

FREE Information sheet. Please take one.

On Overgrown Paths

Ben Rivers

2 July to 5 September 2010

Press the button by the door of each shed to start the films

Three wooden sheds, assembled by the artist from discarded wood and salvaged building materials, invite you to explore. Inside, projected 16mm films reveal the lives of modern day hermits who live in isolated spots in Northern Europe.

All three films are made using an old Bolex camera, which has a very particular quality that cannot be digitally constructed. *Origin of the Species* (2008) portrays an elderly amateur inventor and Darwin enthusiast living alone in the Scottish highlands, pondering everything from animal trapping to the Big Bang theory. *This is My Land* (2006) observes the daily routine of a self-sufficient man living in Aberdeenshire, whilst *Sørdal* (2008) explores an abandoned film-set found while searching for a hermit in Norway.

Rivers was inspired by Norwegian writer Knut Hamsun (1859-1952), whose work inspired the exhibition title. Rivers says that 'many of his books focused on individuals choosing to live out in the wilderness – often people who had had a taste of urban society and yearned for something more solitary'.

To find out more, pick up a free information sheet, browse our reading table or come along to Ben Rivers' free artist talk on Saturday 21 August at 2pm. Booking is recommended.

A Measure Touring Exhibition.

Ben Rivers (born Somerset, 1972), lives and works in London. Rivers' previous solo exhibitions in the UK include: *A World Rattled of Habit* at A Foundation, Liverpool, 2009; *Origin of the Species*, Kate MacGarry, London, 2009; *On Overgrown Paths*, Permanent Gallery, Brighton and The Regency Town House, Hove, 2008. In 2008 his work was screened as part of *Nought to Sixty*, at the ICA, London, and at the 52nd BFI London Film Festival. Rivers won the Tiger Award at the 2008 International Film Festival Rotterdam and is recipient of the London Artist Film and Video Award (LAFVA).

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