

## Introduction

### **A Gentle Man (Part II) (1975-2029)**

A Touring Exhibition by Becky Beasley

*“Art is not your life. It is somebody else’s.” (Frank O’Hara)*

*“Because you have the right to be obscure, first to yourself.” (Edouard Glissant)*

This touring exhibition by Becky Beasley is a pastoral interior landscape with a gallery-sized pale green linoleum floor artwork, including a series of inset hand-cut linoleum lakes silhouettes and a décor that transforms the length of the gallery into an environment. Around the lakes, adjustable ‘conversation’ or ‘kissing’ benches -designed by the artist- provide a place to sit. What a relief it is to sit down! Artist Roni Horn wrote that rivers are for moving along, where lakes are for sitting beside.

Beasley’s small ceramic works sit discreetly on a series of ‘lakes’ tables which mirror the floor designs. Pastel pink linen curtains swirl slowly in circles on rails formed in the shapes of the letters, H, S and P., an acronym for Highly Sensitive Person. Elongated oak picture-shelves, on which groups of existing and new photographic works lean, frame the lengths of the gallery.

The exhibition includes a four-part video portrait of an imaginary figure – a merging of the intersecting lives American novelist and shorty-story writer, Bernard Malamud, and the artist’s father. The work explores milestone

leaps of faith in life through its four discreet chapters: work, family, chosen family and dying.

So, what is a figure? What is it to figure something? To figure something out? To wonder, do I figure at all? And, if, so, how do I figure and who decides ?

*“Here’s the person I want.*

*Hello person! Doesn’t hear me.”*