

siren

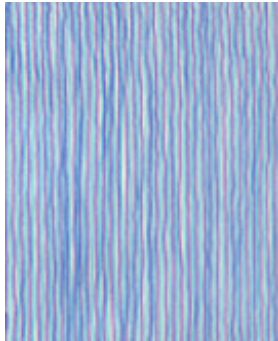
a new *bookscape* by Alec Finlay and Chris Watson

Here I am, here I am, waiting to hold you
Here I am, here I am, waiting to enfold you

siren is a new collaboration between Alec Finlay and Chris Watson – a field recording of a sung performance by Clive Powell and Maria Jardardottir, performed in a Northern harbour. For *siren* the singers were invited to reprise a line from Tim Buckley's 'Song to the Siren' and extend it into a litany. Chris Watson is a leading nature recordist, recognised internationally for his innovative sound art. For *siren* he has composed an intense poetic field of sound. 'The swelling flow of a high tide that morning against the stonework of the pier masks each of the opening lines and draws the listener to an individual voice in a sea of sound. (Chris Watson)

'The singers are separate, alone on their pier. Emotionally *siren* was always concerned with aloneness and a quality of drowning; drowning in desire or a desirable sensation of immersion, womblike. The amniotic quality is located in repetition, as the singers slow their performance down, descend into the breath, into the body; as they sing to someone, sing within themselves, sing the absence.' (Alec Finlay)

siren is the fourth in a series of *booksapes* – an innovative series of publications created by Alec Finlay and platform projects, exploring extended experiences of reading.



Artist:	Alec Finlay
Sound composition:	Chris Watson
Featuring:	Maria Jardardottir and Clive Powell
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Alec Finlay is an artist, poet and publisher. He lives and works in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Alec is currently Visiting-Artist at Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Recent books include *Shared Writing*, *Ludwig Wittgenstein: There Where You Are Not* and *Wind Blown Clouds*. *booksapes* was preceded by *pocketbooks* (2000-02) and *small press* series (2002-05).

Chris Watson is a sound recordist with a passionate interest in wildlife and atmospheres. He was a founder member of Cabaret Voltaire and a member of the Hafler Trio. As a freelance recordist for film, TV & radio, Chris specialises in natural history and documentary locations. He is represented by Touch and has released three solo CDs; *Outside the Circle of Fire* (1998), *Stepping into the Dark* (1996), and *Weather Report* (2003) and his latest release *Number One* (2005) with KK.NULL and z'ev. For further information, www.chriswatson.net.

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booksapes is published by platform projects (formally *pocketbooks*) - a creative organisation based in Newcastle-upon-Tyne that produces innovative and collaborative visual arts and literature projects. With new publications encompassing public art, sound recordings and digital animation platform projects encourages a generative approach to all art forms.

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