

THE DARK ROOM – MOUNTAIN TO SEA

Cairn Gorm Mountain, Scotland

‘The Dark Room’ is a site-specific artwork and installation comprising a Camera Obscura and optics with a 360-degree lens rotation and additional video installation ‘Mountain to Sea’. The Camera Obscura is housed in an architecturally designed structure with integral circular projection table.

The project brings together the camera obscura with its inherent sensory environment and the site and place of installation to explore embodied experience of landscape. The inclusion of an installed interactive video artwork ‘Mountain to Sea’ juxtaposes and punctuates the continuous optical rendition of the present and live outlook with a visual record of 48 locations across Scotland. The locations chart four seasonal journeys made from the site at Cairngorm Mountain in 2007, along the four points of the compass, with twelve sites equally measured along each of the compass bearings, moving north in winter, east in spring, south in summer and west in autumn to the coast. The resulting footage reveals the landscape beyond site and horizon and acts as a record of the changing seasons.

‘The Dark Room’ provides a rich opportunity to explore the immediacy of the site in the landscape through the juxtaposition of internal and external with the experiential nature of the structure, projection and artwork. It offers differing modes of sensory experience to bring about an enhanced understanding of vision, the landscape and its environs, the seasons and ecology.

Part of Cairn Gorm: Reading a Landscape

Concept and video installation: Mel Woods & Lei Cox,
Architect: Fergus Purdie

Lens engineering and design: George Keene

