



Things Beyond Our Control



ST PAUL St Gallery Two:  
**g.bridle, the Retreat 2008 - 2014**

1. black faggot  
 comprised of eight individual works from *the Retreat*
2. Minstrel
3. Krivda
4. Rock Hole
5. black wedge 2
6. black work 1
7. Patterns of Self Concern: Ocean Wave

All works provenance of *the Retreat*

**g. bridle, the Retreat 2008 - 2014**  
**St Paul St Gallery Two, 14 February – 21 March 2014.**

Curated by Charlotte Huddleston

Over the past six years g. bridle has developed a collection called the Retreat. In bridle's words "the collection's taxonomy is developed within ideas of place, travel, fable and mythology". In deploying the ongoing collection for exhibition bridle selects aspects for focus, defining categories or 'sub-interests' – such as Symmetry, Fable, Verafalsi, and Hermitage – as an organising principle that groups works together. In creating and working with the Retreat bridle shifts between roles in relation to the collection; he is artist, collector, curator. Like the sub-interests these roles are porous and open within the parameters of the Retreat.

Like any collection the items in the Retreat have relationships to each other and are configured and reconfigured by the artist for display. For each exhibition of the Retreat bridle creates a highly specific presentation where the viewer is a conduit for the connections between objects and their installation. The objects and images in the Retreat are often combinations of forms and references that are predicated on discovery – both discovery of an artifact or image on the part of the artist, and then too by the viewer. The provenance, origin or function of things in the Retreat cannot always be discerned.

The recent exhibition POKAZUKHA, the Retreat at City Gallery Wellington in 2013 was described as rather than presenting the Retreat as "a complete narrative...objects are deployed as cues, elements in a diagram, or clues in a larger scenario where the conditions of viewing become as important as the objects themselves." Everything is somehow strangely familiar, yet its true nature is just beyond our ken. As viewers we are left to make connections between what is on show through our own observation.

Alongside the development of the exhibition for St Paul St, bridle has been working on a publication that responds to the ideas and categories of the Retreat in writing. The artist invited Heather Galbraith, Charlotte Huddleston, Laura Preston, and Maddie Leach to respond to the Retreat through the assignment of a sub-interest and a series of images to each writer. The publication is being designed by Warren Olds and will be launched during the course of the exhibition.

Between 2008 and 2013 bridle exhibited the Retreat at the Adam Art Gallery, Wellington; Aratoi, Wairarapa Museum of Art and History, Masterton; The Physics Room, Christchurch; and most recently at the Hirschfeld Gallery, City Gallery Wellington.