

Piper Keys Exhibitions

Robert Filby

10th October to 6th December

For his exhibition at Piper Keys, Robert Filby shows a block weave rug, commercial fishing container and linocut print.

Rug for Piper Keys II, like its predecessor *Rug for Piper Keys* (2014), renders the gallery floor plan in wool. Within this re-presented space, alongside strip lights, a doormat and descending steps, the botched surface of the concrete floor is detailed, albeit poorly, while other ambiguous shapes, speculative works perhaps, appear extraneous.

Over the past year Filby has pursued several drawing projects, following the received and hackneyed wisdom that, in the absence of an idea, drawing can be the starting point. Recent linocut prints reproduce quickly made drawings which overlay the outlines of household items. As a visual inventory there is no pretension to composition, instead the basic motor aspect of the drawn line is foregrounded.

A pair of cartoon sausages in the linocut *Sausages, Dreaming* link formally to a pair of insoles, and, again, to a pair of wooden batons placed inside a polyethylene fishing container. The double-walled Saeplast 'tub' is part biographical, part display furniture, part downgraded exhibition space – a vessel within a vessel. The contained objects are 'exotic' but unspectacular, presented in inverted commas by the tub.

Within these works there is an attempt to apprehend the creative process: doubt conversely derailing and enabling how artworks are conceived. What has been made, what could be made; rehashes, ideas realised and unrealised. In this way each revolves around the problem of making and exhibiting, circumnavigating the 'no idea' or 'shit idea', and attempting to harness a kind of faltering, or thinking twice.

Robert Filby's exhibition concludes Piper Keys' programme at 58a Artillery Lane.

Please note, to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission there will be no opening event. The exhibition will be on view during regular opening hours and visitor numbers inside the gallery will be limited. We ask that those who attend wear a face mask and follow social distancing rules.

Piper Keys is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England

Gallery opening hours 12noon to 6pm, Friday to Sunday

Entrance through 58a Artillery Lane

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