

KALEIDOSCOPE



Nina Canell, *Unanswered Elemental Thoughts*, 2010
Collection Museum Moderner Kunst (MUMOK), Vienna

In April, the second iteration of “Near Here,” [Nina Canell](#)’s solo show developed in collaboration with [Camden Arts Centre](#), London, has opened at [BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead](#). Presenting new and existing works that respond to the architecture of the exhibition space, Canell makes sculptures that playfully rearticulate the workings of the physical world and our conception of it. In “Near Here,” unobtrusive sculptural forms suggest a poetic drifting of matter and perception. Using tubular fluorescent lights in *Overcoming the Current Resistance* (2012), Canell takes control of a constantly moving power—the electricity we see here as light. “Near Here” continues Canell’s exploration into the material knowledge of things we understand—cables, neon tubes, chewing gum. There is nothing mysterious about the objects themselves, but the sculptural assemblages that incorporate them often allude to a quiet and constant state of transformation. Electrical currents, luminescence, sound waves and vaporised droplets become sculptural components. A shifting intimacy develops through a considered negotiation of scale, proximity and distance between the things themselves and us, the audience, as observant, transient beings. Relating spatial and structural concerns to that elusive fabric which constitutes the melancholic nature of being, the work facilitates a place in which matter and non-matter interact through carefully balanced sculptural happenings. In September Nina Canell’s works will be also showed in a solo exhibition at [Moderna Museet](#), Stockholm. (Sam Watson)

“Near Here,” Nina Canell’s exhibition at BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, runs through July 20

[Sam Watson](#)