

## DÉPENSÉ 1990

wood, glass, video projection and documents  
TSWA Four Cities Project, Glasgow

Although it was built in the nineteenth century, and looks like an authentic ruin, the old Cheese Market was abandoned only one year ago. The interior, with its wrought ironwork, vernacular wood panelling, and two interior towers suggests a Serlio-esque stage set; a place in which all of the city might be represented. The Cheese Market was a place for exchange, so it seemed appropriate that it be used in keeping with its former function. Suspended from one of the towers is a large case display similar to one that you might find in an anthropology or history museum. Its hinges are rusted, and the locks have been pried open, the glass front of the case is broken and the fabric covering the structure is torn and dirty. Spilling out of this vitrine are many images of Glasgow's past - work that can no longer be performed, buildings that have been torn down, tenement neighbourhoods that have been razed, trams and ships and trains that no longer run; many of those things that indicate that a former way of life has disappeared. These images fill the fog-laden air, waiting to be traded. Similarly, on the floor in front of the vitrine, littering the floor, are numerous documents of work long past, of moments and incidents half-forgotten, of time spent. These are also waiting, but there is a difference. They can not participate in the nostalgia factory, they will never be used to feed the nostalgia machine. For they are unexchangeable, and now have no value. Even though once as time sheets and business orders, drawings and receipts, they were essential. The measure of that which had been exchanged, the very measure of work. And so they are here, in this old market, as the reminder of the quantifiable nature of time and the character of certain kinds of loss.

