

Elspeth Owen
Ben Varney
Helen Cook

DUST

Elspeth Owen

It is an inspiration to have been invited to show work at their place with Ben Varney and Helen Cook.

My new pieces have been made in an intense period following the death of my dear friend the painter Julia Ball. The starting point was the postcards that she and I exchanged daily over many many years. How to remember without clinging on, how to destroy in order to make anew? The rectangles of card have been torn, gathered in bundles, bulged and curved into ash-containing pods.

Have I made silk purses out of sow's ears? Dust coalescing into bundles?

Some new small hoards of DUST CLUSTERS, which have the extreme fragility of unfired clay, and some DUST DELIGHTS, from long ago.

three small BUNDLES low fired clay	£95 each
two large BUNDLES low fired clay	£200 each
remaining BUNDLES low fired clay	£150 each

DUST CLUSTERS unfired clay	£50 each
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DUST DELIGHTS chocolate box, dust, mice-sculpted walnuts	NFS
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BUNDLES



DUST
CLUSTERS

Ben Varney

There's a transformative element interpolated into all the work I do. In the drawings something figurative is moving on to biomorphic designs. I've been using a mixture of intense cross hatching with broken line and loose busy line to create form and delineate, and obscure form and distort.

The paintings hold similar values. Forms are denied total completion or total degeneration. Ash and chalk and sand are mixed into the paint grounding them - giving more to the physicality. Corrosion and disintegration are embodied in the work but the processes are processes of change that could be positive or could be dangerous.

Ben Varney has been studying drawing, painting and literature in London and Cambridge since 2008. Ben's BA is in Media and Culture and he recently graduated from Central St. Martins with an MA in fine art.

Oil paintings £3000 each

Series of drawings Moving Forms £250 each

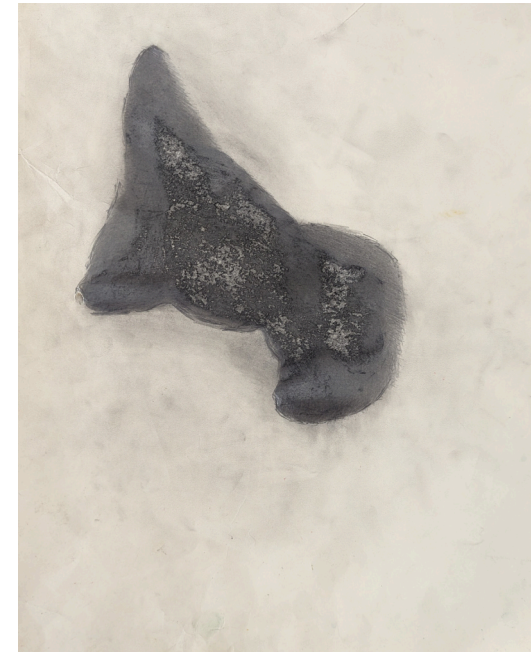
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Corroded Crossbar
Oil on canvas
119 x 61 cm



Moving form
HB pencil on paper
47 x 60 cm

Dr Helen Cook

I work with my materials to find how they express themselves best, and then use their language to tell a story.

For these paintings, I've used very strongly granulating watercolour paint and lots of water. This allows patterns of flow and wear to be recorded as the paint particles settle into the paper, much like dust accumulates in the corners of rooms.

The wear makes the image.

Many of these paintings were made next to the chalk streams around Cambridgeshire.

Helen is an artist and community activist living in Cambridge and working towards our continued existence on a just and finite planet.

Collection of all 16 paintings £4000

Single painting £250 unframed
£350 framed

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Dust stream
Watercolour frottage on paper
20 x 30 cm

DUST

You know something is real because it changes,
because it grows up, because it has limits.

The spectacle pretends that so much is
infinite. Unreal. Immature and treacherous.
Indulging the fantasy of unending devalues
everything that is not the fantasy. Life cast
aside for growth.

There are ends in all things. Each one is a
practice of embracing life and turning toward
dust. We tend to each speck and gather dust
with care.

This is the second in a continuing series of
exhibitions put on by BV&HC on the equinoxes. We are
very excited to exhibit Elspeth Owen's work this
autumn and are particularly moved by how it honours
Elspeth's relationship to another great Cambridge
artist, the much missed Julia Ball.

15 Acton Way	Sept 20 & 21 st 11-5 pm
Arbury, Cambridge	PV Sept 20 th 5-7 pm
CB4 3SD	By appointment til Oct 1 st

Programmes typed on handmade nettle paper £25
Edition of 5