Carolyn Shepherd

Map Works

Artist Statement

September 2011

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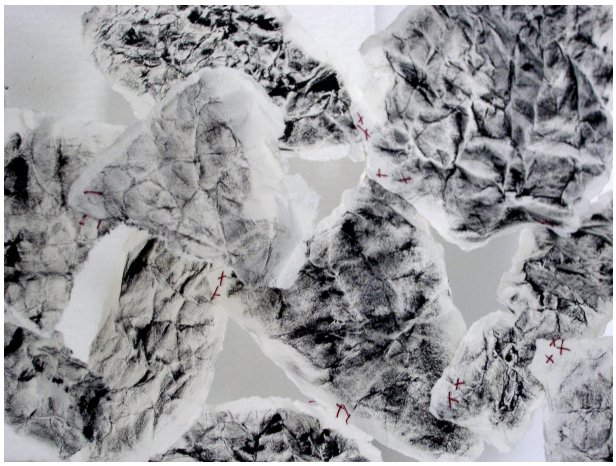
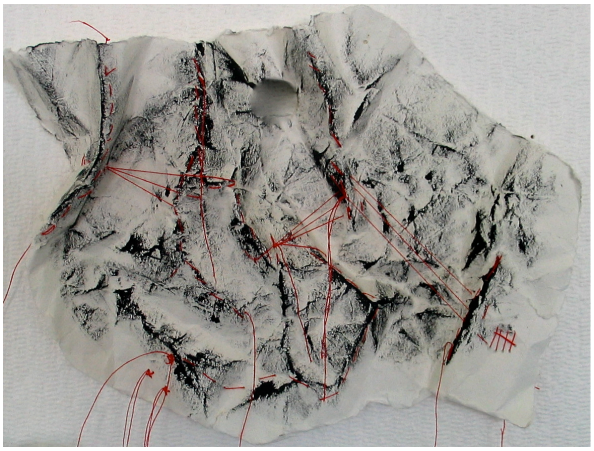
Studio Work

at The Millennium Centre, Leasowe

Summer 2011

I've been exploring the theme of maps and systems of mapping our surroundings. Working in the art studio at The Millennium Centre in Leasowe during the Summer of 2011, I have been experimenting with ways of creating new maps that reflect my personal life experiences.

Maps give us a traditional system of documenting the landscape that represents our surroundings as a possible network of routes, contour lines, continuous coastlines and connecting rivers. If we rearranged the traditional map to illustrate our personal life it would be fragmented and would tell a rich story based on our own life experiences.

My work in progress in the studio explores ways of representing these personal journeys to make new maps. I am tearing, stitching, blotting out and writing over existing pieces of map. I am altering maps to create new terrains and networks that represent personal memories, life changing experiences, hopes and fears.

I will be using these ideas to create new work in response to my recent research visit to Norway (funded by an A-N bursary) and I am looking to create a new map of Norway that incorporates personal journeys of people who live there. This will involve collaboration with Norwegian people to provide their life experiences for the new map. Leasowe has a rich Viking history which may give the map a connection to the local culture of that area. This will result in a small collection of work that will be shown in 2012.