

BETWIXT AND BETWEEN

Mary Ann Auckland

MLS member Jo Israel is an artist who works with images found in books, magic lantern slides and glass plate negatives.

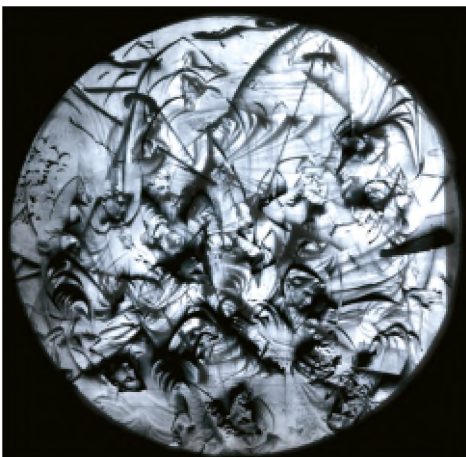
Her first encounter with magic lantern slides was as a child when she came across them whilst exploring the Norfolk junk shops with her father. She says that, when held up to the light, "the small glass worlds were spellbinding to my young mind." Since then, Jo has amassed a very large collection of slides. In 2019 she began working with these magic lantern slides, incorporating them into her *Between* series.

Jo's book and slide works seem to explore the space between and beyond the image. In her book works (which she calls her *Betwixt* series) images have combined together to create uncanny fusions. The *Between* series, on the other hand, represents a partial breakdown of

the image – a 'dynamic synthesis' – a holding together of images that you might not expect to be together. The *Between* series looks at the separation between images and explores it as a physical optical reality. Her method of combining magic lantern slides employs the layering together of individual slides in order to create three-dimensional, almost holographic, images, encouraging the viewer to participate actively in the creation of a paradoxical, composite reality.

Jo houses her book and slide work in light boxes which she calls 'shadow boxes'. For the *Between* series each of the three images (see below) comprised four magic lantern slides in a bespoke cherry-wood framed light box. She says: "these boxes represent a form of camera-less photography, one that allows the hidden natural and cultural histories embedded in paper and glass to be enshrined and revealed, whilst also evoking a lost world of ancestral memory."

You can see Jo's *Betwixt* and *Between* work at www.jo-israel.com – well worth a visit.



Between I



Between II



Between III