

# Sidney Cooper Gallery

St Peter's Street  
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## Le Rêve de Newton

Premiere 27<sup>th</sup> July, 6 - 8.30 pm



*Every moment, is the present. Time snatched away  
from the instant future to be what I'm doing now.*

In his recent work **Juan delGado** has created an atmospheric three-screens projection focusing on concepts of remembrance, sport and landscape, transforming Sidney Cooper Gallery into a mysterious & evocative space. Produced as a result of his artist in residence at the Department of Sports, University of Kent and supported by Dada-South, *Le Rêve de Newton* is part of a series of works in which the artist explores how personal memories (*Suspended Reverie*, 2006-07) are strongly rooted to the landscape.

The **Hoo Peninsula** shelters the river Medway, forming a buffer and distinctive territory on the Thames Estuary; the wide ridge at the core of the peninsula is a solid backbone flanked by vast open grazing marshes to the West and the more secluded wetlands of Yantlet Creek to the east. Beyond that, the Isle of Grain seems separate and remote, despite the constant stream of heavy lorries on the A228 to service the industry and container terminal there. It is a large-scale, exposed rural landscape, where domestic, rather than 'urban' villages and open farmlands are juxtaposed with expansive coastal marshes and clusters of huge industrial buildings and military ruins.

*Le Rêve de Newton*, filmed on location in the nature reserve of the Grain Tower, Northward Hill, Cliffe Pools... in what Charles Dickens described as a "*dark flat wilderness intersected with mounds and gates, with scattered cattle feeding on it*", is delGado's poetic reflection on ageing, vulnerability and the changing landscape as well as an exploration of the politics of sport and the body.

Working alongside with the writer **Pauline St Marie**, he has produced a piece in which text & image collaborate to create a narrative dialogue concerning energy & power; health & longevity; disability & ability; death & decay. We see nature, wildlife and old buildings, places abandoned that have fallen into disrepair.

The artist described the work as a '*journey into a landscape that emanates with the mystery of a story to be unfolded*'. In the work the gleam of the lights from a smoky factory punctuate the imminence of dawn; the delicacy of the grass swaying in the wind and the haunting presence of the Grain Tower, the rhythmic seagulls' flight mesmerize us alongside with the words of a senior cyclist who wanders around the woods and seems to come to what will be his final race.

The installation creates an impressionistic, yet contemplative and hypnotic insight. Like many of the artist's works, it rejects conventional narrative film language in favor of an evocative perception of the human experience of growing old. The audience is encouraged to explore the juxtaposition of one screen to another screen, to question commonly held preconceptions about sport & fitness.

In 2001, delGado gained a MA in Media Arts at the University of Westminster awarded by the **AHRB**. Since, he has been producing an extensive body of work -combining photography, installation & video - relating to the subjects of displacement & identity. In 2002 he was awarded an artist-in-residence at the **Wellcome Trust** & a New Media Bursary by the organisation **Artsadmin** to develop ideas on representation of madness & creativity.

In collaboration with the **London Metropolitan University** and as part of the **Artists Access to Arts Schools** scheme, delGado produced *Flêches Sans Corps*, a multimedia installation that deals with the traumatic experience of the so-called 'illegal' immigrants.

Recently, the Colombian Ministry of Culture and The British Council invited him as a Visiting Artist at the University of Los Andes, Bogotá, to develop *The Flickering Darkness*. This work will premiere at the Festival TINAG (This is Not a Gate Way) in October 2010.

More info: [www.thisisnotagateway.net](http://www.thisisnotagateway.net)

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***Le Rêve de Newton***

3 Channel Installation  
**Duration:** 8 minutes  
**Format:** HD / MiniDV  
**Production:** June 2010

***Directed & Produced by:***

Juan delGado

***Script & text:***

Pauline St Marie

***Camera:***

Andy Kelleher

Sandra Tabares

Allan Birstow

***Still Photography:***

Chemi Fernandez

***Editor:***

Finbar Cahill

***Location Researchers:***

Gislind Köhler, Mando Stathi

***Director Assistants:***

Diana Gomez, Veronica Perez

***Supported by:***

University of Kent  
Dada-South

Filmpro  
Cremer Projects  
White Films  
**With thanks to:**  
Tania Holland