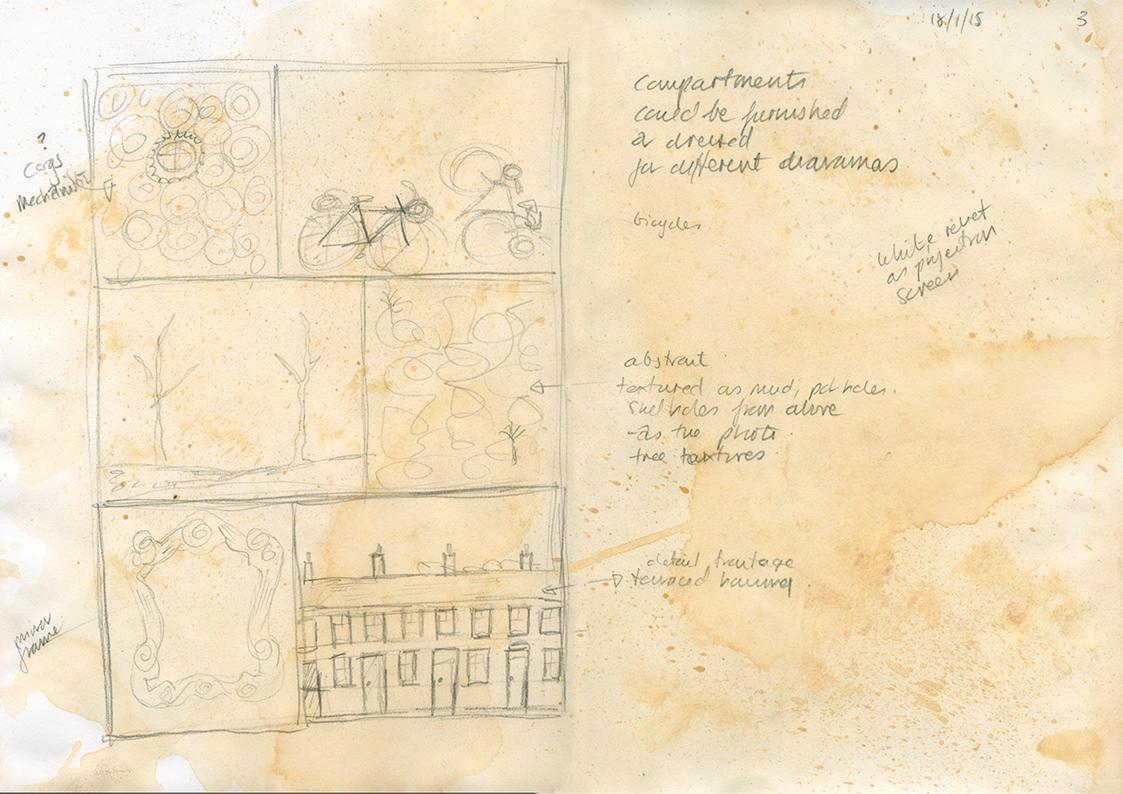
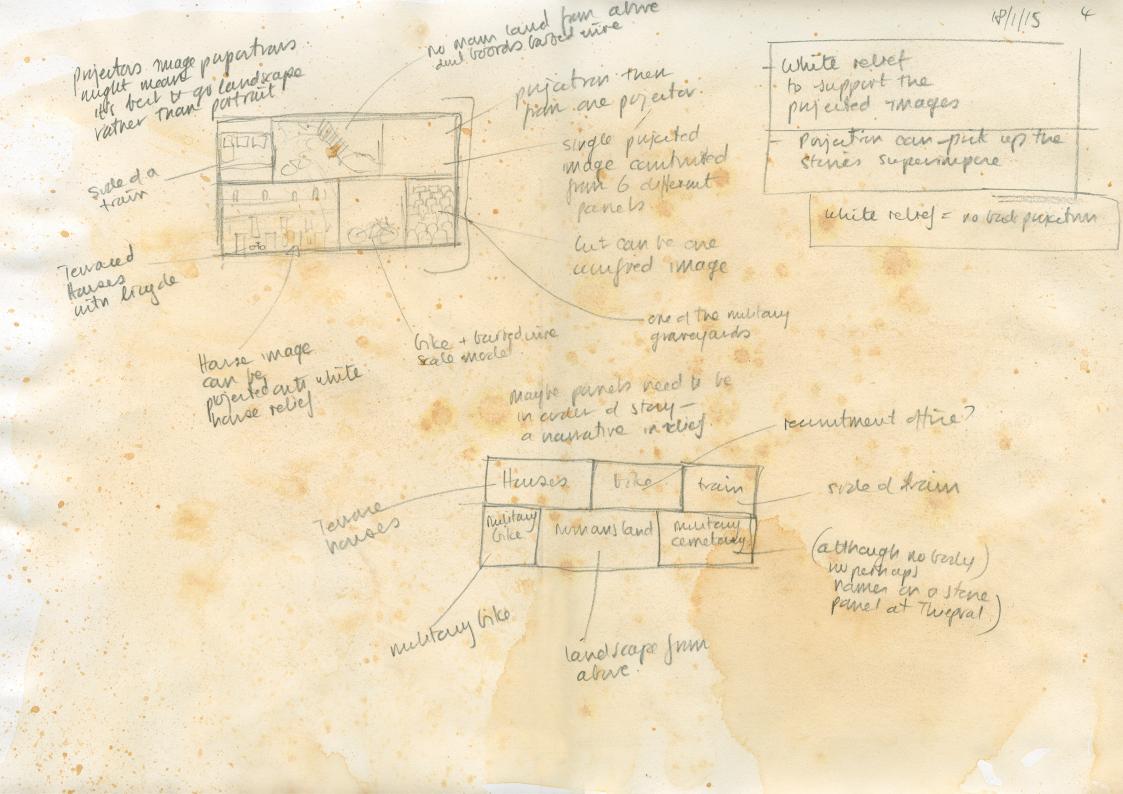
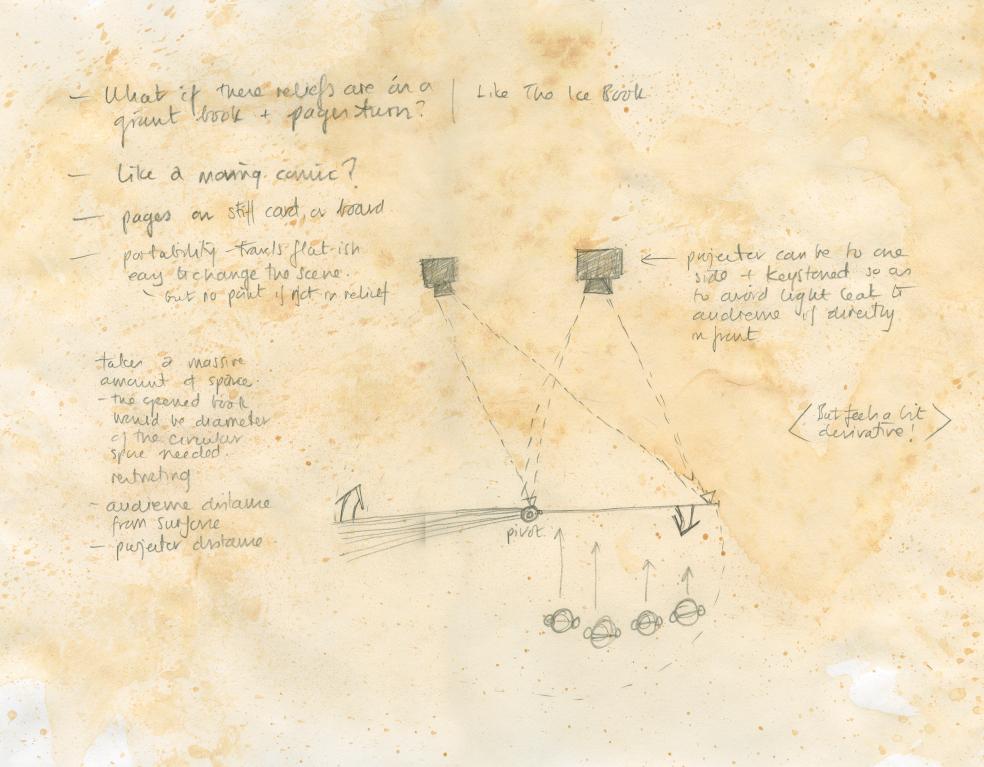
