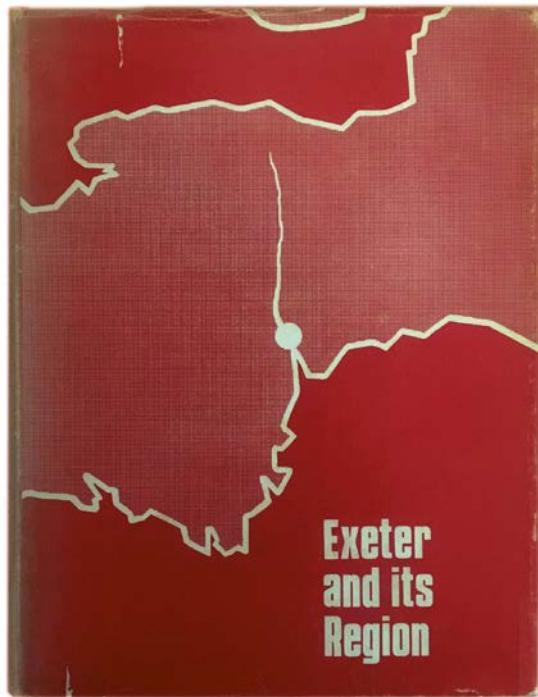


Interval



“We would like to submit a proposal to support the residency of the artist Colin Sackett in the School of Geography at the University of Exeter, Cornwall to run from September 2009 through to June 2010. Colin Sackett is an established artist based in the South West of England whose varied and highly regarded printed artwork engages with a range of themes of interest to scholars of geography, landscape and environment (see <http://www.colinsackett.co.uk/>). The School of Geography at Exeter is one of leading geography schools in the UK and has a significant research and teaching presence at the both the campus in Exeter and in Penryn, Cornwall (see <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/>). The proposed residency, operating across both University campuses, is intended to foster a creative collaboration between the artist and geographers around the theme of *The Printed Landscape: Depiction, Description and Place*. In the remainder of this letter we outline the proposed programme of this residency as well as its main benefits and outcomes for the parties involved.

The central concern of Colin Sackett’s work, for a period of some twenty-five years, has been an investigation of print-form and reading, primarily working with the classification and representation of environmental phenomena by way of disintegration, continuity and re-formation. Landscape—approached in an analytical or theoretical, rather than depictive, sense—is a key concept in his work; even when his focus is seemingly the practice of listening, or reading, or direction, a particular place or type of place is often the basis of a given work. This has been the case with several recent local geographical projects: the visual surveying of the physical features of the course of a river, and textual surveying towards the production of a gazetteer of a small town. This concentration on the natural and human world is attended by a focus on the nuances and variations of printed formats, both historically and culturally, and the visuality of surface, scale, and material in a broad range of source material.

This residency aims to cultivate a creative collaboration between Colin Sackett and geographers at the University of Exeter under the heading: *The Printed Landscape: Depiction, Description and Place*. While much geographical scholarship is involved in the analysis of printed representations of landscapes and environments—notably in words, maps, sketches and photographs—geographers have often been slow to engage critically and creatively with the material practices of printing and publishing. The proposed residency will provide a unique opportunity for the University of Exeter’s geographers to converse and collaborate with the artist Colin Sackett whose established work, as we have noted above, engages directly with the printing and reading of landscape. The programme will thus employ a variety of methods and practices to examine meanings around the core concept of *the printed landscape*. In particular it will focus on ideas and practices of *depiction, description and place-making*, all of which are crucial to the ways in which landscapes are

created in both symbolic and material form. Through a process of triangulation, working across and between these three conceptual fields, the programme will establish a structure in which collaborative projects—related for example to particular places and landscapes of South-West England—will be developed and undertaken. The artist will, in collaboration with geographers, investigate established methods and strategies of printed geographical *depiction* (eg. by researching and reworking the rich collection of geographical records and publications in the University of Exeter’s Library), engage with current debates in landscape *description* (eg. by attending research group residential meetings of the Historical-Cultural Geography Research Group and University seminars), and consider how particular ideas of *place* are fashioned through both printed and physical landscapes (eg. by participating in the annual first-year fieldtrip to West Penwith).

This programme of collaboration will result in a series of outcomes, including:

- a. Printed art works, formatted as books and booklets, made by the artist to mark the various dialogues and collaborations;
- b. An online, collaborative ‘field-note book’ based on the artist’s participation in local fieldwork teaching and staff field-research, hosted on the School of Geography’s website and linked to the artist’s website;
- c. A workshop in the School of Geography led by the artist and collaborative team;
- d. A temporary public exhibition of work by the artist resulting from the residency, hosted in the University of Exeter’s Library;
- e. Publications in academic outlets by human geographers and the artist engaging with the intellectual and practical aspects of the collaboration.

This residency will bring significant benefits for both parties involved in the programme. The proposed program of collaborative work will enable Colin Sackett to explore and develop his individual artistic practice and ideas within new research environments, and to

interact with staff and students as well as the wider geographical landscapes of both Devon and Cornwall in which Exeter’s geographers are based. From the School of Geography’s perspective, this proposal offers a unique opportunity to bring an established artist into a research and teaching environment. Human geographers, particularly those in the School’s Historical-Cultural Geography Research Group, will derive particular insight from a creative engagement with the artist’s theoretical concerns with landscape classification, narration and depiction. Colin Sackett will also work with physical geographers to explore the ways in which their research involves the depiction, description and narration of particular kinds of environments—from the LIDAR scanning of coastlines to the remote-sensed mapping of glaciated landscapes—and to investigate the potential for the development of creative forms of textual and visual representation in the geographical sciences.

The proposed residency will last for a full academic year (ten months) beginning in September 2009. It will involve the artist committing two days per week to the residency programme. It is envisaged that this time will be spread between weekly short (one day) visits to Exeter and less frequent but longer (approximately ten, three day duration) visits to Penryn, Cornwall. A breakdown of intended costs is attached to this letter.

This proposal has been developed through a process of collaboration that began with dialogue and meetings between Colin Sackett and geographers Dr Caitlin DeSilvey, Dr Simon Naylor, and Professor James Ryan in early 2008 and that will continue up to and beyond the residency itself. We believe that this residency programme offers an exciting and unique opportunity for both partners to develop their existing work and to create new opportunities for fruitful collaboration.”

Unsuccessful grant application to The Leverhulme Trust, 11 December 2008.