

Mid Pennine Arts presents
Contemporary Heritage:
A new way of seeing



no match

by **Claire Morgan**

13 February 2012 - 31 October 2012



No Match forms part of Contemporary Heritage: A new way of seeing, an ambitious programme of contemporary art commissions inspired by Lancashire's heritage.

Mid Pennine Arts, in collaboration with Lancashire County Council, have commissioned international sculptor Claire Morgan to create a new site specific installation in response to Helmshore Mills Textile Museum.

During an artist residency in 2011, supported by Perspectives of Pennine Lancashire, Claire met with ex-mill workers to learn about the mills' fascinating history. These conversations and discoveries reinforced Claire's feeling that it was nature that set the challenge in the mills and the dangers which arose out of this came from man's attempts to harness natural materials and control nature. This resonated strongly with Claire's own work. Claire says "It related directly to my ongoing concerns about our dysfunctional relationship with nature – our attempts to control, quantify, and manipulate it. The mill houses heavy machinery designed for the purpose of imposing a particular type of order on something as delicate as cotton flower seeds. The ensuing battle produced heat, noise, pressure, and at worst,

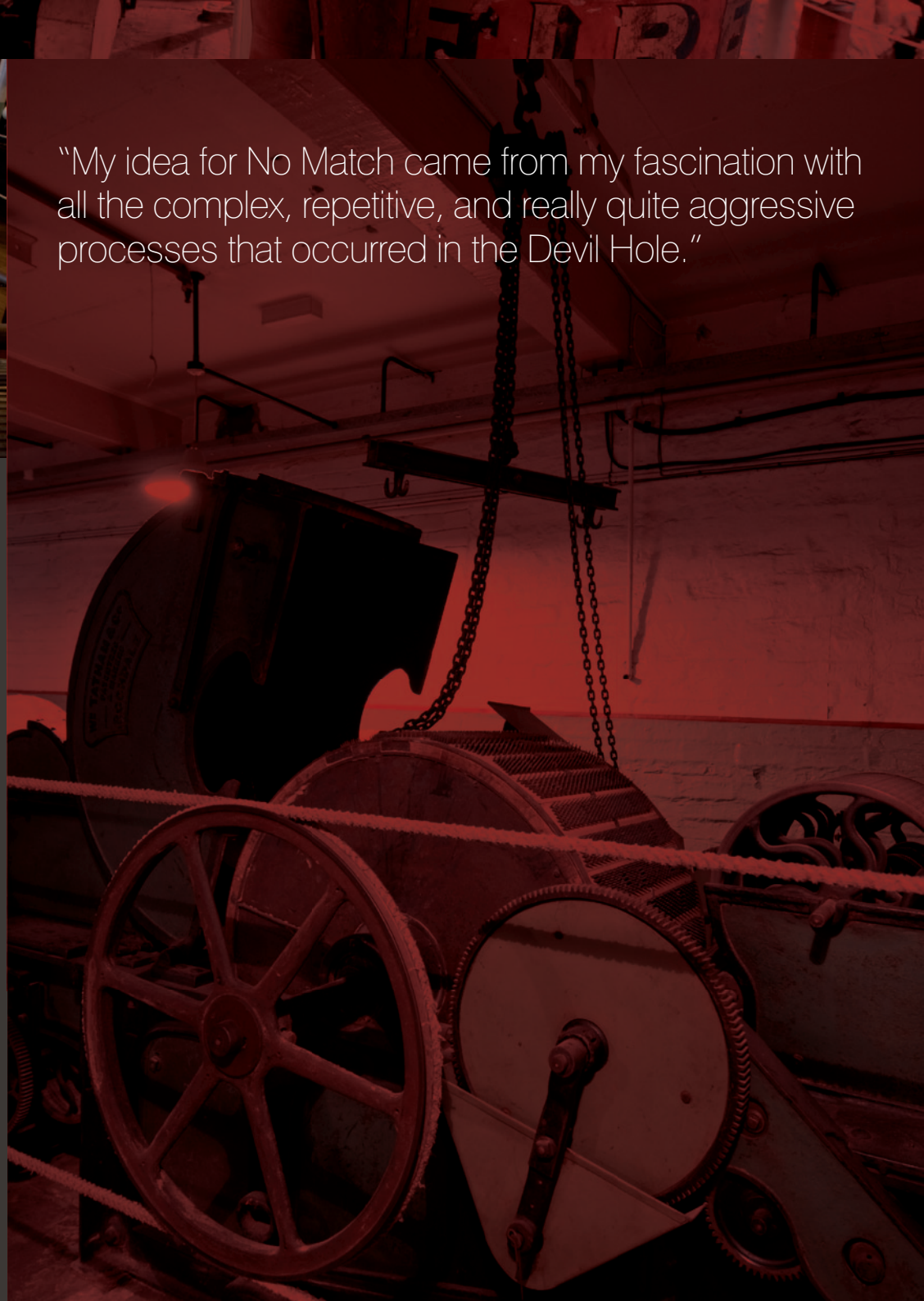
smoke, fire, and even blood. I think this can be felt most strongly in the Devil Hole."

Claire is fascinated by our relationship with nature, the notion of change and the passing of time and the transience of everything around us. There is a sense of this fragility that carries through all her sculptures. No Match, sited in the Devil Hole, acknowledges the relationship between man and machine and man and the environment, and the frailty of man, woman and child as they worked to impose an unnatural order on natural materials.

Claire says "My idea for No Match came from my fascination with all the complex, repetitive, and really quite aggressive processes that occurred in the Devil Hole. I wanted to make something that traces the passage of nature through that dark industrial space, and for me that could mean anything from the cotton, to the mill workers, to fire, or even blood. The finished installation will hopefully acknowledge these things in an abstract but engaging way."

Watch the short documentary film about **No Match** by Benjamin Wigley which captures an interview with Claire.

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Contemporary Heritage is an ambitious contemporary art programme created for historic sites across Lancashire. 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 a city environment.

Belfast born **Claire Morgan** has built up an international exhibition profile since graduating in 2003 with a first class degree in Sculpture. Known for her stunning, geometrically precise installations which often include animals or insects, Claire has had solo exhibitions in the UK and Europe and Museum shows the US and Australia.



Don't miss **TAKEN**, a Contemporary Heritage commission running concurrently with **No Match**. **TAKEN** is a mesmerising site responsive sound installation in Clitheroe Castle Keep by contemporary classical composer Ailís Ni Riain. **TAKEN** is on until 3 June 2012. Entrance to the Keep is free.

Helmshore Mills Textile Museum,
Holcombe Road, Helmshore, Rossendale,
BB4 4NP

Admission Prices:
Adults £4, Concessions £3,
Accompanied Children FREE

Opening times:
Feb 13 – Feb 19 **Feb 20 – Apr 1**
Mon – Fri 12-4pm Mon – Wed Closed
Sat – Sun 12-5pm Thu – Fri 12-4pm
Sat – Sun 12-5pm Sat – Sun 12-5pm

Apr 2 – Oct 31
Mon – Fri 12-4pm
Sat – Sun 12-5pm

PHOTOGRAPHY BY **Catherine Caton**



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