

# A Public Auction of Private Art Works

Sunday June 24, 2001







Image: Anna Best

## Lot 12

**Anna Best** (b.1965)  
Steep Mountains

process paid envelope containing exposed slide film  
(to be developed)  
dimensions: variable (at buyer's discretion)  
Executed in 2001.

Estimate: £300 - £400

PROVENANCE: Acquired directly from the artist

This work centres on three generations of family albums, the quantity and ambiguity of pictures in contrast with the sparsity of information. The idea of addressing a specific audience is implicit in family photo albums, as is an unashamed subjectivity. Images are emptied of their history over time. A handful of relatives might be able to 'read' the images. The use of digital imaging and video editing emphasises the ease at which facts sink like stones. This work was

sparked off by the Manchester family portraits that share Anna Best's grandmother's name – Montagu, which roughly translates as *Steep Mountain*.

*Lot 94 Hudson - Portrait of George Montague, son of Brig.-Gen. Edward Montague, wearing ruff and green coat, half-length, carved gilt acanthus frame, 30in. by 25in.*

Anna Best (based in London) has developed a process-based practice based on an investigation into the local and specific, into narrative structures and working with other people. Her work includes collaborative events, video, photography, digital and printed matter. Commissions have ranged from *The Wedding Project* with Tate Modern (1998/9), *Mecca*, with Camden Arts Centre (1999), *www.eyes-down.com* and *error 404* (2000) with e-2 at *www.e-2.org*. She is working on a Year of the Artist Media Residency with [an], the Artists' Information Company in Newcastle.