

STEPHEN SUTCLIFFE
'IT WAS A LOVER AND HIS LASS'

"It was a lover and his lass" a single-channel, video collage by Stephen Sutcliffe takes its title and soundtrack from a song in Act 5, Scene 3 of William Shakespeare's play 'As You like It' (c.1599).

A woman sings along to a recording of the song whilst sharpening a knife. Loaded with innuendo and celebrating the promise of spring, Shakespeare's lyric is disrupted by the sinister scraping of steel.

The soundtrack is accompanied by found footage (re-rendered by Sutcliffe through a digital e-reader) of a fish tank. What could initially seem to be playful courting is in fact a fight to the death performed by a pair of Siamese fighting fish (*Betta splendens*).

This work continues Sutcliffe's interest in iconoclasm, collage, the incongruity of digital and analogue technologies and in the collision of literature and film.