

Published February 2018  
to accompany the exhibition  
**Plumb Poltergeist**  
Aaron Angell and Ian Law

At Art Exchange  
University of Essex  
23 February – 24 March 2018

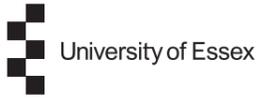
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# PLUMB POLTERGEIST AARON ANGELL IAN LAW



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**AARON ANGELL**

Aaron Angell studied at the Slade School of Art and is founder of Troy Town Art Pottery. His work is concerned with hobbyist cultures, non-canonical history and marginal methods of image making. He is interested in ceramics within the expanded notion of sculptural practice, divorced from the terrain of craft and design. Troy Town Art Pottery is a radical and psychodelic ceramic workshop for artists that was set up in response to the increased levels of artists working in ceramics in London, without access to kiln processes. Born in 1987, Aaron Angell lives and works in London. He has exhibited at Tate St Ives, Rob Tufnell Gallery, Studio Voltaire and has a solo exhibition at Kunstsverein in Freiburg, Germany opening soon.

**IAN LAW**

Ian Law trained at Camberwell College of Arts and the Royal College of Art, London. He is a process-based artist whose work investigates authorship and subjectivity, often working with previously used materials – repositioning or reforming them – in order to highlight the objects' agency or autonomy. Law's practice reflects upon the transient status of an art object as it passes from studio to exhibition space and back again. Elements of chance create both space and boundaries for further investigation and interaction in his work. Born in 1984, Ian Law lives and works in London. He has exhibited internationally, including Rodeo in Istanbul and London, Cripta 474 in Torino and recently contributed to CONDO, London.

**ON SIMONE WEIL**

**Wednesday 21 March, 6–7.15pm**  
Art Exchange

Dr Alex Carter and Dr Matthew Bowman create a platform for discussion on the extraordinary work of French philosopher Simone Weil, who has been influential in the making of Ian Law's recent work.

**All our events are free**  
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[artexchange.org.uk](http://artexchange.org.uk)

**ARTIST'S TALK**

Join Aaron Angell and Ian Law to celebrate their exhibition of new work Plumb Poltergeist.

**Wednesday 7 March, 6–7.15pm**  
Art Exchange

Artist Aaron Angell joins curator Jess Tyman to discuss the themes and ideas behind Plumb Poltergeist, an exhibition born out of collaboration with Ian Law.

**HEY CLAY!**

Your chance to experiment with clay and make your own table-top ceramic sculptures under the guidance of our expert tutor. All materials provided.

**Wednesday 14 March, 6–8pm**  
Art Exchange

**LAUNCH PARTY**

**Thursday 1 March, 6–8pm**  
Art Exchange

PLUMB  
POLTERGEIST  
AARON ANGELL  
IAN LAW

23 February – 24 March 2018

Artists Aaron Angell and Ian Law present *Plumb Poltergeist*, an exhibition of new work developed through conversations between the artists over the last six months.

The exhibition centres around four collaborative ceramic works made by Aaron Angell and Ian Law based on the forms and motifs of *cineraria*, ancient funerary chests used to store the ashes of the deceased. Law encountered examples of Etruscan *cineraria* during a visit to San Gimignano, a medieval town in Tuscany that influenced the University of Essex campus, with its large residential towers and interconnected squares. Made in Angell's Troy Town Art Pottery in London, these boxes incorporate shino glazes, which are a current interest of Angell's, and are partially glazed with the ash of a plum tree uprooted by Law.

Trees emerge again in a new *hinterglasmalerei* painting by Angell. Made by reverse-painting a sheet of glass, it is as a stylised interpretation of a poster of Richard Doyle's (1824-1883) *The Enchanted Tree*, a scene of fairy folk dancing beneath the root of a giant tree, that once hung in a Chemistry student's Tawney Tower bedroom in the 1970s.

In response to the conversations surrounding *The Enchanted Tree* Law presents *on Simone Weil Avenue*, works made on location in Ashford, Kent. The road, named in honour of the French philosopher Simone Weil (1909-1943), is a non-residential stretch that serves only a retail park and chain hotel. The resulting photographs document what happens when you conflate the life and work of Simone Weil with the outlets of the avenue.

