



**Elisabeth Mathisen**  
**BELOW THE SURFACE**

The Wapping Project  
02 May – 28 May 2006

# Elisabeth Mathisen BELOW THE SURFACE



PRIVATE VIEW 7PM 02 MAY

THEN 03 MAY – 28 MAY 2006 FREE ADMISSION

Daily Noon – 11.00pm, except Sundays to 6.00pm

BELOW THE SURFACE, Mathisen's first solo show in the UK, demonstrates that she is one of the very best and most provocative of Europe's video makers.

The video, BELOW THE SURFACE, from which this major retrospective of her work takes its title, is shot from a hotel room in the Oslo red light district. The camera is still and shows a section of the Postgiro building (the new home of the Aftenposten newspaper) in all its immobility. Below this section, in other words down at street level, a more chaotic and uncontrolled soundscape can be heard; cars drive past honking, people shout and children cry. Here, Mathisen presents an effective image of the distance between the turbulent everyday world of the private individual and the silent, unchanging face of power.

In the video "Hun vil jo alltid være moren min" (She will always be my mother), the central film in the show, Mathisen is talking to a young woman who has grown up with a mother who is a drug-addict and a prostitute. It is a powerful story, put across in sober terms, in which a simple (but far from simplistic) interplay between sound and image counteracts both sentimentality and cheap documentary thrills. The viewer senses the degree of shame and what it means to be consistently accorded lower priority than the need for a fix.

BELOW THE SURFACE is comprised of nine films, plus a small sequence of Mathisen's photographs, together creating a challenging and wide ranging overview of Mathisen on politics, power and gender, all pre-occupying concerns.

**WAPPING FOOD** Noon – 3.30pm lunch Monday – Sunday; dinner 6.30pm – 11.00pm Monday – Friday, 7.00pm – 11.00pm Saturday; brunch 10.00am – 12.30pm Saturday and Sunday. Closed Sunday night.  
**WAPPING HYDRAULIC POWER STATION** Wapping Wall E1W 3ST Tube Wapping 020 7680 2080

  
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