



Press Release  
 Pilar Corrias Presents  
**Rachel Rose: Wil-o-Wisp**  
 22 February - 30 March 2019  
 PV: Thursday 21 February, 6 - 8pm



Rachel Rose, *Wil-o-Wisp* (still), 2018, Single-channel video, 10' 6".  
 Courtesy of the artist and Pilar Corrias, London. Copyright the artist.

Pilar Corrias Gallery is pleased to present a new exhibition by Rachel Rose, her second at the gallery.

*Wil-o-Wisp* (2018) follows Elspeth Blake, a mystic and healer, across **three decades of transformation** in 17th century agrarian England. She is first introduced as a wife and mother in 1570, when her daughter, Celestina, sneaks out of the house at night, an act which carries grave consequences. In 1603, Elspeth reemerges as a mystic, **healing a man through transference** — channelling the life force from one being to another. Spied on by a townsman and reported to the town's prefect, Elspeth is led away to face persecution.

*a group of models or motionless figures representing a scene from a story or history.*

*TRANSFERRING*

*gradually spread later.*

Through a series of **tableaux**, we see her life unfold in a world where animism suffused the forest and magic was real. Meanwhile, the process of enclosure — the division of common land — was violently reshaping the landscape into what would become modern industrialised society. *Wil-o-Wisp* is the first in a series of filmic works by Rose focusing on this time of radical economic, environmental, and spiritual upheaval.

*← THE IMAGE CHANGED DIRECTION.*

Three lenses are placed on the carpet, refracting the projected image and recalling the alchemical practices of the time period, as **optical effects** were thought to have magical properties and were used to conjure visions and **make prophesies**. The exhibition continues **behind the screen** with a new sculptural work *The Chemical Wedding*, inspired by the story of the same name, an example of how stories from this time period encoded secret alchemical recipes from the features in their landscapes.

*SIMILAR TO MUCH OF BILL VIOLAS WORK AT THE KA.*

*Wil-o-Wisp* premiered at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo in 2018, where Rose was the inaugural recipient of the Future Fields Commission in Time-Based Media.

*anelis was all encompassing → made the viewer feel present.*

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