



standing still: *a shared aesthetic*

nick davies - sasha kingston - jayne walker
in partnership with the
Makers Guild of Wales
Craft in the Bay Gallery, March 2020

During an arts and wellbeing project in 2019, Nick's readings led her to the subject of 'hag stones' (*stones with holes*) and the spiritual beliefs associated with mystical stones possessing healing properties and used as protective talismans. Other myths acknowledge the presence of other worlds becoming visible through the natural occurring burrowed circles. This has inspired further research with documented theories relating to '*psychogeographical*' sites, where larger holed stones were used as part of healing ceremonies. The concept of exploring view points seen through a cylindrical aperture of an ancient holed stone has captured her imagination and in turn has raised a curiosity of how geology, archeology, spiritualism and art are interconnected.

The chosen title of '*Standing Still*' reminds us as human beings to find stillness; observe and re-engage with our natural surroundings. It also acknowledges the solidity and strength found in places of geological interest which inform sculptural approaches. In an ever increasing technological world where we so rarely stand still and observe our surroundings, the theme of creating a sacred presence becomes more relevant than ever. In current times, the topic of environmentalism becomes more present where damage and erosion to our shorelines and habitats feature as a poignant reminder of the fragility of our natural world.

Nick sought an artistic partnership with Sasha and Jayne for their similar aesthetic approaches and phenomenological principles relating to the evolving landscape. The relationship has since strengthened from documenting their journeys along the jurassic coastline and continued dialogue relating to their professional development.

As the *Standing Still* exhibition draws attention to how one interprets the view seen through the cylindrical aperture, this also acknowledges the shape and symbolism of the circle; referring to the connectedness of existence, the beginning and end of all things, emptiness or fullness, presence or absence.





Thoughts about landscape reflected in a body of water has been a key inspiration to Jayne for her work in *Standing Still*. The exhibition themes of mindfulness, stillness and healing reminded her of a reflection in a mountain lake in North Wales, which gave her a sense of calm and reassurance after hearing of a family bereavement.

Ancient peoples believed that water was a sacred and healing force and the reflective surface was a way through to the "*Otherworld*". She therefore wanted to make works which highlight the mirror image thus showing the restorative and contemplative nature of a reflection within the landscape, and exploring the idea that we can mentally remove ourselves from the stresses of our busy world by looking through a reflection into the "*Otherworld*", as perhaps our ancestors once did.

Jayne graduated with a BA Hons in Ceramics from West Surrey College of Art in 1980 and now works from her studio in Andover, Hampshire. She has exhibited across the UK and was previously Guest Maker at Craft in the Bay in 2018.



Since Sasha's postgraduate research on Constructed Textiles at the Royal College of Art she has continued to develop and be inspired by the manipulation of paper pulp as an artistic medium.

During the intuitive creative process images begin to emerge which are abstracted in imagery, minimal in content and direct in feeling. The work for this exhibition has been inspired by her family experiences and recent studies of the Jurassic coast in Llantwit Major where she grew up.

Inspiration starts with field based studies involving mixed media drawing and photographs, followed by detailed sketchbook work in her studio which elaborates, interprets and develops images. This entails papermaking, printing and interpretive marks and movement of line within isolated areas, especially her trial circular constructions. Her extensive recording and comprehensive images in her sketchbook form inspired precursors to her final exhibition work.

Sasha works from her studio in Penarth, returning to Wales in 2010 having completed teaching and artist residency placements in schools and colleges near London. With works in many private collections, Sasha regularly exhibits in galleries and has been a member of the Makers Guild Wales since 2011.



nick davies

During continued study at Masters level Nick had the freedom to push personal boundaries with experimentation in printmaking, photography, film and sculptural techniques which led to a fascination with circles and ovoids found within natural phenomena. Nick's arts practice is informed by nature and therefore it is her aim to reintegrate nature into art through capturing the energy and rhythm of the natural world. Nature has been a fascination for artists for hundreds of years and has the capacity to evoke thought and emotion. Inspired by the landscape, her coastal environment is fundamental to her practice as a visual artist. Constructed clay forms inspired from organic shapes, or found natural objects (pebbles/rock strata) that are cast with plaster, have focussed her attention to looking at the more physical aspects of fragility and strength in the natural world.

