



# TRACES IN THE CITY

Found Objects & Traces of Humans in the City is a series of photographs and poems by Sara Kärpänen exploring the lines between private and public in an urban environment.

The photographs focus on the details we pass by and leave behind: food leftovers, half drunk glasses of wines, empty bags of drugs, receipts, condom wraps, underwear—personal, everyday signs of other citizens. These objects give us glimpses into other people's lives, they are the physical traces and memories of others who were there before us.

Sara is interested in alternative ways of looking and using the urban space and re-imagining the everyday life. Her photography practice stems from the *dérive* technique (eng. drifting)—a term used by Guy Debord and the avantgarde art group Situationist International—that encourages us to think and use the urban landscape aimlessly and outside of its planned architectural function. By photographing the randomly found objects and signs of the other citizens, Sara aims to make visible the lines between private and public of our everyday lives.

What traces do we leave behind? Do the objects tell us narratives of other people's lives? Do the traces isolate or connect us with the other "strangers"? The photos, taken around her everyday paths in Dalston and Hackney, are combined with Sara's poems and notes on solitude and the need to connect with one another.

Sara Kärpänen (1987) is a Finnish-born writer and a visual artist. She has an MA in Visual Culture and Art in Public Space. She has collaborated with architects, street artists and exhibited her work in Porto (Portugal), London and Helsinki. Sara lives and works in East London.

[www.sara-karpanen.com](http://www.sara-karpanen.com)

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Opens 18th January 2018, 7-10pm, free entry, no RSVP  
Daily 19th-29th January, 9am-5pm, free entry

AT Stour Space, 7 Roach Road, Hackney Wick, London, E3 2PA

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FRUIT FLIES

I will not be the ellipsis on your lips  
that leads nowhere.  
The silence that follows the "but" after "I find  
you so attractive."

Silence so long I could disappear there  
(I don't need to hear the rest.)  
I'm not here to do that, to ease your cravings  
when they come to keep away the memories of your  
ex, on a Sunday night.

We are on different islands  
and I say this like I'd say it to a friend, a  
friend I actually like:  
My roots are tucked into soil and you are  
floating, like those flies above the fruit bowl,  
drunk and lost  
"I love the way you smell," you whisper, next to  
my back, pushing your fingers inside, making me  
gasp  
but you are not here to stay, settle or land.

LONGING

If I tuck into,  
into this longing I feel for you  
it finds its feet  
where hurt normally has made its home  
  
how can love feel so close to pain?



Notes for editors:

### Stour Space

Stour Space is a non-profit, socially minded organisation providing affordable artists studios, exhibition and performance space that are subsidised by corporate and private hire activities, use of meeting space and any profits made from the Stour Space Café & Bar. With a focus on the local neighbourhood and devoted to the promotion and production of art and design, Stour Space also works in collaboration with many local enterprises, residents, artists and committees.

### Stour Space Gallery & Exhibitions

Through a submissions-based process Stour Space exhibits and promotes the work of local emergent artists and enterprises, and encourages new innovative work for public engagement. The exhibition programme each year offers a focus on artists and creative businesses in London, and aims to platform the value of the art sector within a modern economy.

As well as exhibitions in the main gallery, Stour Space utilises the smaller areas of public space in the entire building (such as the downstairs cafe wall space and upstairs in our mezzanine room). If you would be interested in exhibiting in these spaces or have an idea in mind for their usage get in touch.

Alongside the main exhibition programme, the gallery is also a rentable space for short-term hires and pop up projects. These bookings help the gallery continue its programme of regular exhibitions by local emerging artists free of charge.

### Visitor Information

Monday to Sunday - 9am-5pm

Stour Space, 7 Roach Road, Hackney Wick, London, E3 2PA [www.stourspace.co.uk](http://www.stourspace.co.uk)

### Getting to us:

Hackney Wick Overground station is 7 minutes walk along the canal.

DLR Pudding Mill Lane is 10 minutes walk away.