

## Tacita Dean

(Canterbury, Great Britain, 1965)

After studying painting, Tacita Dean turned to a variety of artistic expressions, such as drawing, photography, and video, focusing her attention on analogic films shot in 16mm. In her work she analyzes unusual situations and extraordinary phenomena, personal goals, and utopias, mixing reality and fiction.

The artist proposes a meditation on the cinematographic medium, concentrating specifically on the language and narrative structure of film, as well as on its mechanical production. Her works reveal the contemplative attitude of the artist with regard to the surrounding world; every individual figure, landscape, or object that is filmed exposes certain details about itself in a solid, eternal time, as if it were part of a still life in a painting. In a rarified atmosphere, Tacita Dean represents nature as a storehouse of collective memories and forgotten stories that unexpectedly become visible.

Some works concentrate on the investigation of natural phenomena. In *The Green Ray* the artist films a sunset over the sea, with the intention of recording the legendary green ray that appears on the horizon only under specific atmospheric conditions. Similar themes are addressed in *Diamond Ring*, which immortalizes a solar eclipse that took place in Cornwall and in *Banwl* in 1999, where the artist records the same event in real time, observing how it affects the vegetation and animals in a farm. *Amadeus (Swell Consopio)*, the work in the CRT Collection, was created in 2008 for the first Folkestone Triennial and shot during a difficult crossing of the English Channel from Boulogne to Folkestone on a small fishing boat, the *Amadeus*.

The duration of the film, 50 minutes, is the actual time needed to cross the Channel, and the swaying of the movie camera creates in the viewer the sensation of really being on board the boat. All these works reveal an obsessive attention to every individual naturalistic detail, so that the view changes in relation to moments of light and darkness determined by the passage of day and night, or by atmospheric phenomena such as an eclipse. (EV)