Nick's inspiration for *'Standing Still'* aims to engage with the mystical and the *'other worlds'* viewed through the cylindrical aperture of a holed stone. The phenomenological approach to her practice focusses on the shaping and forming of nature's cycles associated with the imprint of time. The artistic responses have developed as freestanding sculpture, low relief wall carvings and experimentation with new materials, combining oxides with plaster to replicate the shale, limestone and Blue Lias found along the walks from Nash Point to Monkash. The combination of both manmade and natural objects are intended to signify time, erosion and the continuous journey of a rolling stone.

'The weight and form and texture felt in our hands relates us to the past and gives us a sense of universal force.

The beautifully shaped stone, washed up by the sea, is a symbol of continuity, a silent image of our desire for survival, peace and security.'

(Hepworth, B., 1961)

*An inspirational quote relating to a 'pebble' that Nick keeps on her desk from sculptor, Barbara Hepworth
1903 - 1975*



nick davies

*detail of 'a passage of time' (rolling stones):
plaster and oxides set in bespoke steel circles and arcs
(3 of four sculptural pieces)*



rear view of 'a *passage of time*'
oxides are intended to replicate the riverbeds, mudstone, blue lias
and limestone found on the heritage coastline



jayne and sasha



sasha kingston



jayne walker



jayne walker



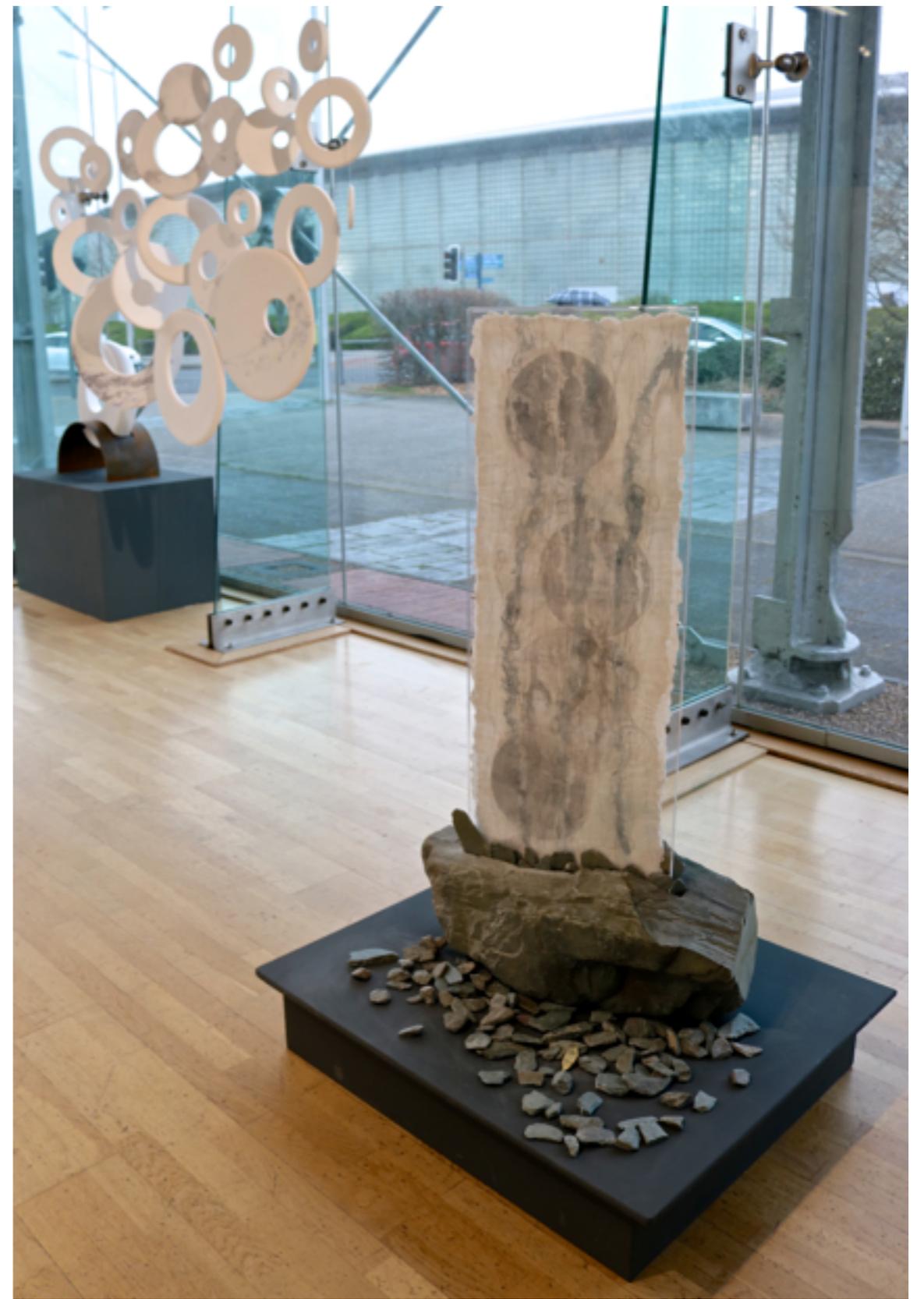
jayne walker



sasha kingston



whispering marks



sasha kingston



sasha kingston



whispering marks:
pulped paper, presented in
perspex and set into slate



'between the lines' slate, thread, drawn mark

sasha kingston



nick davies

'circling the square'

(part of a triptych series)

carved low relief plaster set over painted
background: 65cms x 65cms x 6cms



sasha kingston

'revealing traces'

pulped paper, print
displayed in perspex

jayne walker



shore platform

*Inspired by the geological feature of the same name, as seen at the Southerndown coast, South Wales.
The mirrored base reflects the drawing on the underside which represents geology/water. (hand carved crystalal plaster/pencil/wax)*



