WIDOWHOOD

BRONWEN BUCKERIDGE Published by Matt's Gallery London 2021

Where 27 pigeons raced from Matt's Gallery in London to their home lofts in Kent on a Sunday afternoon in September 2018.

Widowhood. Jealousy. The Darkness. These are some of the closely held secrets and ritual practices used by pigeon racers to motivate their birds to fly faster on race day.

Taking its name from the racing strategy and Bronwen Buckeridge's 2018 exhibition at Matt's Gallery, Widowhood is an artist's book comprising an extended race report, which documents the passage of the pigeons sprinting home from the gallery in London to their lofts scattered around the Kent countryside.

In the form of a parallel text, Widowhood tracks the movements of one of the widowed pigeons against the banter of the pigeon men waiting at the lofts for the birds to return. Gathering together images from the marking up and release of the birds on race day, this artist's book is a poignant exploration of the private act of waiting, and a shared narrative of love, loss and longing.

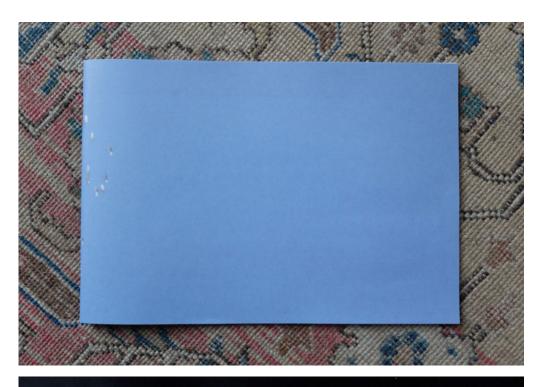
Widowhood was officially launched with an event at Matt's Gallery London in September 2022, and then at artist-led space D.U.S.T. in Penzance in December 2022. Both events comprised of a reading from the text and an ambient field recording of a pigeon loft.

Format

Softback | Pages: 56 | Ilustrations: 9 colour, 37 b&w | Dimensions: 190mm × 275mm Weight: 128g | Edition of 200 | ISBN: 978-1-912717-13-2

Keywords

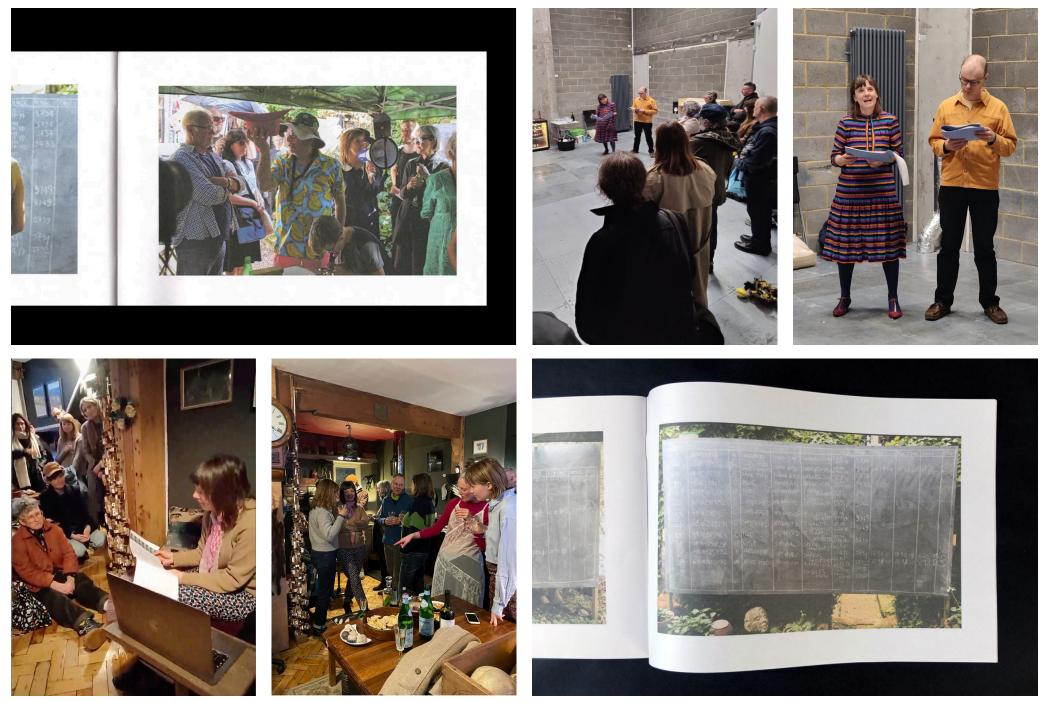
Pigeon racing | Ritual practices | Embodied knowledge | Dialogue | Wildness Acts of waiting | Magic | Non-human skill | Kinship | Field recording Rural communities



thinking, they should be here. P'raps the wind has got stronger, slowing them up. That could be And then someone else's birds come in... And you think, yeah, but where's mine? So... we can assume Peter is in the loft catching Or ... he's dropped the ring number on the floor and can't find it. [laughing, off mic] He's right. He's dropped it? Bromwen [line beeps] Someone's coming in. Who's that? Hello Bronwen. It's Wayne. Bronwen Wayne! Have you got one? Wanne No, I'm still waiting. Has Jaimie got 'ent? Not yet. Well, they think Peter has tried getting in the loft he's dropped the rubber ring, and now can't find it. Errr, we're not entirely sure that is true. Probably is. How far do I fly Bronwen? For you? It's 48 miles and 246 yards Risht, so mine should have been here







Clockwise images 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 courtesy Matt's Gallery London. Images 8, 9 courtesy Lucy Willow at D.U.S.T.