210 stretched aluminium fingers for Mechanoreceptor, Icicles (red, red) (triple spring, triple strip) were dipped in liquid PVC at Plastic Coatings in Kingswinford, Birmingham, UK, on Friday 16 February 2018.

40 spider crab shells (Maja Brachydactyla) and 56 brown crab shells (Cancer Pagurus) for Crustacean Satellites were vacuum metallised at Dual Metallising in Tyseley, Birmingham, UK, on Monday 29 January 2018.

Text by Jennifer Boyd
Photography by Thierry Bal
Design by Europa
Printed in Birmingham by Genie
in an edition of 1000

Published by Eastside Projects, Birmingham and Motto Books, Berlin


Distributed by Motto Books

Supported by Eastside Projects, Konrad Fischer Galerie and Large Glass

© Alice Channer, Jennifer Boyd, Eastside Projects and Motto Books, 2018

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reprinted or reproduced or utilised in any form or by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including photocopying and recording, or stored in any information storage or retrieval device, without permission in writing from the author, the artist and the publishers.

Eastside Projects
86 Heath Mill Lane
Birmingham B9 4AR
www.eastsideprojects.org

Human bodies do not have shells. Unless modified or abled differently the hardest external parts of the human body are the nails. 20 in total Decreasing in size. 5 on 2 hands and 5 on 2 feet. Leaving a sensitive skinned surface area of approximately 190². The only other visible parts of the external human skeleton are the teeth. 16 at the top and 16 at the bottom. But individuals are prone to irregularities. Rejected parts in metal bins next to vanilla coke cans and plastic cartons to protect sandwiches Which include a list of ingredients additives and a catchphrase: What counts as nature for whom and at what cost. Where were they born the first time around. Spider crabs must become molten in order to be growing.

And the workshops still have these relics. And yet they are making using High Tech. And technology has moved into the Future. But skin calendars and national flags remain. Becoming witness to these relics walks the body backwards Forwards Sideways. Away from the mixture of Fluorescent light and Sun light. And up to the threshold between experience and pain. Sonic layers close to the valence gleam against the porosity of the walls. Zero G. The spray of surf on convex cheeks. After first becoming molten soft shells need to harden. For a short period the body will be soft making it vulnerable to becoming edible or becoming attacked. This soft time is also when mating occurs. They are not casts of one another each was born.
When newly molten Spider crab shells are pink and magenta and jaw dropping. But not in the pink of their condition. Their bodies are mostly salty water making them unpleasant on the palate. Water turns to protein as they harden. Their shells turn violent orange and otherworldly cream. Or there are the points where bones and skull come closest to the surface of the skin. The parts that humans use to fight. Heal of Hand Elbow Forehead crunching nasal bridge. Birmingham is the birthplace of the Birmingham sound. This sub-techno grew in the early 1990s after travelling across the Atlantic. Birthed from the techno born in Detroit. But it skinned the bassline funk. A significant characteristic of the techno found in Detroit and Berlin. Leaving only unrelenting unchanging minimalist slabs. Are those barnacles growing round your mouth as you get higher and deeper. Barnacles are of economic consequence as they often attach themselves to synthetic structures.

The blood of crabs is blue. Because it contains a high Volume of copper. To vaporize the aluminium the filaments in the vacuum must be white hot or at least they must be very very red. We can handle any shape and any size and both on-shore and off-shore fabrication. Because we are a family based business we have a personal touch towards our customers and are very people orientated. For the kind of vacuum required A fountain of silicone oil is necessary. One of the house rules. At a cardiac arrest the first procedure is to take your own pulse. The second house rule: There is no body cavity that cannot be reached with a good strong arm. Rule three: If you don’t take a temperature you can’t find A fever.