nick davies



view from the exterior gallery window

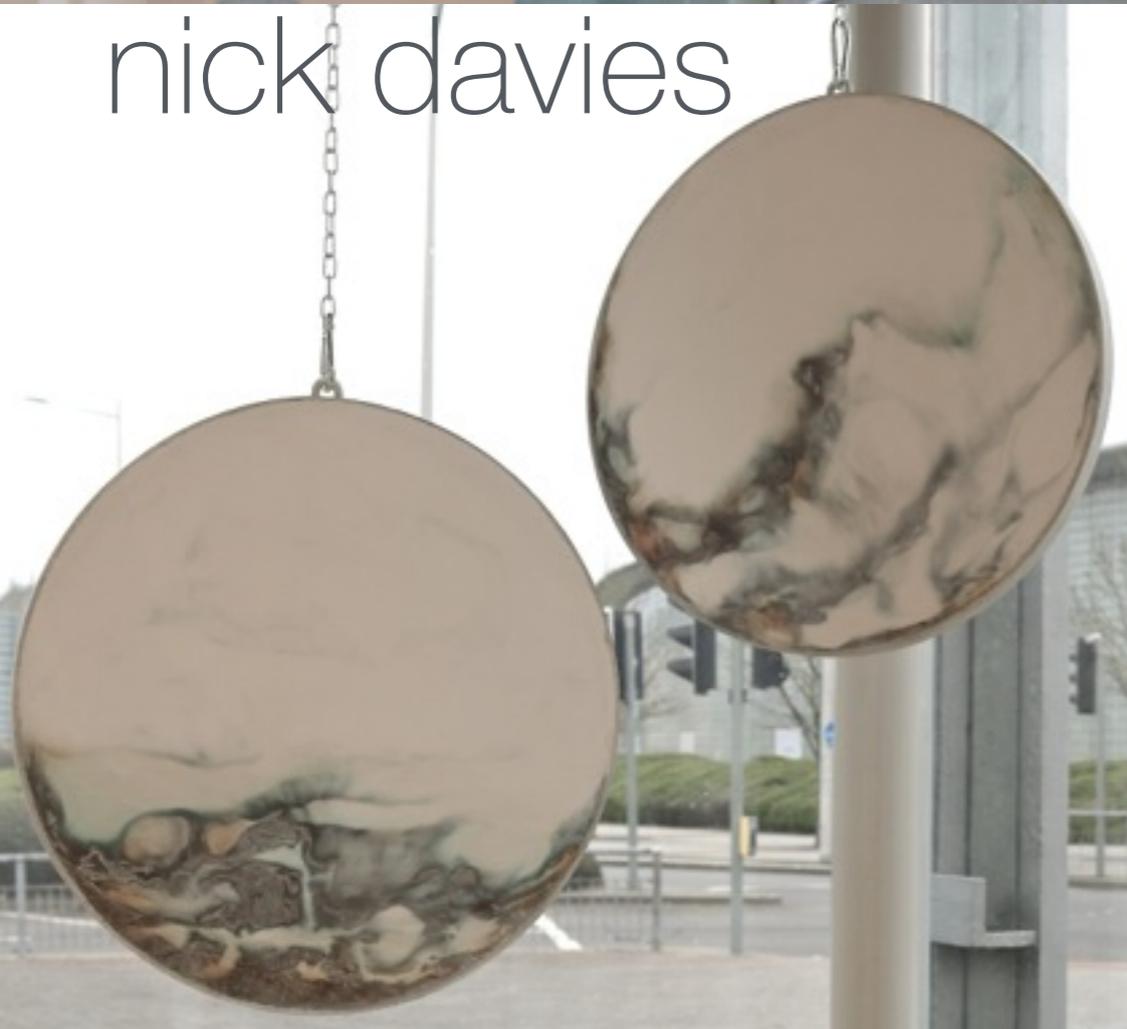


nick davies
men-a

*hand carved waxed plaster
set into bespoke steel arc
initially inspired by a visit to the men-an-tol healing stone
situated in Cornwall
recently adapted and placed in a similar arc to
