



**Contemporary Heritage:**  
A new way of seeing



by  
**Catherine Bertola**

**23 March – 3 November 2013**  
Gawthorpe Hall, Padiham



**Flicker is a new installation by Catherine Bertola at historic Gawthorpe Hall in Padiham, Lancashire. Flicker was commissioned by Mid Pennine Arts and Lancashire County Council's Museum Service as part of Contemporary Heritage.**

**Flicker** was inspired by the artist's first visit to the Hall, when she discovered a family photograph album from the early 20th Century. Catherine was struck by the difference between the room as it currently appears and the photographic image. From this the idea developed to try and recreate a sense of how the spaces in the Hall may have looked at different moments in time.

**“My work involves creating installations, objects and drawings that respond to particular sites, collections and historic contexts. Underpinning the work is a desire to look beyond the surface of objects and buildings, to uncover forgotten and invisible histories of places and people, as a way of reframing and considering the past.”**

Camera obscura devices are located in the Great Hall or Dining Room, the Drawing Room and the Long Gallery. Each lens captures an image of the interior space in which it stands. Into these static images, scenes from the past flicker into view, allowing glimpses of events and people who have occupied the building over the course of its existence – from meetings during the Civil War period, to Victorian dinner parties and children playing in the 1950s. Alongside each camera obscura is a pamphlet, written by Catherine Bertola, with contributions from Pennine Ink Writers' Workshop, which offers you another glimpse of the past in the present.

Gateshead based Catherine Bertola has built up an international exhibition profile since graduating in Fine Art in 1999. She has worked on commissions and exhibitions in the UK, Europe and the US and has work in several public and private collections. She is represented by Workplace Gallery Gateshead and M+R Fricke, Berlin.

Watch the short documentary film about **Flicker** by Benjamin Wigley which features an interview with Catherine Bertola

Caught like silver bream  
in netted time, we writhe,  
against the unreal air –  
try to leap, flip, sault,

to appear as we once were  
in a flicker of light

Laura Sheridan, Pennine Ink



Crystal glasses sparkle, and polished silver glints in the dimming evening light. The footman swiftly lays the table in readiness for the evening's special guests.

**Catherine Bertola**

**Contemporary Heritage** is an ambitious programme of contemporary art commissions inspired by Lancashire's heritage. The installations animate each site and offer visitors a rare chance to experience major works of art by artists of national and international standing outside an urban environment.



Experience **Flicker** with your family and friends, take in the history of the building and learn about the people that have inhabited it.

Also don't miss Contemporary Heritage commission **K-Scope**, a site specific installation by Owl Project at Turton Tower during 2013.

**Gawthorpe Hall**  
**Burnley Road**  
**Padiham, Lancashire**  
**BB12 8UA**

**Open Wednesday to Sunday**  
**(and Bank Holidays), 12 noon - 5pm**

**Admission Prices: Adults £4**  
**Concessions £3**  
**Accompanied children & National Trust**  
**Members FREE**



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## **Flicker Saturday Series**

Alongside the installation a series of events have been programmed, to provide different insights and explore the ideas behind the work:

### **Meet the Artist**

*Sat 27 April, 2pm and 3pm*

A chance to meet the artist and hear her talk about the work. Drop in event, no booking required. **Standard entrance charges apply.**

### **Writers' Corner**

*Sat 22 June, 2-4pm*

A chance to hear writing by Pennine Ink in response to Flicker. Drop in event, no booking required. **Standard entrance charges apply.**

### **Discussion Event**

*Sat 7 September, 2-4pm*

Discover what inspired the work, through this open conversation between Catherine Bertola and a panel of academics, historians and curators, including: **Richard Dean**, National Trust Curator of Gawthorpe Hall, **Tom Freshwater**, National Trust Contemporary Art Programme Manager, **Elizabeth Edwards**, Research Professor in Photographic History and Director of Photographic History Research Centre, De Montfort University, **Adrian Richardson**, Chairman of the 1635 Household, a costumed history interpretation group  
Booking essential. **Tickets (including entry to the Hall): £6/£4**

For event bookings/enquiries call  
01282 421986

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY

**Lee Pilkington, Simon Warner and Catherine Bertola**

Cover image: **National Trust, courtesy of Lord Shuttleworth**

Artwork images courtesy of **the artist, Workplace Gallery and Gallerie M+R Fricke**