

Tacita Dean

4th September - 7th November
Gallery 2

See green section for Events

Tacita Dean

'Like the pages of an out-sized flip-book, Dean's dusty vignettes compose a delicate, open-ended motion picture.'

Frances Richard in Artforum, November 1997.

Tacita Dean explores the ways histories and myths are made and recounted. She is best known for her 16mm films and beautiful large-scale drawings, using chalk on blackboard - to depict imagined maritime scenes.

Dean is fascinated by the sea and attempts to chart and conquer it. She has previously made a series of drawings entitled 'The Roaring Forties' after the shipping forecast. Other works in recent years have often drawn on the tragic story of Donald Crowhurst, who, in 1968, disappeared at sea after losing all sense of time as he drifted across the Atlantic in a failed attempt to sail single-handedly round the world. Dean's fascination has been with Crowhurst's heroic if foolish ambition and with the thought

of his timeless drifting at sea, uncharted and unregulated.

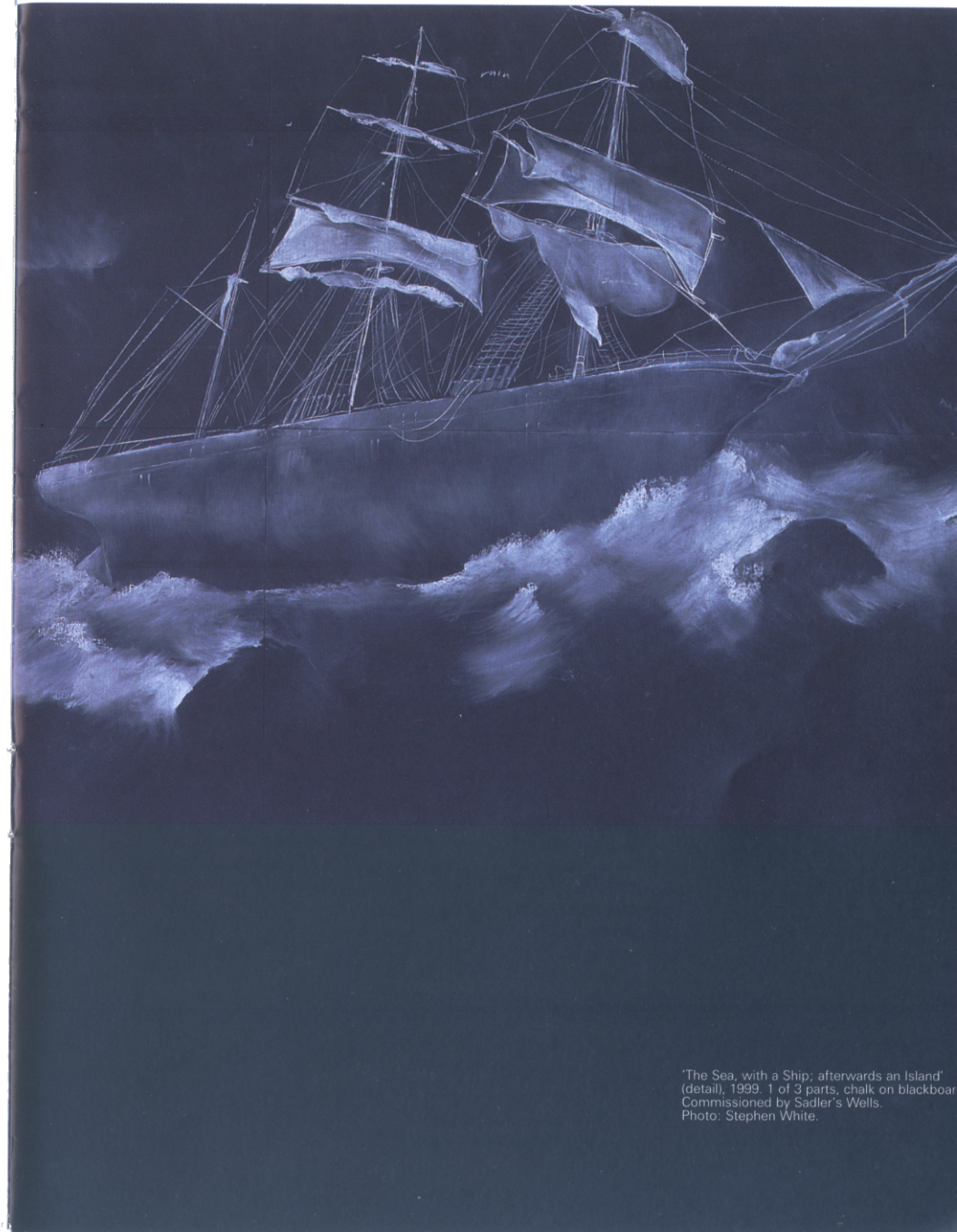
The sea is again the focus for her most recent drawings, exhibited at Dundee Contemporary Arts alongside a new short film, entitled 'Sound Mirrors'.

The title of Dean's drawings, 'The Sea, with a Ship; afterwards an Island' is borrowed from the opening stage direction of Shakespeare's play 'The Tempest'. The three large drawings suggest the setting against which a drama is due to unfold, implying both the story and the telling of the story. The drawings incorporate various phrases which emphasise their dramatic possibilities - like notes on a script, while their scale and format recall a cinema screen.

One of a generation of artists to work with film, Tacita Dean (b. 1965) was trained as a painter. She was included in the British Art Show in 1995 and was short-listed for the Turner Prize in 1998. This is her first solo exhibition in Scotland.

We are grateful to Frith Street Gallery, Judy Adam and Sadler's Wells Visual Arts Programme for their assistance with the exhibition.

To complement the exhibition, two film versions of William Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' can be seen at DCA Cinema: Derek Jarman's 'The Tempest' and Peter Greenaway's 'Prospero's Books'. For details please see the Cinema Guide.



'The Sea, with a Ship; afterwards an Island' (detail), 1999. 1 of 3 parts, chalk on blackboard. Commissioned by Sadler's Wells. Photo: Stephen White.