



Stuart Evans

Main Gallery

18 October to 16 November

Journey West USA

Stuart Evans has created a stunning exhibition based on his journey from Texas to San Francisco in 2011, which he developed as his final MA show in Aberystwyth, entitled *Journey West USA*. He constructed ladders from driftwood that he gleaned from the beach in Borth where he lives, and used these as metaphors to describe a story: the ancient settlements of the American Indians, for example, the Pueblo and Navajo, and the caves where they lived, were only reachable by a series of long ladders. These proved effective as a protective measure for centuries, but eventually no match for the invading Europeans, who butchered them ultimately. So the hand-smearred red ladder represents the blood not only of the Native Americans but the fearful, lawless, reckless years of the so-called 'Wild West'.

In keeping with the ladder tainted by blood, a further one is black, and this in turn indicates the huge critical importance of oil, as the lubricating agency of travelling some 2000-odd miles by car, in keeping with millions of other users. The USA is the biggest economy in the world and so a ladder covered in dollar bills is not a cynical dismissal of its importance as a currency, but a recognition of the need for wealth creation and commerce, as the life blood of a society, which includes rewards for artistic endeavour and achievement. It is all too easy to forget that economics is about two things: the creation of wealth and its distribution. Thus, this ladder also raises a question as to the morality of the distribution of such wealth. *Ysgol* in Welsh can mean both ladder and school, and the ladder can be seen as providing a means of climbing to another level, both in cultural and spiritual terms. You grip a ladder to hold on, and when it is tapered it seems as if it has mystical possibilities, a link with ancient times. On the one hand you have the artefact which is there in physical form and on the other its aspiration as you mentally climb upwards. The fifth ladder can be thought of as the embodiment of a journey, with a map pointing to the future, as it climbs upwards. It connects spaces and people and is analogous to a human body, with its skeletal structure made of bones on which the rest of its parts depend. It could be thought of as a grid-like world where humanity is hauled up to safety and a better place, in the form of a happy and secure future.

Stuart drew and mapped his journey, and on his return, developed these drawings and created lino prints, some on tissue paper, which echo the transient nature of travel, as well as etchings of ladders, which echo the fragility of their skeletal structure.



Map USA 1
A/P Lino print on tissue paper
£250



Map USA 11
A/P Lino print on tissue paper
£250

Welsh

Oriel Fach

Sculptures by **Gideon Petersen**



Urchin
[- view -](#)

Stairs

Photographs by **Alec James**



Austin A40 Buddhaia
[- view -](#)

Main gallery 3D area

Ceramics and jewellery by students and established artists



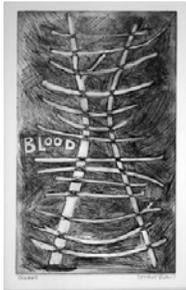
Blood Ladder



Tissue Map 1
Road Map Journey West USA
Tissue Map 11



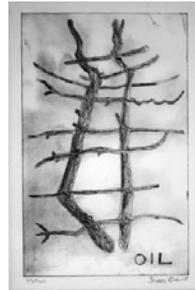
Spirit Ladder



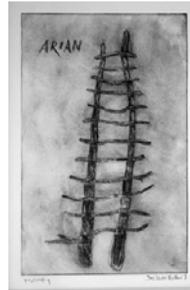
Blood Ladder
Etching
£100 unframed



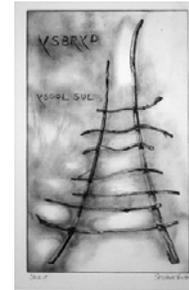
Place Ladder
Etching
£100 unframed



Oil Ladder
Etching
£100 unframed



Money Ladder
Etching
£100 unframed



Spirit Ladder
Etching
£100 unframed



Oil Ladder



Money Ladder



White House
Etching
£150 unframed



Spirit Ladder



Journey West USA
Drawing



Journey West USA Thought Map



Journey West USA
Lino print
£235



Map USA 11
Etching and photocopy
£135

Click [here](#) to read an essay about Stuart's exhibition by the art historian David Phillips.

Contact

website: <http://www.stuartevans.eu>