complement the series of rolling stones - 2020*



nick davies

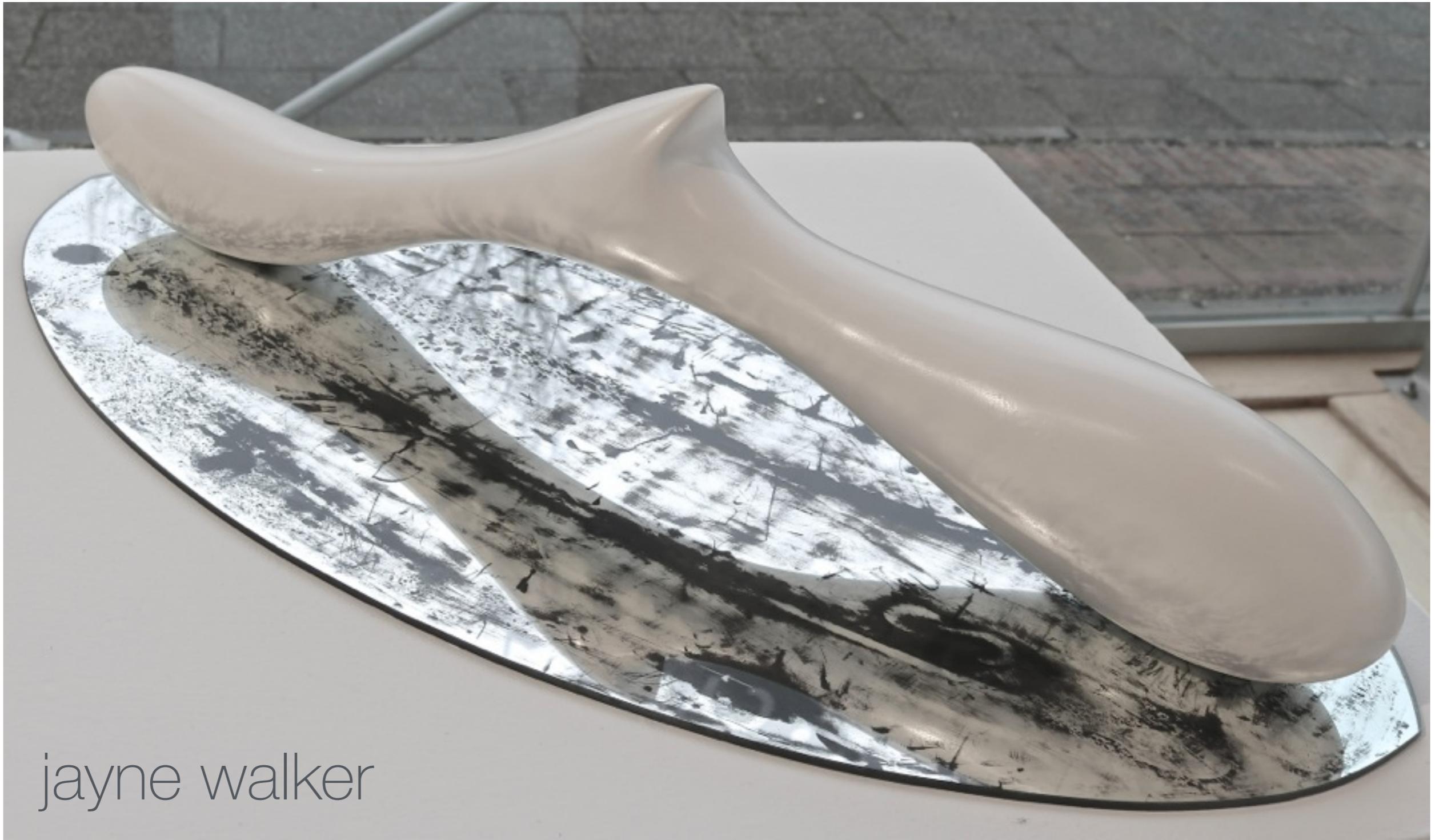


pocket watches: series 1

*inspired by the micro world of the coastline viewed through a holed stone:
plaster and oxides set into bespoke steel circles
(65cms diameter x 3.5cms)*