The length of the vacuum metallising process is dependent on the porosity of the subject. Approximately 10 minutes in to the 20 minute cycle. The copper electrodes make contact. Clunk Heat is Created. A loud baseline drops. The vacuum kicks in. The filaments light up and the aluminium is vaporized. The chamber is roaring Electric. Suddenly filled with 5000 vaults. House of God was named after a novel about medical interns in the 1970s which focused on psychological harm and dehumanization during their medical training. A book described as raunchy and troubling and hilarious. It ultimately came to be seen as a touchstone in evolving conversations about humanism and ethics. In the English language it is understood that white hot is hotter than red hot. Blue is usually associated with coldness. Cool blue. Ice blue. But in terms of real temperature blue hot is far hotter than red hot. The sound of ice cracking.

These are not scavenged shells. They are carapaces that have been actively shucked. The bodies used for meat. These carapaces came en masse from the catering industry. Shipped World Wide so that crab meat that didn’t grow inside them can be placed into them. Temporary homes wheeled out by catering vans and serving trolleys at tacky dinners and weddings. Dishes include rich soups such as bisque Or bouillabaisse Or pâtés Or fancy mousses Or hot soufflés. The height of living elegance is a dressed crab. The form or appearance of something. Especially someone’s features or complexion. She had a somewhat decapod cast. Satellite dishes. Large Liquid Lunch with the co-workers. The Beating Heart of production. The colors they wore emphasized the orange cast of their skin. A mound of earth or sand ejected by the burrower Onto the surface. They had a cast in their eyes.

The jigs that hold the carapaces in place are made from stainless steel and are created in Birmingham by Specialists in manufacturing jigs and fixtures for the metal finishing and chemical industries. Including automotive aerospace medical and Defense. A large mezzanine warehouse. Covered in stinking metal grime. Only one older guy with a gut welding. Sparks flying Orange and Blue. I Kissed A Girl And I Liked It blasts. Real sexy feeling music to get me through the fucking day. And calendars with women on them out in the open Breasts enhanced by medical engineering. In this environment when everything comes down to parts how can they not just see translucent silicone bags under taunted skin. The time and work required for repetition. The music you used to lose yourself to is now the music you choose to make you work harder. Touch me like you do.
The planetary system squeaks when it turns. There is external proof of this sound. At least we know one thing for certain that happens in there. But sound waves have to travel through something. Water metal air. There is no air in the vacuum metalliser. Condition void. The waves of sound must only be heard by the connected metals. Running through carousel chain bar satellite jig. Under normal conditions it would simply melt. Drip down onto the floor. Carried on flung metal gradually the carapaces would begin to hear it too. Harmony of the spheres. Vaporized metal. Spiral dancing. Floating and machinic music has a nonpulsed time. This is the first time that organic material has gone through the vacuum metalliser.

The edible brown crab is a nocturnal predator. At the nightclub we Go and do a circuit see if any keepers can be spotted. Other optical applications include sunglasses in which a thin film of aluminum is applied to optical glass. A characteristic pie crust edge. Removed black tipped claws. Beside these are the orbits that hold our eyes in place. Much of the catch is transported live to continental Europe is applied to optical glass. A characteristic pie crust edge. Removed black tipped claws. Beside these are the orbits that hold our eyes in place. Much of the catch is transported live to continental Europe in specially designed live-well vehicles. Their ridges and ravines look like mountains seen from far above by satellite. The Birmingham sound is commonly associated with the House of God club night. Becoming always involves a pack. Transform. Change state. Become more invincible. The superior tarsal muscle kicks in. Let’s get fucking mortal.

Eyes are taken out. Carapaces are soaked in toilet cleaner to remove the membrane base. Because of how porous the shells are they drink it up like sponges. This porosity is enhanced further by a nice long soak. For better or for worse or for a secret third option. Hay colour hairs called setae used to hook decoration and detect chemicals and movement and touch are removed by electric toothbrush. After going through the metalliser automobile head lamps known in the trade as scallops are wiped clean by human hands. Doctors work on rotation as do all workers in twenty-four-hour professional environments. The pictures and words inked to adorn skin our adornments will last far longer than our last breath. The fatigue life of aluminum is 5-10 years. Heavy metal was born in Birmingham. The time of one year passes by. Don’t make it mundane yeah. Spider crabs must get molten get mortal in order to be growing.

