

Blue Oyster art project space.

Layers of Edin Edge of the Grid Collaborative

Tane Upjohn Beatson, James Voller and Robin Aitken

Blue Oyster, Dunedin, New Zealand October 2012

Layers of Edin is a collaboration between photographic artist James Voller, architect Robin Aitken and sound artist Tane Upjohn-Beatson. The installation aims to build on the previous collaboration between James and Robin, *Edge of the Grid* (Migalaxy, Wellington June 2010) which used photography and architectural sculpture to investigate 'the edge' condition at the edge of modern cities, specifically Wellington. *Edge of the Grid II* will address James' work whilst overseas - integrating history, growth and layers of cities, with Robin's continuing interest in the relationship between the edge condition and the city centre. Tane Upjohn-Beatson's work as a professional in film and theatre sound, will allow us to create a sound-scape to react to the physical components of the installation.

Layers of Edin will interpret two different conditions of a city: the centre and what lies beyond the edge of the city. By installing these two characters of the City of Dunedin in Blue Oyster, the installations aim to make the viewer inhabit the space in between, therefore occupying the edge of the city itself.

The installation will be achieved through solidifying and condensing the city centre into an object that has human scale, a tangible weight and a strong relationship with the ground. This will become the focal point within of the Darkside Gallery. While what lies beyond the edge will be abstracted to a lightweight, tensile structure, appearing in the upper gallery, making reference to the centre point of the city and drawing the viewer into the Darkside Gallery. *Layers of Edin* will be suspended from the roof and raised off the floor as well as protruding from walls in some areas.

For the project James is bringing photographic imagery from Edinburgh to the Blue Oyster Gallery in Dunedin, the viewer will be able to compare New Zealand cities to their older European counterparts, specifically the weight of construction and layers of history in Edinburgh to its more recent New Zealand counterpart. Abstracting the edge condition will interrogate how, for a city to grow, it must be fuelled by what lies beyond its edge.

Tane will be generating soundscapes that will work from and help to strengthen the different weights and light within the physical elements of the installation. One component will be merging ambient recordings from spaces in Dunedin and Edinburgh. This will help to highlight the migratory link between the two cities. As with the physical installations, the sound-scape aims to bring about a voice of this idea of 'the inbetween.'

Rather than presenting a factual account of functions and history, the work will provoke and provide a new imagined space that aims to acknowledge the shared lineage between the cities. Providing a view where both cities will exist within Blue Oyster.