

SEANKELLY

“Review: Proposals for Cardiff,” *Guardian Cardiff*, May 29, 2010.

guardian**cardiff**

Review: Proposals for Cardiff

The beauty in Peter Liversidge's work is the subtlety behind his dramatic sculptures - like a wink in the crowd



The black trees at Peter Liversidge's exhibition Photograph: Hannah Waldram

When you walk into the exhibition space at Chapter Arts Centre you first notice the large black wooden trees dotted around the white-walled hall – then you might perhaps notice the little cinema tucked away behind the trees.

Proposals for Cardiff

Chapter Arts Centre

Until 11 July 2010

chapter.org

But Peter Liversidge's new exhibition at Chapter Arts Centre, which opened last night, is far more subtle than it at first seems – hinged on the accompanying book work – *Proposals for Cardiff* - £5 will buy the secrets to unlock this elegant work.

The book documents Peter's correspondence with Hannah Firth from Chapter Arts Centre and the birth of each idea. In delicate type-writer print each page contains one proposal – all written in 24 hours and sent to Hannah between 26 April and 1 May 2010.

From the cash in Chapter's tills being embossed with the text MONTANA FOREVER, to the line from Dylan Thomas's *Under Milk Wood* on every beer mat – Liversidge's work smiles with tiny details which give an overall impression of good will. Even the music played in the chef's kitchen is chosen by the artist – and the first person to read *Proposals for Cardiff* was given a small stone Liversidge had been carrying in his pocket for 15 months.

The book also adds personality and substance to the naked tree sculptures – which might seem delightful to the eye but meaningless without the source of their existence. Some of the proposals are personal notes to Hannah and the reader – apologies for spelling her name wrong and "I propose to keep you company". Other proposals contain a snippet of Cardiff's history – such as Ashton's fishmongers in Cardiff Central Market nee 1900.

The rest of Chapter Arts Centre is adorned in white paper bunting to the back drop of a grey hue wall where the individual proposals are framed interrupted by a single mirror.

A musical performance will close the work on 10/11 July. I urge you to go and find the special secrets of this integrated exhibition.