The vacuum metalliser uses a line of sight travel path. Trying to catch wet every crevice. The surface of the moon. The colour of Jupiter. Nuclear explosions seen from the sky. Third degree skin burns. Communication. Orange segment prints where the spine has been ripped. These crabs may have been berried before. But there are many types of Birth. Our size capacities range from the smallest of items to a maximum of 560 millimetres × 960 millimetres. All our systems are fully automated ensuring accurate replication throughout our processes. The language of life and death drips.

The walls of the metalliser are 2 inch thick steel. Any thinner and the machine would implode. Think metal Think strong capitalist structures. Brown crabs are scavengers which usually feed on dead animals or plant Matter but will also graze seaweeds and prey on small animals when ever they can. Being scavenger they are also very important in renovations of the sea bed. Scavenging has been seen as taboo since the biblical period in human living. Reminders of a different form of strength. To become scavenger is A breath of metal air.

Kettles no longer whistle. And crabs do not have vocal chords. It is a myth they scream when they are dropped in boiling water. At its peak there are 800 lumens in the chamber. But recent studies show they may feel pain. An atomizer is a device for emitting water perfume or other fine liquids in a spray. A sentence is always made up of one or more feet. In the vacuum would a human body vaporize spraying skin cells and blood drops and satellite glial cells simultaneous to the spray of the aluminum vapor.

The first spray of aluminum hits the spines of our carapaces. According to unofficial lived experience the satellites turn between 2–5 times per second. Turning the jigs turning the shells. Our eye sockets coursing the same anti-clock path. The entire system turns clockwise 12–13 revolutions per minute. Chains turn the carousel. Two O-O shapes joined by bars. But it has got to have the right conditions for it to be happy to cling. Every colour of lime green and yellow and black and brown and ice blue and pink and grey green and skin tones up close like neon lights in puddles reflective of the atmosphere. Darker steel and circular panels on the back of the machine. Workings are elegantly hidden. Slicing through the air towards you. This is not an enormous mimesis. A crop cutter with eyes that no longer need to be live. We will not need our setae or our eyes after we have gone through the process of gaining shine.
The tank is painted red and ornamented by dripping red sides. A steel insert holds the vylastic 1 inch from the floor. The tank contains 850kg of PVC, the equivalent of thirteen 10 stone women or other-gender-determined beings. Steel. 3 feet wide, 2.5 feet deep. The bed must always be kept active, or else it will grow a skin.

The dipping is done by eye; a human hand guiding this moment of red. The descent takes approximately 7 rows; descending. This is the pad we use to touch: ourselves, others, objects, food, plants, the rain. The nail holds more violence. It is the side that punches. Knuckles, exoskeleton, a nail: a horny covering on the upper surface of the tip of animal and human fingers and toes, a medieval unit of measurement equivalent to 2.25 inches. Have you nailed the killer? I nailed her. Nailed to the cross. The final nail in the coffin.

From behind, the digital pulp of 35 fingers in 7 rows, descending. This is the pad we use to touch: ourselves, others, objects, food, plants, the rain. The nail holds more violence. It is the side that punches. Knuckles, exoskeleton, a nail: a horny covering on the upper surface of the tip of animal and human fingers and toes, a medieval unit of measurement equivalent to 2.25 inches. Have you nailed the killer? I nailed her. Nailed to the cross. The final nail in the coffin. I can’t nail her down. Paint my nails would yer. The speed can either be automated or hand controlled to suit your individual needs.

The descent takes approximately 5 seconds. The motion downwards regulated by the hydraulics. But a human hand is on the lever. The dipping is done by eye; a human hand guiding this moment of red.

The tank is painted red and ornamented by dripping red sides. A steel insert holds the vylastic 1 inch from the floor. The tank contains 850kg of PVC, the equivalent of thirteen 10 stone women or other-gender-determined beings. Steel. 3 feet wide, 2.5 feet deep. The bed must always be kept active, or else it will grow a skin.