jayne walker



jayne walker





educational space

collected items, prototypes
and sketchbooks

'otherworlds' print on german
etching paper



images taken from shared walks at Nash Point - Monkknash
inspiring a new body of work created by the artists



educational space: collection of finds, sketchbooks and prototypes



nick davies



rolling pebble: biomorphic triptych
hand carved herculite plaster and limestone





sasha kingston

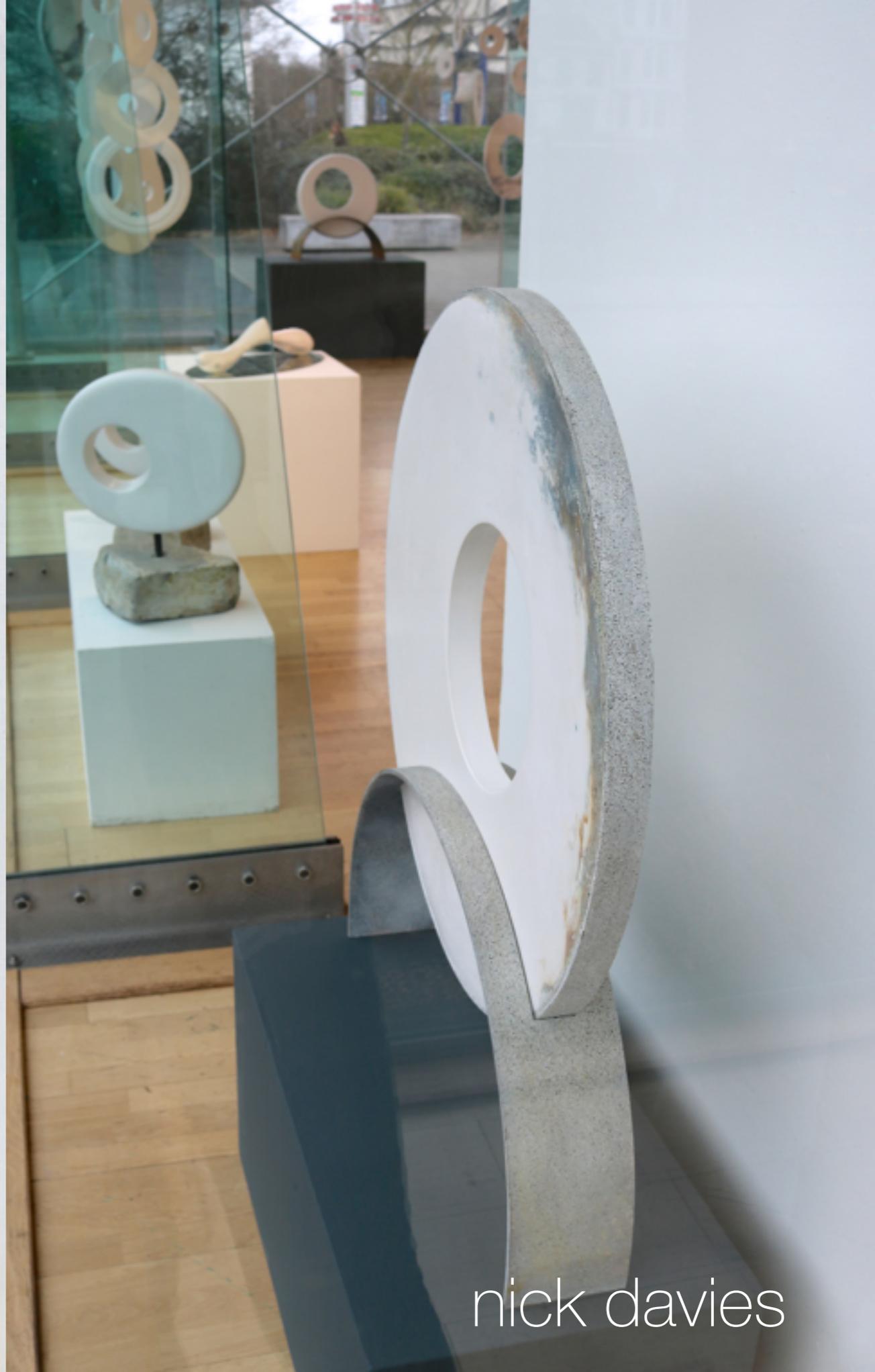
‘illuminated piece’

