

## WORDLAND

### A film by Phil Coy

SUNDAY 6 APRIL, 7pm  
ARCOLA THEATRE

27 Arcola Street, London E8 2DJ  
+44 (0)20 7503 1646 [www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com)

4-27 APRIL, SAT/SUN 1-6pm  
CITY PROJECTS

46 Brooksby's Walk, London E9 6DA  
+44 (0)20 8985 2236 [www.cityprojects.org](http://www.cityprojects.org)

SATURDAY 24 MAY, 8pm  
OUTPOST GALLERY

10b Wensum Street, Norwich NR3 1HR  
+44 (0)1603 612 428 [www.norwichoutpost.org](http://www.norwichoutpost.org)

*Wordland* is ostensibly a film about the eroding east coast of England and the effects of floods on this area, particularly the well-known and devastating flood of 1953. Filmed in and around the small villages of Walcott and Cley next the Sea, Coy's film combines interviews, field recordings, archive footage and a specially commissioned sound score from musician, Alexander Tucker.

*Wordland* takes the apparently antipathetic forms and techniques of documentary filmmaking, the montage film, and structural film practices and collapses them into one another. Drawing on the history of, in particular, British experimental film, Coy's digitally produced film presents something like an elegy for the ambition of different experimental film practices. As documentary elements give way to structural elements his playful juxtapositions of processes and imagery produce a romantic portrait of loss.

The work has two very particular reference points: a painting, *The Last of England* (1855) by Ford Maddox Brown, and the 1988 film of the same name by Derek Jarman. Each of which conjured up romantic, apocalyptic visions of England. Coy's film also depicts an island under siege, but the island of *Wordland*, and the film's polemic, is less culturally and politically specific. Instead we see the deterioration of celluloid in archive film, the erosion of land and that of a nation's boundary coupled by the fragmented language of an elder generation.

With distinct melancholic notes the film opens with long establishing shots of the sea gently lapping the shores of North Norfolk. Gradually shots of the land are introduced, and before long voices emerge out of the slowly building sound score. Through the use of intertitles and isolated words and phrases that simultaneously refer to the erosion of the coast and to the language of filmmaking, *Wordland* builds a distinct narrative by combining non-linear editing with a form of cut-up poetics. Tucker's sound score uses drones, layered vocals and fractured song structures. His simultaneously bucolic and unsettling composition blends the musical genres of doom metal and folk. The pastoral themes and atmosphere evoked by Tucker's score and his structural approach to musical composition relate closely to Coy's own themes and working methods.

The film will premiere at a special event co-organised with LUX at the Arcola theatre and will feature a live soundtrack by Tucker, before being screened at an exhibition at City Projects' space. There will then be further presentations in Norwich and North Norfolk. For further details please visit the *Wordland* website [[www.word-land.info](http://www.word-land.info)]

**Phil Coy's** recent exhibitions include DiY, Ars Nova Museum, Turku, Finland (2007), Phil Coy/Dave Carbone, Andrew Mummery (2006), Test Signal, South London Gallery (2006), Omega, ev+a Biennial, Limerick (2006), Real Estate, ICA, London (2005), and Incommunicado, Cornerhouse, Manchester (2005). [<http://www.philcoy.info>]

**Alexander Tucker** is an ATP recording artist. He has released two albums on the ATP label, and has also recently collaborated with Stephen O'Malley (SunnO))) on the side project, Ginnungagap. [<http://www.atpfestival.com/atp-recordings/alexander-tucker/>]

**City Projects** are a visual art commissioning agency and research centre. Recent projects include *ADVENTURE: Showdown at the pig palace* by Mark and Stephen Beasley (2007), *Radical Loyalty* by Chris Evans (2002 to present), *True Love* by Graham Fagen (2005 - 2007) and *The Homerton Playscape Multiple Struggle Niche* by Nils Norman (2005). Projects in development include a new work by Stephen Willats and a major new film by Norwegian artist, Knut Asdam. [[www.cityprojects.org](http://www.cityprojects.org)]