The dipping is done by eye; a human hand guiding this moment of red. The descent takes approximately 7 rows; descending. This is the pad we use to touch: ourselves, others, objects, food, plants, the rain. The nail holds more violence. It is the side that punches. Knuckles, exoskeleton, a nail: a horny covering on the upper surface of the tip of animal and human fingers and toes, a medieval unit of measurement equivalent to 2.25 inches. Have you nailed the killer? I nailed her. Nailed to the cross. The final nail in the coffin. I can’t nail her down. Paint my nails would yer. The speed can either be automated or hand controlled to suit your individual needs.

The descent takes approximately 5 seconds. The motion downwards regulated by the hydraulics. But a human hand is on the lever. The dipping is done by eye; a human hand guiding this moment of red.
Too much from feeling and I become heavy I sink. I go under and I get lost. For an entire year. I am still there now. A souvenir at the bottom of the tank, breathing a red end; abundant in my moribundity. Digging every second I can’t help it it just works. No other objects will join me down here for the stay, their jigs are too viable, reasonable; sensible. Risk will be voided in that aspect of their operation. The levers for Volkswagen hoods, made plush for human hands to finger out in the country air or in body shops, during body work. Lead blocks used for submarine ballasts which must be completely coated; there is no room for error. If the lead comes into contact with salty water without this skin, they will turn into a battery and detonate the ocean.

When it gets a bit quieter, we clean it out once a year at Christmas, ter avoid contamination, ’cos of the lead yer know. They will find me in there at Christmas. The interruption. A red wet unpreserved finger which must be grabbed by a human hand, like the finger of new born offspring, or vice versa, in order to be retrieved.

Now fully raised, my finger sisters glide like hair in the wind over the remaining two tanks in the long open mid-section of the cycle. The lids of these casks are closed; black PVC is inside. The fingers move fast sideways, arcing slender at the velocity. 35 red tips setting the silver off, clamouring glamour, a first impressioned frenzy of rejection and attraction. An inspissating voice prickles the back of my neck: When touch is at issue everyone’s hair stands on end.

The eager glide, machinic in its will to be unending, slams to a stop. The inert made erring, losing its grip, meat in teeth and euphoric eye fluttering; textual tissue flung against the sequential oven door. I’m so glad I came for you. I’d make the ride again. The peak extension hold of the fingers by the frame, whilst joyful for the long ride down the convoy, has meant that the strike of the stop has pitched another finger to fall. Pre-cure, it is not set. Its surface ruined, squishing into composite dirt.
Aluminum and PVC tunnel together through the dark air, its gloaming throat swallows us gleaming.

I wait and watch as this happens 7 more times. Re-Start Cycle. Laid out on cellophane on top of the giant blue cooling tank. Eyes and I’s are passed round in celebration. Job complete. I stayed over me lunch break; well y’know gotta get it done fer yer, an we’ll knaw fer next toime. At the other end of the cycle, its beginning, one of the polyvynlists places his lunch into the industrial oven; sausage and beans in an aluminum mess tin seasoned with the memory of lead. In a friendly tone one of the higher ups says something, which gets drowned out by cycles of music and machine. I think it might have been: Of course yer know, this means more!

I am waved off by the secretary. Older meaning. keeper of secrets. And when I go to the toilet hours later I find a tiny smear of the stuff on the top of my thigh, which must have got through the porous cotton of my jean pocket. Won’t you help me breathe again, help me, breathe again. That was that and next up it’s Rust in Peace by Megadeth. The dipped parts that leave this place: will they recognise each other in the outside world? So many parts out in the world are coated in this red, related by their blood and by their skin. We got everything you want honey. We are the people that can find whatever you need. If you got the money, honey, we got your disease. But if you want it, you’ve got to pay a price. And you’re a very sexy girl, very hard to please. You can taste the bright lights but you won’t get them for free.

I exit.

Leaving the twenty-four hour operation behind. It was absolutely terrific in there. Older meaning: inspiring terror. It felt really bright in there didn’t it? Yeah I mean we’d been in there, in a dark environment, enclosed for over two hours. It’s not like being in England is it! Such bright yellow and balmy blue. Melted flowers and PVC clot between my fingers; will not rub in. We’ve been through so much together. A euphoric exit into yellow sun and blue sky which shines off our 9115 bright red skins.