

Forest Fires video & mixed media installation 1983
First shown at B2 Gallery, Wapping, London then at Museum of Modern Art Oxford



Forest Fires is one of several installations dealing with landscape and displacement. Images of a forest are projected on the walls with 35 mm slides. The gallery floor is covered in dead branches, leaves and other debris from the forest floor. Monitors showing images of burning firewood are placed on the floor and partially covered with twigs and branches. The crackling sound of burning wood is heard from the built-in loudspeakers on the monitors. A separate audio tape is used for an ambient soundtrack that includes birdsong, wind in trees, and the sounds of footsteps walking through a forest.



The installation was first realized at B2 Gallery, Wapping, a large warehouse space in East London. The intention was to relocate aspects of a "natural" landscape to this highly urban location. Forest Fires was later featured in the exhibition "Signs of The Times", a survey of British installation work, shown at Museum of Modern Art, Oxford and Leeds City Art Gallery in 1990 - 91.

Images 1 & 2 from installation at B2 Wapping, image 3 from Museum of Modern Art, Oxford.

