

Rooney's decision to work with Gomperts was initially inspired by a transcript Rooney read of a performance art lecture by Rose Maguire and Jeff Nuttall. The 'lecture', which features Alan Smithson, was given to the Polytechnic's Landscape Architecture Department in 1972.

Using Smithson's tape recordings as triggers, *Thin Air* spirals out from these to combine information culled from conversations, archives, poems, songs, press cuttings and Smithson's own extensive journals. Gomperts and Rooney decipher a myriad of correspondences between historical moments in the life of individual students, the H Building, and the wider world.

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