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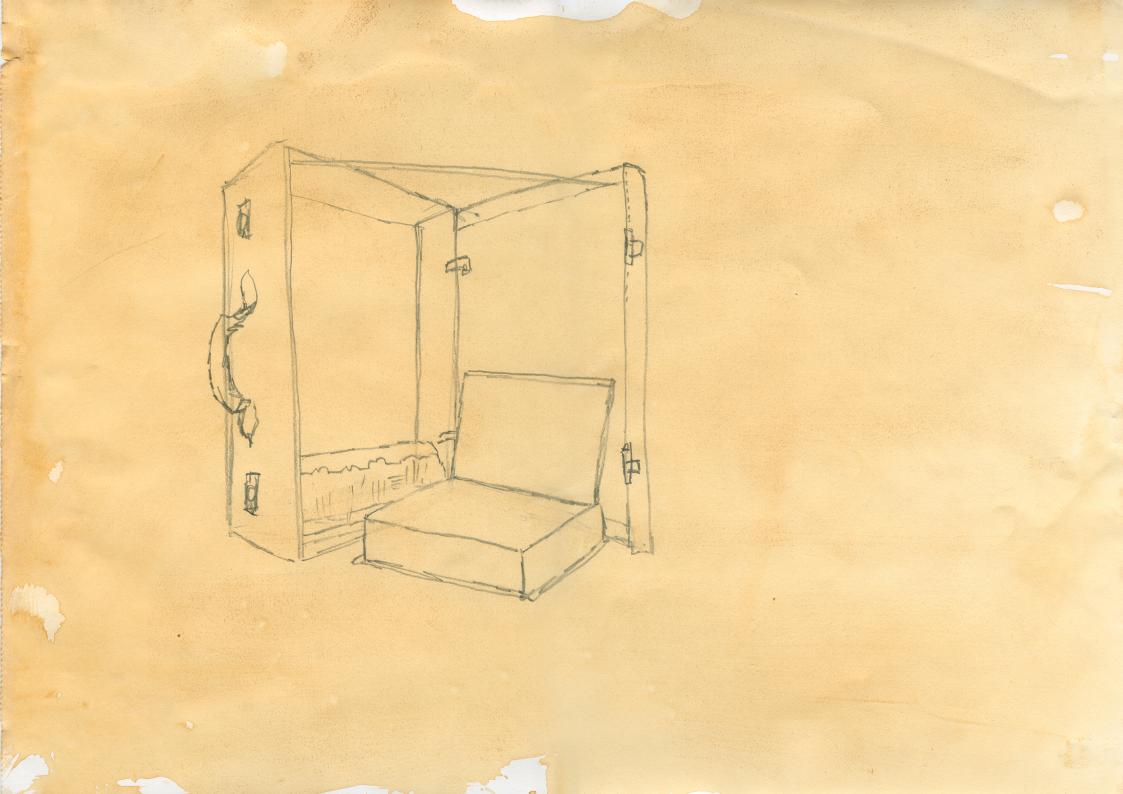
