

## **Camden Arts Centre**

a stranger here myself

Laura Ford and Jacqueline Poncelet

Forward

Jenni Lomax, Director

In the 1996 exhibition 'Private View' at Bowes Museum, Laura Ford's little pink 'Bears' were grouped happily in a room that also housed patterned paintings by Jacqueline Poncelet. Curator Penelope Curtis's tantalizing pairing was the start of a dialogue which led eventually to the collaborative exhibition 'a stranger here myself'. Jacqui and Laura have steered the conversation between their work along adventurous and unknown paths to create a challenging installation which up-ends many of the conventions and established hierarchies that exist in the world of arts and crafts.

The complexity of the project has demanded a tremendous amount of energy and commitment from the two artists and required substantial support from others. Penelope Curtis has not only contributed an insightful piece of writing to this catalogue but has given both artists invaluable criticism and advice. Peter de Bolla and Paul Nesbitt are to be thanked for adding different textures to this publication. Thanks are also due to Jeanette Winterson for agreeing to the inclusion of a passage from 'Sexing the Cherry' and to Orna Frommer Dawson for her imaginative catalogue design. Middlesex University and Camberwell College of Art, The London Institute, have provided generous financial support for this publication. The installation and production of work have been made possible by grants from Henry Moore Foundation, the Po-Shing Woo Foundation, London Arts Board and The Quercus Trust. Individual donations came from friends and supporters and gifts in kind from BPB Formula and East London Gypsum Distribution Ltd. We are delighted to be presenting this innovative project and are happy that it will have a future showing at Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich.