

WILLIAM MACKRELL
TOUCH & GO
26 FEBRUARY – 2 APRIL 2015



“The lamps will go out (as they should, no doubt)”

– Dan Flavin

There are certain experiences that are universal to us all. Perhaps foremost among them is the feeling of time marching on, unstoppable. We can all relate to lying awake and restless at night, feeling the clock creep towards dawn as the thoughts of the day race through our minds, or the sudden startling realisation that the city around us has changed without our noticing. These notions are explored in *Touch & Go*; each work begins with a proposed action or scenario that once begun passes out of the artists’ direct control and into the inevitable and unpredictable.

The floor of the gallery space is bisected from corner to corner by *The lamps will go out (as they should, no doubt)*, a row of flickering and fading strip-lights sourced from artists’ studios across London. The hum and cold glow of these halogen tubes were once synonymous with the converted offices and industrial buildings that often served, until recently, as artists’ studios. These studios, like the dying lights, are blinking out one by one to be replaced with residential developments and transport terminals – they are becoming relics of the recent past.

The walls on either side are occupied by *Sleep -negative- (16th September 2013)* and *Sleep -positive- (16th September 2013)*, a diptych of large perspex boxes containing works created by laying carbon paper under the sheets of the artist’s bed, tracing his nocturnal movements. The resulting positive and negative ‘drawings’ act as an intimate portrait, akin to automatic drawings; the true self is expressed in an unconscious moment.

The theme of sleep and restlessness continues with *Soprano for Sleep Time App*. For a period in the lead-up to this exhibition, the artist recorded his sleep patterns using an iPad sleep app placed under his pillow. The resulting data is expressed in a graph that has been overlaid with musical notations which will be interpreted in a live performance by a soprano at the private view and subsequently recorded.

As imprints of the artist that trace out his rhythms and cycles, the artworks exhibited in *Touch & Go* combine to become a self portrait. The personal scale of the works link them to our own bodies and our own experiences; we relate to them both physically and emotionally. In this lies the essence of Mackrell’s work: it is at once intensely personal and universally relatable, and in it we glimpse our own restless presence.

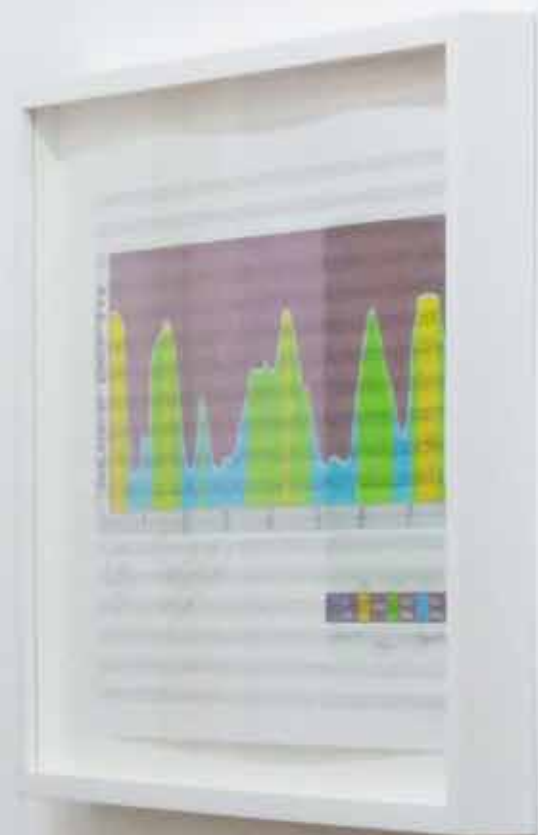


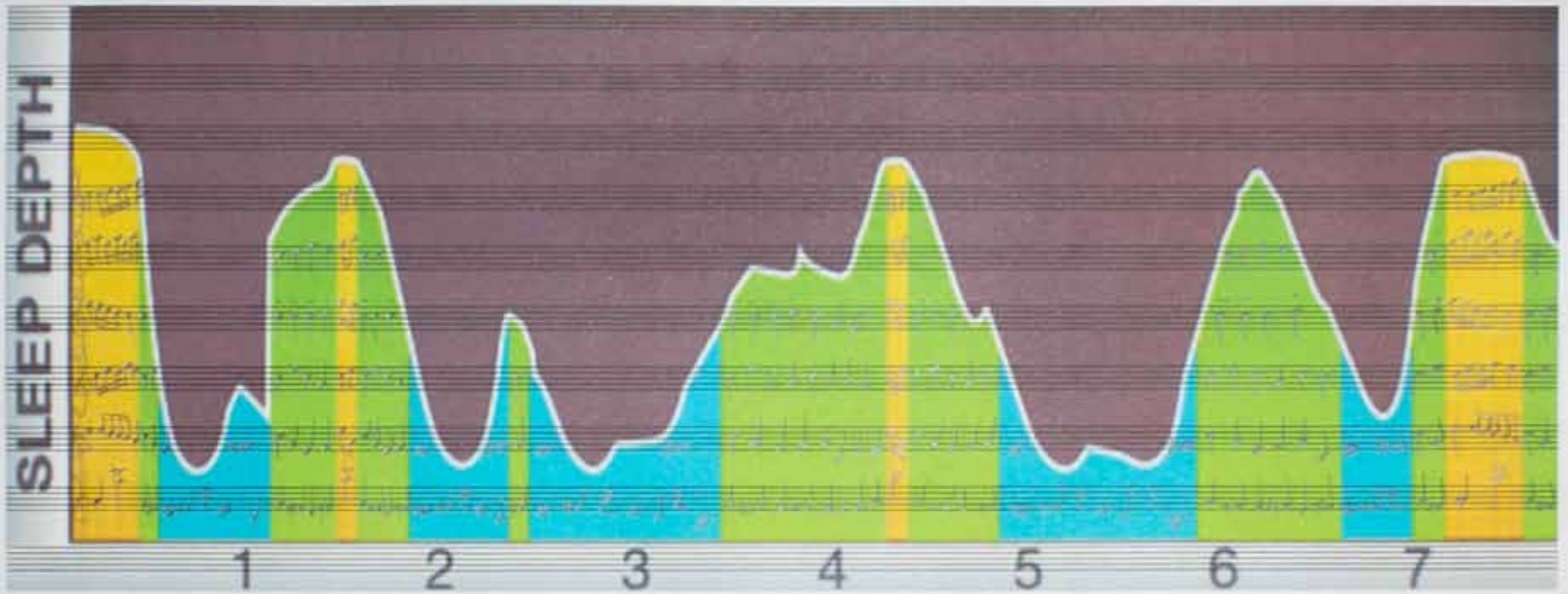


Top of my head 2015
Etching on C-type print
86 cm x 58 cm
£2,400

george@williambenington.co.uk
020 3659 5818
www.williambeningtongallery.co.uk
20 Arlington Way, London, EC1R 1UY







From top to bottom, various by colour

Changes in DE sleep over the night as reported, as they did

No Data
 Awake
 Light Sleep
 Deep Sleep

Awake *Light Sleep* *Deep Sleep*

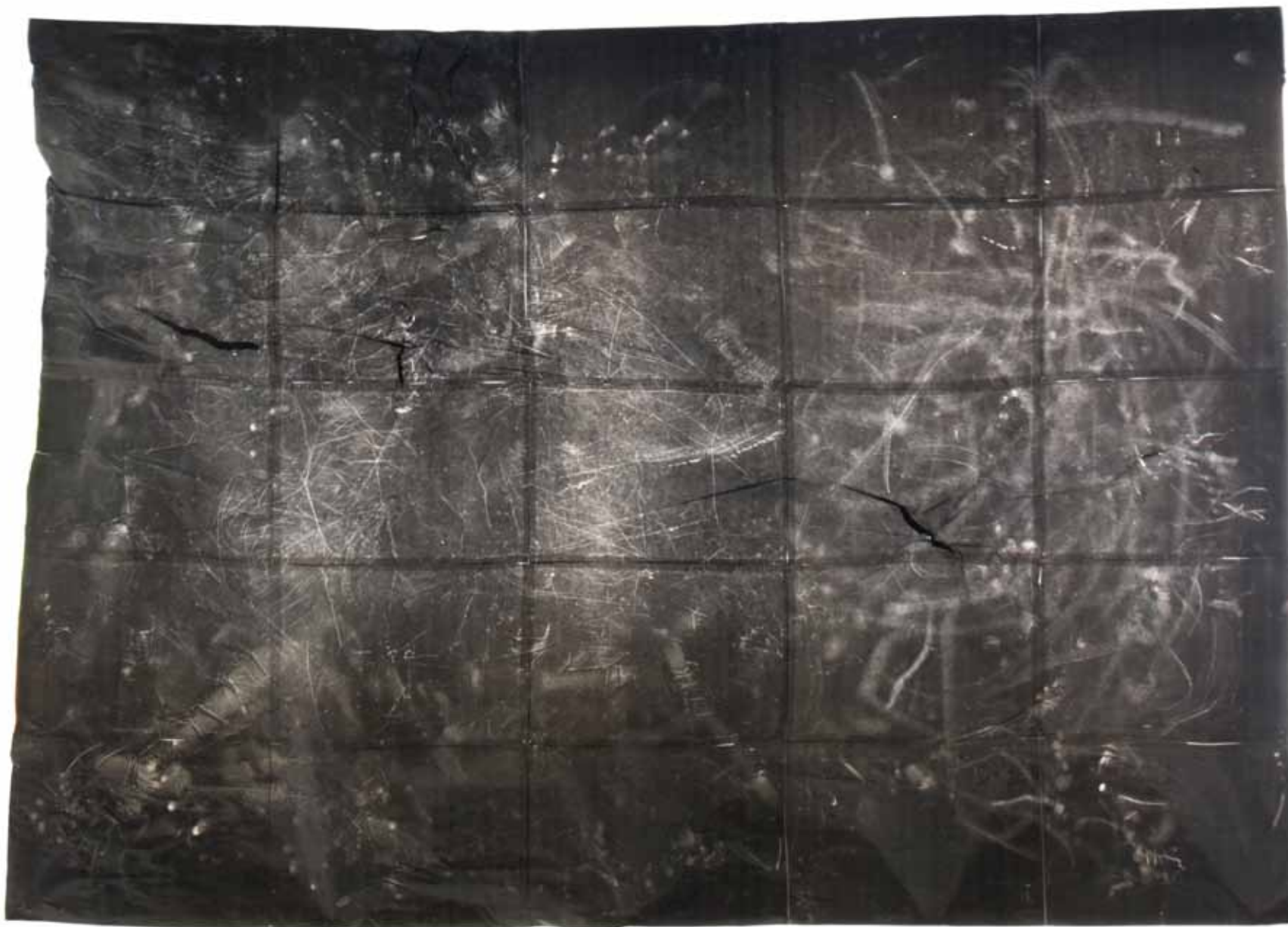


Soprano for Sleep Time App 2015
Performance C-type print, Ink on
paper & HD Sound (3 Parts)
45 cm x 30 cm, 42 cm x 30 cm &
4.32 minutes
£2,200

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**Sleep (16th September 2013 /
Negative) 2013**

Action on carbon paper mounted
in LED frame and acrylic case
200 cm x 140 cm
£7,000 framed
(shown here unframed)

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**Sleep (16th September 2013 /
Positive) 2013/15**
Action on cartridge paper
mounted in acrylic case
200 cm x 140 cm
£6,000
(shown here unframed)

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The lamps will go out as they
should no doubt 2015
Faulty florescent tubes
(6 parts/variable)
671 cm x 7 cm x 7cm
£3,000

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Fall (life) 2015
Lipstick on Somerset Satin paper
90 cm x 120 cm
£2,000

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