

PRESS RELEASE

**Nil by Steve Macleod  
at  
The Fitzrovia Chapel with Black Box Projects  
29 November - 7 December, 2018**



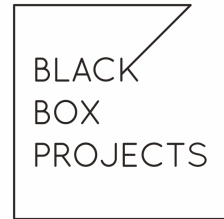
*Off Far Rock, 1992 - 2005*  
Silver gelatin print with oil stick  
40.6 x 30.5 cm



*On Boundary Stones, 1992-2005*  
Silver gelatin print with black oil stick  
40.6 x 30.5 cm

Black Box Projects will present *Nil* by Steve Macleod, a series of work made between 1992-2005 at the Fitzrovia Chapel, 2 Pearson Square, London W1T 3BF from 29 November - 7 December. The series was inspired by the area of the Scottish Highlands where Macleod grew up.

The First World War devastated many Highland rural villages to such an extent that in the post-war census, the return of many soldiers was listed as NIL. With the loss of so many able-bodied young men, rural communities diminished, and people slowly drifted away from their lands, rural industry and crafts. Whole communities disappeared, and places became forgotten - this became known as the third clearance.



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Records show that 26.4% of enlisted Scots died compared to 11.8% of the population in other areas of the UK. The population of Scotland at the time was 10% of the total UK population yet the statistic accounted for a fifth of Britain's war dead, estimated at 147,609 Scots who were killed in active service.

In 1992 Macleod began creating a photographic response to these losses; the traces of abandoned communities in the Highland landscape. Visiting old ghosts, he has traced dilapidated evidence of forgotten villages and ways of life.

Inspired by the writings of author Neil Gunn he travelled to and met with people now living in the landscape, people who may have no historical connection yet embrace a beautifully unforgiving environment. He engaged with current residents in a collaborative approach to the photographic works. Creating silver gelatin prints he obliterated the image with black oil stick, inviting people to uncover the image below with their hands, in turn placing their own identity on the landscape and resurrecting a connection that commemorates the past yet connects us with the present.

There will be 10 unique works on show alongside a selection of limited edition giclée prints made from the series.

Opening times: 11am-7pm Monday-Friday, 11am-4pm Saturday and Sunday.

Address: Fitzrovia Chapel, 2 Pearson Square, London W1T 3BF

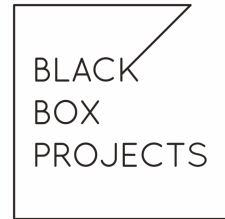
### Notes to Editors:

#### **Steve Macleod**

Professor Steve Macleod (b. 1965) is a landscape photographer. He travels extensively to undertake his practice and his work interprets landscape as a metaphor to describe historical and humanist subjects that connect us with the environment we inhabit.

Represented exclusively by Black Box Projects in London, he exhibits internationally and his works are sought after and held in both private and public collections, including HRH the Duchess of Cambridge and HH Sheikha Fatima Bint Hazza' Al Nahyan.

Macleod is also an educator - a regular lecturer and speaker on photography subjects he is a respected industry professional with twenty-five years' experience. He is a Visiting Professor at UCS East Anglia; a Trustee of the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QEST) and Lifetime member of Frontline Club in London. He also operates a successful mentorship programme for emerging artists.



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## **Black Box Projects**

Black Box Projects specialises in contemporary photography and contemporary art that is created using photographic materials. The gallery is committed to working with artists who push the limits of traditional photographic practice. The gallery does not keep a permanent space, instead it arranges pop-up exhibitions in order to tailor the experience to the individual needs of the artist and the work.

[www.blackboxprojects.art](http://www.blackboxprojects.art)

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