

Press Release: *Journey to the Lower World* – a new book by Marcus Coates

October 2005

Journey to the Lower World is a shamanic performance by Marcus Coates. The book features Coates' DVD, photographs by Nick David and writings by Alec Finlay, Mark Wallinger and JJ Charlesworth. Featured in British Art Show 6, the film *Journey to the Lower World* received national coverage.

"...Joseph Beuys would have loved Marcus Coates's film *Journey to the Lower World*"

Adrian Searle, *The Guardian*, 27 September 2005

Journey is an album of words and images reflecting on human and animal consciousness – how we adapt ancient forms of knowledge, healing and spirituality to fill a void in the contemporary world. Marcus Coates has insistently considered our relationship to nature – where in previous projects he adopted the techniques of scientific observation in *Journey* he embodies the role of the 'shaman'. The project is a colourful collision of life in a working class Liverpool Tower block and new age spirituality: *Journey treads a fine line between pathos and bathos. It is touching because it has enacted the fears and vulnerability of audience, which are real enough if ultimately unknowable, and finds its own strange way to an image of hope for them to take away.* (Mark Wallinger)

Journey to the Lower World is the first in a series of *booksapes* – an innovative series of publications created by Alec Finlay and platform projects, exploring extended experiences of reading.

Editor: Alec Finlay
Contributors: Mark Wallinger, Alec Finlay, Marcus Coates, JJ Charlesworth, Wacław Sieroszewski, Josie Crawford, Nick David and Ben Coode-Adams
Publishers: platform projects, morning star and Film London
Format: 96 pp colour, softback with a DVD
ISBN: 0954683161
RRP: £14.99
Launch event: BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art (Gateshead) 7pm, 17 November 2005
ICA, (London) 6.45pm, 8 December 2005

Marcus Coates was born in Edware in 1968 and lives in Berwick-upon-Tweed. Recent exhibitions and screenings: Ikon Gallery (Birmingham); Museo Arte Contemporanea (Rome); Manchester Art Gallery; CCA Glasgow; Valencia Biennial; Compton Verney (Warwickshire); Grizedale Forest (Cumbria); Cafe Gallery (London); Israeli Centre for Digital Art (Holon) and Pump House Gallery (London).

Available from platform projects, www.alecfinlay.com and BALTIC bookshop (Gateshead).

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Notes to editors:

booksapes is published by platform projects (formally *pocketbooks*) – a creative organisation based in Newcastle upon Tyne that produces high quality, innovative, collaborative visual arts and literature projects. With new publications encompassing public art, sound recordings and digital animation. Platform projects encourages a generative and participative approach to all art forms.

Alec Finlay was born in Scotland in 1966, he is an artist, poet and publisher. He lives and works in Newcastle upon Tyne. Alec is currently Artist-in-Resident at Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Recent books include *Shared Writing*, Ludwig Wittgenstein: *There Where You Are Not* and *Wind Blown Clouds*. *booksapes* was preceded by *pocketbooks* (2000-02).

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