

THE ORIGIN

Artist Ben Judd's Stanley Picker Fellowship project *The Origin* reflected on Britain's island status, both literal and metaphorical, and how islands shape the communities that live there. As part of the wide-ranging project, Ben held an exhibition with magic lanterns during 2021. He writes: "Richard Rigby kindly lent me several of his lanterns for my solo exhibition. The lanterns were used to project images from my personal collection in the Stanley Picker Gallery exhibition. The exhibition suggested a lost fictional community that used to inhabit the site where the Gallery now stands. The Gallery is on an island on the Hogsmill River (a tributary that joins the Thames at Kingston upon Thames) – the images were used to substantiate this idea, offering possible fragments from this lost world."



The Origin brought together the different communities that surround the Stanley Picker Gallery – from Kingston University

students and academics to local networks, charities and residents. Through a series of workshops and conversations, participants have been collaborating with Ben to define different aspects of this imagined, temporary community. The collaborative project culminated in summer 2021 with the installation at the Gallery, a boat on the River Thames and a series of performances, workshops and events – a rehearsal for an alternative future.

Find out more at www.stanleypickergallery.org/online-works/theorigin/.

Photography by Ellie Laycock