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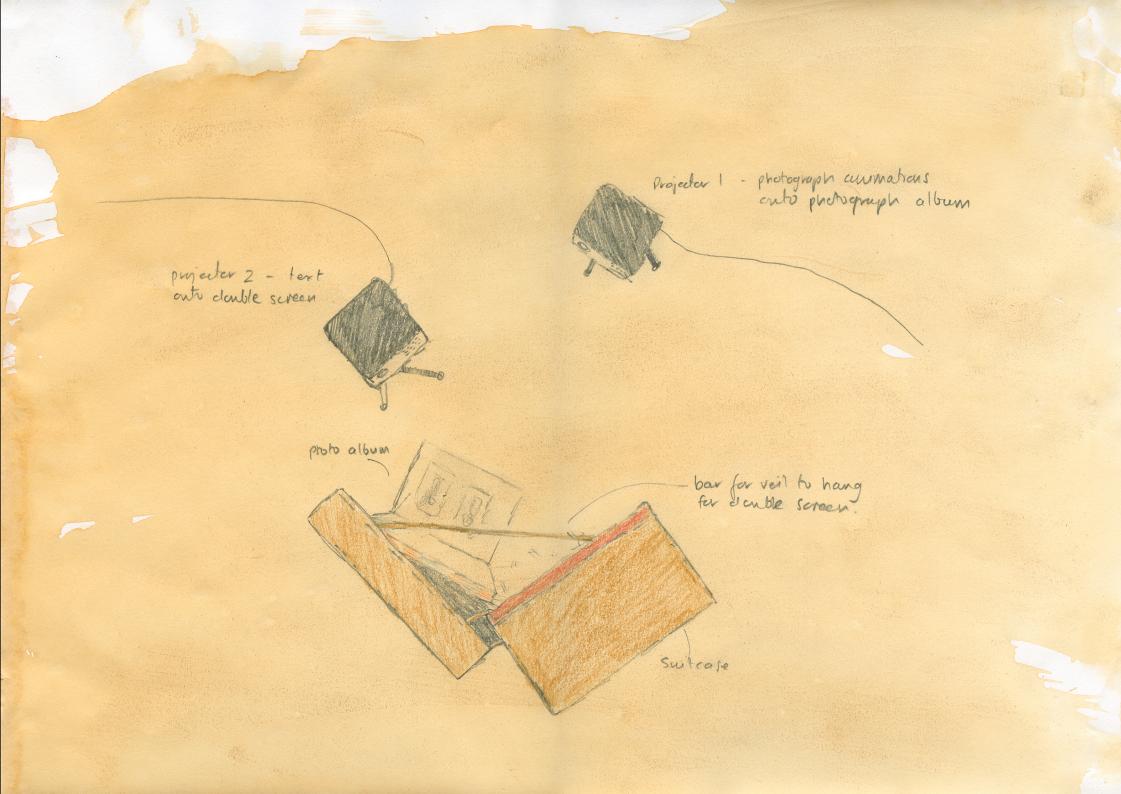






