

SOMETHING in the AIR looks at the sprawling mechanism of milieu. The shape of the exhibition is exploratory, episodic, relational. Six artists were chosen with a focus on drawing and each of these artists then invited another artist to exhibit. A different story informs each pairing.

These engagements are less collaboration and more a loose exchange of ideas. In some instances works specifically reference one another. In others, we read shared fascinations, working methods and knowledge systems. Some artists are newly introduced and others linked by longstanding mutual appreciation and respect. Counterpoint and confluence dialogue between works.

Commonly understood within an historical frame, milieu traces artistic influence from one generation to the next. Looking back and seeking affinity, a circle is drawn and fixed in time. History anxiously builds meanings.

Yet every history has its catalogue and clearings. A new localism constructs a sense of milieu in which, where you come from; the community you belong to, counts more than the generational distinction. Art work crosses boundaries in this way, moving out into the world, rethinking the ties that bind.

Born of the artist's curiosity, milieu informs making. Characterised by constant movement and buoyancy, milieu maintains the condition of continuity and engagement with practice. As the nebulous relations of mind, in life and art, milieu embraces the unreconciled uniqueness and isolation of individual experience, to imagine what it would be like if...