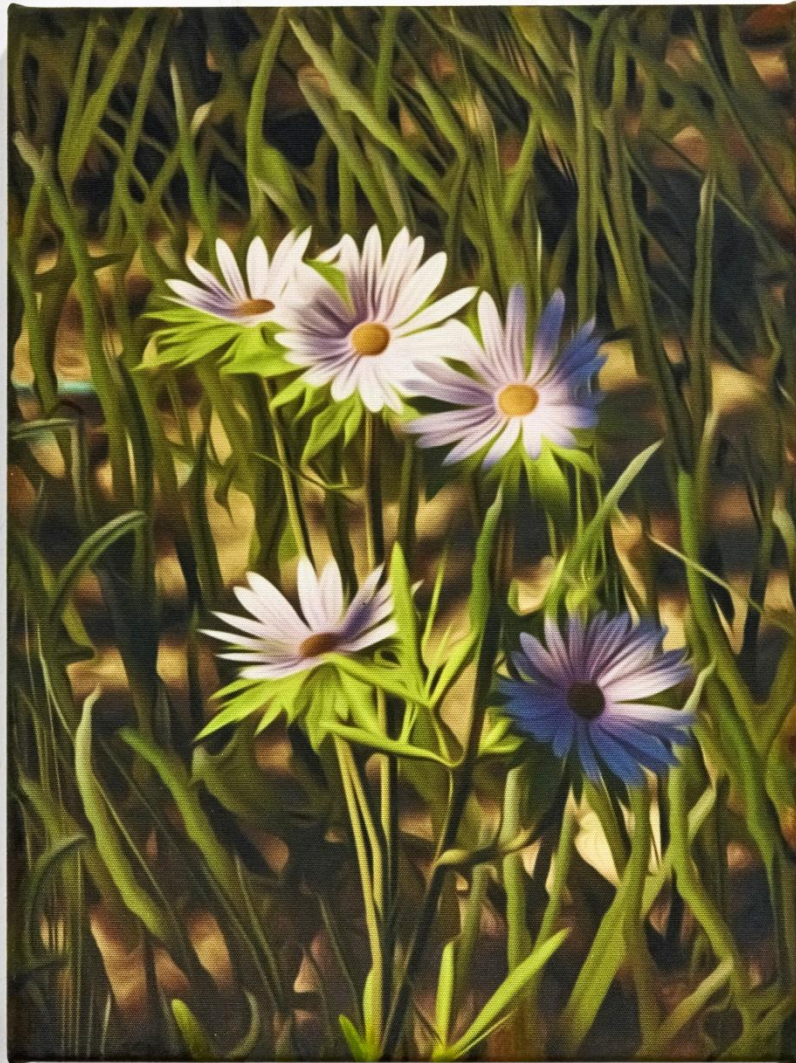


Bit Rot, 2020  
Installation view



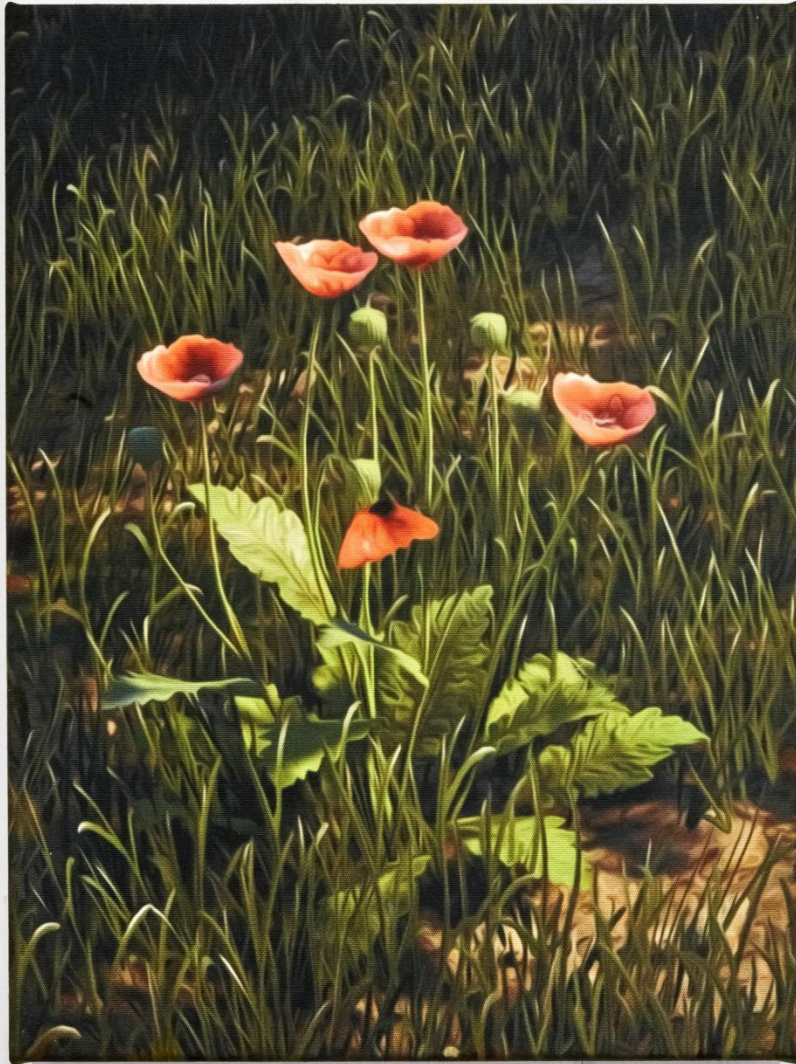


Bit Rot, 2020  
Installation view



Chamomile, 2019  
Ink and acrylic on canvas  
40 x 30 cm  
Unique





Poppy, 2019  
Ink and acrylic on canvas  
40 x 30 cm  
Unique





White Lupine, 2019  
Ink and acrylic on canvas  
40 x 30 cm  
Unique





Purple Columbine, 2019  
Ink and acrylic on canvas  
40 x 30 cm  
Unique



Larkspur, 2019  
Ink and acrylic on canvas  
40 x 30 cm  
Unique





Relic XV, 2020

Found shoe, 3D printed PLA plastic, plastic flowers, floral wire, artificial grass, spray mount, glue  
Unique



Bit Rot, 2020  
Installation view





Bit Rot, 2020  
Installation view



Phase Change II, 2020  
HD video with sound  
41 min 37 sec  
Edition of 3, 1AP

Watch the film by going to <https://youtu.be/wvxssFt1i8o>



Phase Change II, 2020  
HD video with sound  
41 min 37 sec  
Edition of 3, 1AP

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Phase Change II, 2020  
HD video with sound  
41 min 37 sec  
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Phase Change II, 2020  
HD video with sound  
41 min 37 sec  
Edition of 3, 1AP

Watch the film by going to <https://youtu.be/wvxssFt1i8o>



Copper Mineral I, 2020  
3D printed PLA plastic, USB drive  
7.4 x 7 x 4.8 cm  
Edition of 3, 1AP



Bit Rot, 2020  
Installation view





Relic VI, 2020

Samsung E1230, plastic flowers, floral wire, artificial grass, spray mount, glue  
Unique





Bit Rot, 2020  
Installation view



Relic XVI, 2020  
Found shoe, 3D printed PLA plastic, silk flowers, floral wire, artificial grass, spray mount, glue  
Unique





Economic Collapse, 2020  
Ink and acrylic on canvas  
140 x 245 cm  
Unique





Relic XIX, 2020

Found shoe, 3D printed PLA plastic, plastic flowers, floral wire, artificial grass, spray mount, glue  
Unique



Relic XVII, 2020

Olympus E-PL2, 3D printed PLA plastic, plastic flowers, floral wire, artificial grass, spray mount, glue  
Unique



Larkspur 0100 hours, 2020 - Larkspur 2400 hours, 2020  
All Ink and acrylic on canvas  
All 30 x 20 cm