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Transcript

The Contemplative Art of Drawing: What I think as I Sketch

I've noticed with photoshopping that it makes me look. Look! Really look. Getting in close. Seeing faces intimately understanding the contours, the landscapes of faces. But I do not know their names...

So: I decide to **look** at the suitcase to see what emerges as I sketch and smudge. Is this an engagement with a different area – the theory of flow – M. Csikszentmihalyi.

Remembering my own things. Auto-ethnography of drawing and photoshopping...

I wonder how this 'site' might play into this theme. Site specific performance- I had not seen the connection before... Everything is connected! "only connect"

Site specific performance resonances here with the large installations I've done

- Picton castle Fairy Tale and Blodeuwedd
- Corsham
- Silence installation

I decide to undergo a visual exploration of something I cannot walk into! But a parallel immersing myself in the sites that are larger. Annette Kuhn – visual analysis of a photograph.

I have also noticed with a theatre designer friend that when I write I begin with images, where as she begins her designs from words. Perhaps there is no distinction: like the African kids in Botswana mixing up the words for dancing and singing and telling stories, because it's all the one activity to them. They dance stories, they sing them: they don't just tell them. This was their mechanism for remembering the past-oral transmission through the past in a way paralleling passage through a landscape facilitated by the aboriginal song lines.

This makes me realise why I am so loath to disturb or destroy or change the artefacts - they have an aura. They are connected to past and preservation seems a large part of this.

SSP - Leave only footprints, take only pictures.

And the memories in the smell of the fixative as I spray it over the pastel surface.

Someone has spilled something onto it

Sketching the outline

I must measure this case. Case the joint. Treat like I treat any site to be explored for installation. Examine its possibilities.

Looking at the tones

I begin to worry about my drawing skills which divert from the purpose. Perhaps tension is necessary because it makes me look again and I notice things about the case I've never seen before! There is a name pencilled softly onto the interior of the lid. I realise that the stitching is loose. That the metal around the fixings on the locks are rusted. And now I wonder about the hands that held the handle. The archaeology in the wear and tear of this object...

The name is hard to read because the graphite gleams in the light... Pauline Tegue... 4C.

Colouring and smudging

Apply the pastels, I remember the old set of pastels I had as a child. They were battered then. They had been my mother's. She felt she had been too young for them: that she had spoilt them by playing with them rather than making pictures with them. I resolve to find them in our stuffed attic. Stuff. That word again. Memory is the theory of stuff. Auras – Walter Benjamin. Resonances. Provenance – antique world phrase

Perhaps there's DNA in the dust!

It is solid. It is fragile

- two recesses- like an attic space.
- the suitcase is from an attic
- -I t must have held stuff once.

It has initials tooled onto its lid. "R.W." There is no way of finding out who R.W. was. I riff – Ronald Williams – and remember that I once worked with the playwright Roy Williams. Lovely man.

The lock doesn't work on one side

It has studs at each corner of its bottom side.

It has been mended. Badly.

Stuff – the theory of stuff – the postmodern theory of rubbish

There are lovely mottled textures in the leather of the lid and sides. The bottom is scuffed from all the floors and railway station platforms it has encountered.

To Follow up

- Site Specific Performance
- Annelle khan
- Walter Benjamin
- Auto ethnography