pulped paper, print, thread

light fittings set into perspex and mounted on slate/wood bases



*'a passage of time' rolling stones
part 1 of a series of 4 sculptures*

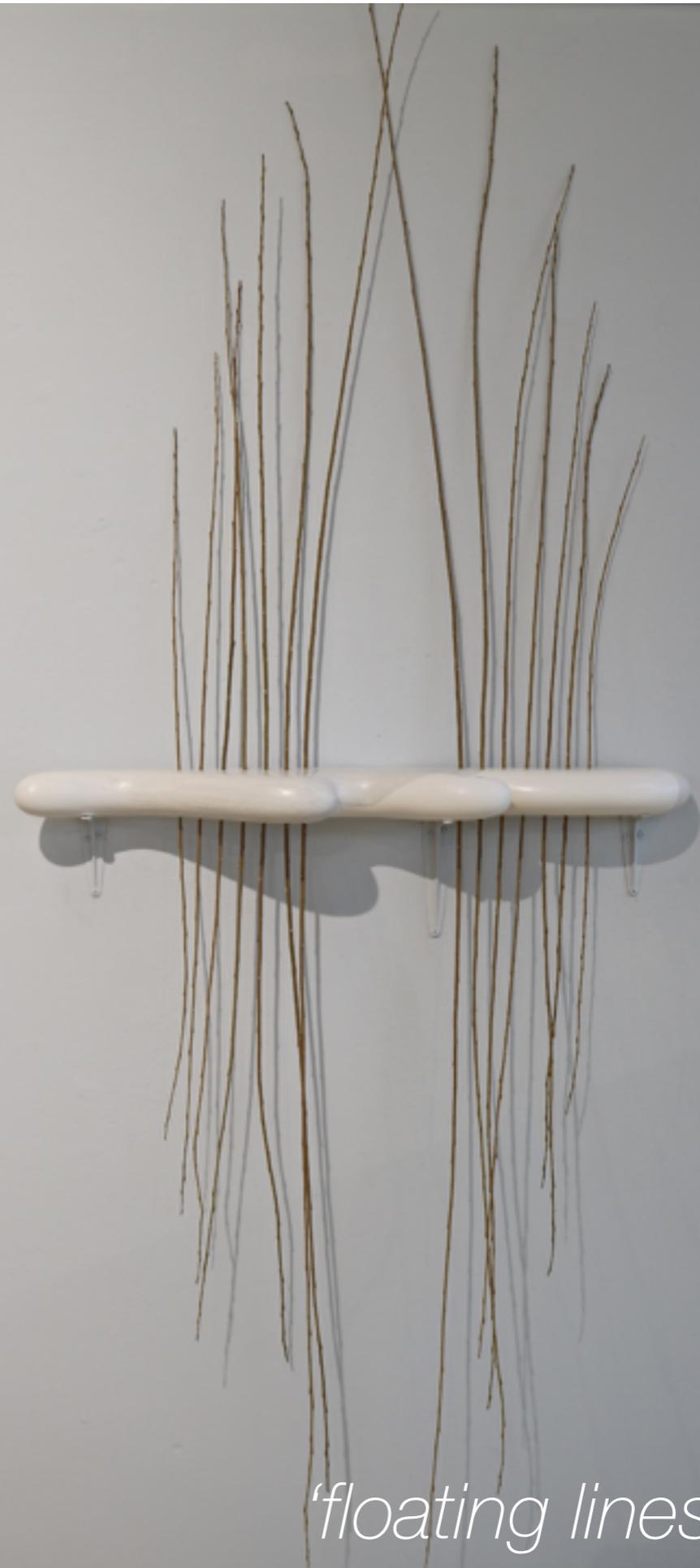


nick davies

jayne walker



'through to the quiet'



