

“A motif of quest, of a search for transcendental experience, and an interest in disparity of scale-between the human and the wider physical world-have been a consistent feature of pretty much everything (Clodagh Emoe) has done as an artist.

I Am Here Somewhere brings together recent projects in a variety of media and materials. She takes the Romantic notion of The Sublime, of mingled wonder and fear at the scale and might of nature next to human existence, and filters it through a contemporary sensibility.

The Romantics had no idea of the terrifying scale of the universe, for example and Emoe recurrently considers our efforts to position ourselves in relation to a universe that renders us perplexingly irrelevant. Map-making as a means of orientation crops up, but so too do philosophical maneuverings, as individuals try to establish conceptual maps of meaning.

Apart from beautiful pencil drawings, she reworks Yves Klein’s celebrated – and painful – *Leap into the Void* for her our exploration of life, the universe and everything.”

Aidan Dunne, Irish Times, February 2006

“In *I Am Here Somewhere*, Clodagh Emoe suggests a correspondence between physical and mental spaces. The human effort to grasp the immensity of the physical world symbolises and is perhaps interchangeable with the effort to grasp our existential predicament. In both cases she sees us teetering on the edge of an immense nothingness, a void to which we are, of course irresistibly drawn. There is a retrospective quality to many of her pieces, and perhaps nostalgia for an era of epic, confident exploration. We see old documentary footage of mountaineers ascending a Himalayan peak, (perhaps Everest-the mountain is not identifiable). The title, *Past the Point of No Return*, suggests that they are seeing into the unknown.

Equally the writer of the text partly legible on the disintegrated pages of a yellow volume of *The Approach to Philosophy* steps with great sureness into cognitive reaches. A video piece, *The End is in the Beginning*, and works called *The Change of Heart* introduce a different note, further undercutting the idea of heroic endeavour and any assumed confidence about our place in the universe. The French artist Yves Klein famously staged a *Leap into the Voi*, in face a jump from a high window which understandably resulted in injury. In Emoe’s video a figure comically scrambles back up a variety of edifices, thinking better of a leap into the unknown. The artist herself makes a number of deft moves and conceptual leaps into what is a fine solo-show.”

Aidan Dunne, Irish Times, March 15th 2006