



*“There was a flow of air, and it circulated and he was supposed to be able to think and stop it.”*

### **Delicate Instruments (Vibrating Stillness)**

25 November - 21 December 2023

Vitrine, Exeter (viewing by appointment only)

Shifting between scientific and psychical thinking, *Delicate Instruments* suggests new ways to tune into hidden signals from the more-than-human.

Obscured by a veil, the vitrine initially withholds its contents. A closer look reveals them as objects held in unstable equilibrium and sensitive to the slightest stimuli: from trembling paper cases balanced on the points of nails, to indigo carbon paper primed to register subtle touch.

Some of these instruments are drawn from the realm of psychical experimentation, where they might have been placed in a sealed cabinet to isolate them from air currents and other physical influences.

*Delicate Instruments* was originally presented at the Devon & Exeter Institution as a part of a CAMP Research Residency. This latest iteration has been created specially for Vitrine.

*Delicate Instruments (Vibrating Stillness)* | 2023 | voile curtain, piano wire, drinking glasses, nails, magnets, paper cases, electric fan, carbon paper, oboe reed, tuning fork, lead whistle, monoprint

### **Vitrine**

Vitrine is a shop display cabinet c. 1900 which hosts a series of occasional installations by UK and international artists in the Exeter home of artist and arts educator Sarah Bennett. A future publication will provide documentation of the series.

<http://sarahbennett.org.uk/vitrine.html>

### **Megan Calver and Gabrielle Hoad**

Frequent collaborators since 2015, Megan Calver and Gabrielle Hoad share an interest in generating site-responsive work through oblique approaches to field study. Undertaking investigation of places and their inhabitants in a spirit of imaginative discovery, their approach often draws on the input of human and nonhuman participants. Their individual practices overlap in work that is often process-led and includes drawing, sound, text, sculptural interventions and digital media.

<https://linktr.ee/calverhoad>

### **Notes**

“There was a flow of air...” *Tom Jackson: paranormal experiments with Alec Reeves* (2013) British Library - Voices of Science

“A vibrating stillness like that in a vitrine” Edmund de Waal quoting Rilke in *The Hare with Amber Eyes* (2010)

“Unstable equilibrium...sensitive to the slightest stimuli” Richard Noakes quoting William Barrett (1867) in *Physics and Psychics* (2019)