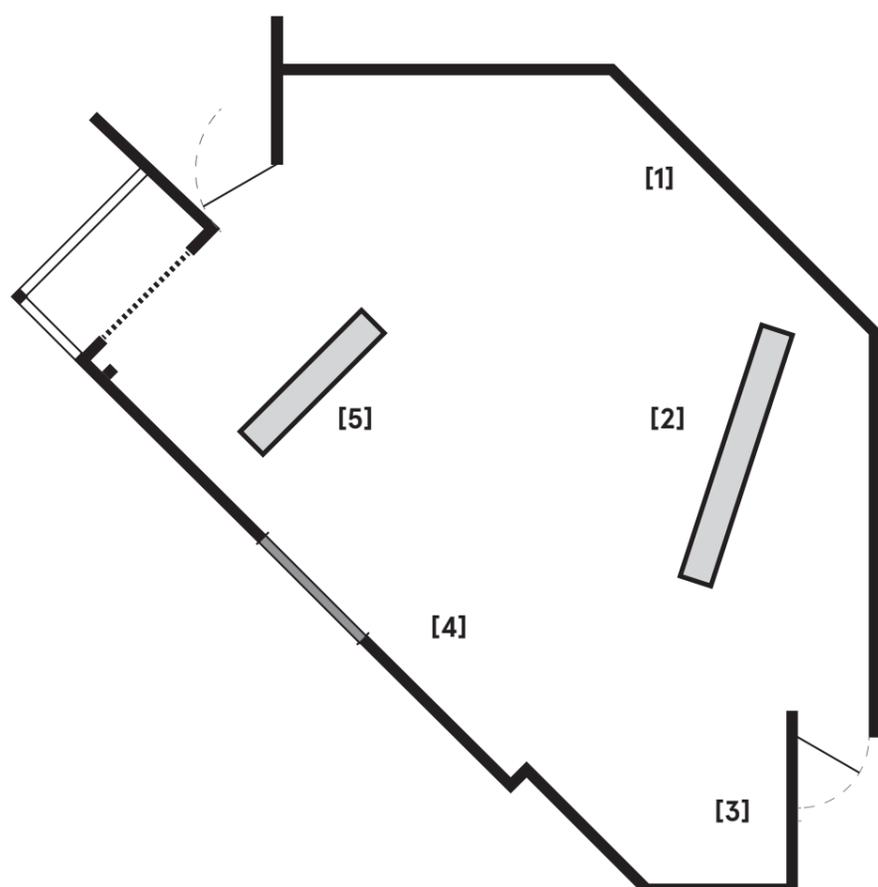
Each photograph is set within the framework of replica Barbie Dream House flooring. Law was interested in the 'proposed ways of living' for workers which Simone Weil writes of in *The Need For Roots*. Weil places the workplace closer to the domestic setting, a move away from what she found to be the deadening, oppressive site of the factory.

Site visits to the University of Essex's Colchester campus were important to the development of this exhibition, with Angell and Law drawn to the concise, socialistic architecture of the campus, and the contrasting landscape which this sits within. Both thought of the site as something like a folly park, or a highly crafted bucolic vision once organized by

Capability Brown. They were particularly drawn to Lake House, a stilted residence visible in the distance from the busy hive-like centre of the campus.

The artists began to reimagine and reposition its interior within the gallery as a domestic fantasy. In this vein, Angell presents his personal collection of early inflatable furniture, dating from the mid 1950s. These 'terrarium footstools' presage both the floral reveries of the hippy counterculture, and its anxieties, referencing both fanciful kitsch and the radical biospheric and pneumatic architecture of the 1970s. Law brings together the domestic source and by-products of *on Simone Weil Avenue* in the painting *after Michal's toothbrush, toothpaste*. The work is an enlarged copy of a drawing of factory-made products sketched on an egg by the actor featured in *on Simone Weil Avenue*. It is painted in the carrier bag brown of US-based, employee-owned supermarket chain Publix, which was used by an eBay seller as packaging to ship the original Barbie Dream House to Law in the UK.

PLAN OF EXHIBITION



LIST OF WORKS

**[1] Aaron Angell**  
*after The Enchanted Tree*  
by Richard Doyle  
2018  
acrylic on glass  
80x60cm

**[2] Aaron Angell and Ian Law**  
*cineraria*  
2018  
Various dimensions  
1. reduced stoneware with shino and plum ash glaze, sourced from 79 Binstead Lodge Road  
2. reduced stoneware with iron and plum ash glaze, sourced from 79 Binstead Lodge Road  
3. reduced stoneware with inclusions, shino glaze and iron detail  
4. reduced stoneware with shino and plum ash glaze, sourced from 79 Binstead Lodge Road

**[3] Ian Law**  
*after Michal's toothbrush, toothpaste*  
2018  
acrylic on canvas  
170x200cm

**[4] Ian Law**  
*on Simone Weil Avenue*,  
2018  
with Lewis Ronald, Michal Szpant and products from the Warren Retail Park in the Chartwell conference suite, Ashford International Hotel  
Simone Weil Avenue, 9th December 2017.

replica Barbie Dream House floor,  
unique fibre based bromide print,  
plexiglass cover  
36.5x36.5x3cm

**[5] 'Puffin' terrarium footstools**  
American  
circa 1950s  
Various dimensions  
From Aaron Angell's personal collection