Clyde Reflections – a short film and audio-visual installation

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Clyde Reflections is a meditative, cinematic experience based on the marine environment of the Firth of Clyde on the west coast of Scotland. It was funded by the 2013 Imagining Natural Scotland initiative which was created to ‘explore the interplay between the natural world and its representation, and promote deep collaboration and knowledge exchange between the creative and scientific sectors.’

Produced by artist Stephen Hurrel and social ecologist Ruth Brennan, the film features underwater and microscopic footage, combined with voice recordings of seven people who have a close relationship with, or specialist understanding of, the Firth of Clyde. These include a retired fisherman, a marine biologist, a diver, a marine conservationist, a spiritual leader and a physical oceanographer.

Brennan conducted unstructured interviews around a series of themes with these individuals, recorded by Hurrel, with a focus on what the individuals perceived to be 'natural' and 'not natural' in the Firth of Clyde. Led by Hurrel, both worked together to combine the documentary-style approach of the interview stage with a more ambient, meditative and poetic rendering of the material.

By engaging with people who connect deeply with their environment, Clyde Reflections presents a multi-perspective representation of a particular marine area in order to challenge a simplistic representation of this environment. The film provides a creative example of how 'landscape' is not a fixed entity, or separate from people, but is dynamic in terms of its socio-ecological properties as well as how it can be perceived.

The objective of Clyde Reflections is to open up space for contemplation by reflecting the unfixed, shifting nature of relationships between people and place.

The art-science collaborative process is described in-depth at http://www.sams.ac.uk/ruth-brennan/clyde-reflections-pdf. The film can be viewed online at http://vimeo.com/89793693. It will be installed at the Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, from May-July 2015.

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