'floating lines'



detail of 'through to the quiet'



jayne walker

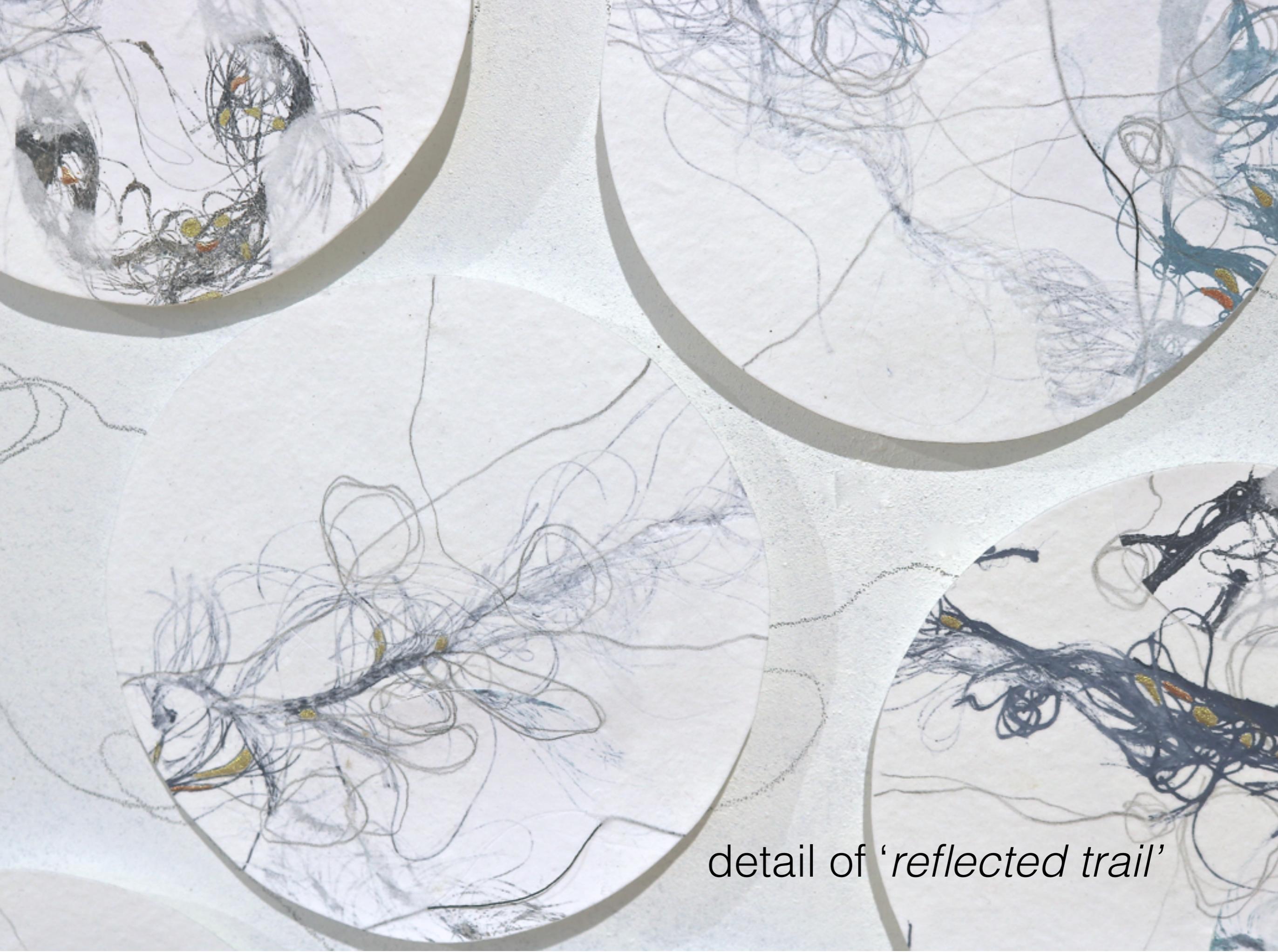
sasha kingston



'reflected trail'
individual pulped paper, print
on circular board



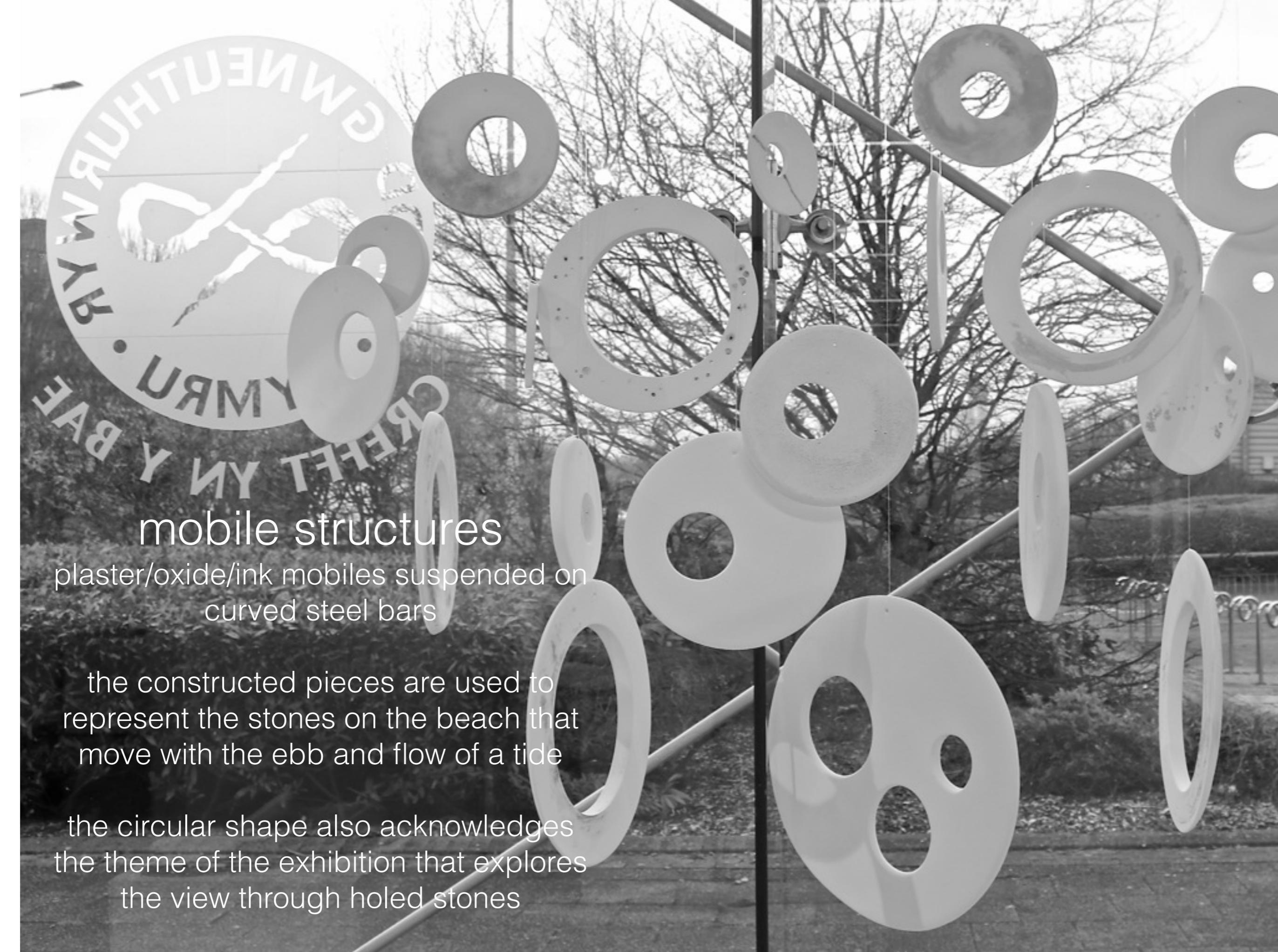
detail of 'reflected trail'



detail of *'reflected trail'*



Sasha Kingston
'reflected trail'
continued drawing



mobile structures

plaster/oxide/ink mobiles suspended on
curved steel bars

the constructed pieces are used to
represent the stones on the beach that
move with the ebb and flow of a tide

the circular shape also acknowledges
the theme of the exhibition that explores
the view through holed stones

Due to COVID-19 virus the Makers Guild Wales has taken the difficult decision to temporarily close the Craft in the Bay Gallery until further notice.

If you require any further information relating to the '*Standing Still*' exhibition or the featured artists; Nick Davies, Sasha Kingston or Jayne Walker, please contact:

Charlotte Kingston: Artistic Curator The Makers Guild in Wales
(email) charlotte@makersguildinwales.org.uk

Charlotte Kingston: Artistic Curator/Curador Artistig
The Makers Guild in Wales/Urdd Gwneuthurwyr Cymru
Craft in the Bay/Crefft yn y Bae
The Flourish/Y Rhodres
Lloyd George Avenue/Rhodfa Lloyd George
Cardiff Bay/Bae Caerdydd CF104QH
T:029 2048 4611
www.makersguildinwales.org.uk

Charity Number/Rhif Elusen 1113675
Company Number/Rhif Cwmni 5608888

Facebook/Twitter/Instagram @makerswales