

**MEETING POINT: Within the Lewisian**  
**Jake Harvey & Helen Douglas.**

Taigh Chearsabhagh Museum and Arts Centre, Isle of North Uist.  
19 July – 27 September 2025

(Touring to An Lanntair, Stornoway, October 2025 and the RSA, Edinburgh in 2027).

On the beautiful island of North Uist in the Outer Hebrides the physical matter of the place itself – its ancient stone known as Lewisian gneiss, which is the oldest metamorphic rock formation in Britain – is the subject of this remarkable exhibition.

Accompanied by a distinguished 96-page publication commissioned by Taigh Chearsabhagh, it tells a thoroughly researched story of stone, taking inspiration from Jake Harvey's and Helen Douglas's experiences of photographing and gathering samples from North Uist's Lewisian Gneiss complex. Included are wall, floor, table and shelf works of art in stone and paper.

Harvey's smooth, tactile, honed stone sculptures form a meditative dialogue with Douglas's photographic and exquisite book form pieces. Their different approaches to geological research are reflected in common visual threads and responses to their material which spark a dynamic engagement with the viewer and encourage a deeper consideration of nature's intriguing long-term processes. The aesthetic qualities of Harvey's and Douglas's art match their subject in a poetic alliance and are truly inspirational.



Helen Douglas: 'Lewisian II' phase section of hand scroll, 30cm x 4metres and Jake Harvey Lewisian gneiss forms 20 x 20 x cm and 'Speckled Moon' 12 x 12 x 3.5cm



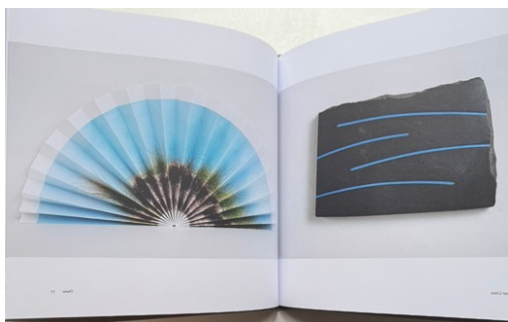
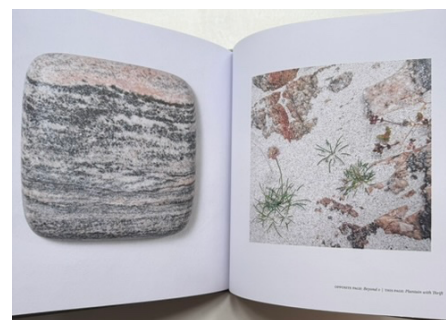
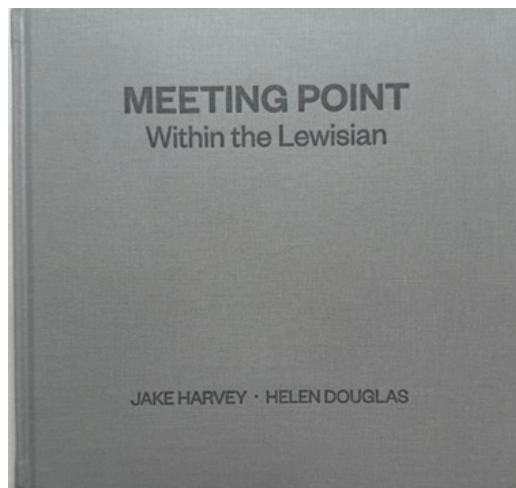
A staggering three billion years lie behind the geological processes that create Lewisian base strata, giving it a dense complexity and infinite variety of infused lines, colour and mineral variety. Its existence through deep time prompts consideration of the creation of the universe and the very beginning of life. The artists refer to the studies of James Hutton, the 18<sup>th</sup> century Scottish natural philosopher and founder of modern geology whose theories were drawn from his study of stone on Scotland's west coast. Physical aspects of gravity and form meet metaphysics in this compelling, shared understanding which is beautifully expressed and offered to us in this considered presentation on the island itself.



Jake Harvey: 'Lewisian Stratum' Lewisian gneiss and corten steel, 71 x 55 x 46cm



Jake Harvey : *No vestige of a beginning / No prospect of an end* 2025,  
Lewisian gneiss/Caithness slate, 192 x 46 x 4cm  
Helen Douglas: *Hand Scroll* section 30cm x 3.7 metres, *Stone Book* (4)



Helen Douglas observes the flow of strata in the stone, its marks and phrasing, and brings a clarity of vision to the 4.5 metre scrolls and to the concertina books (two metres when open), all of them reproductions inkjet prints on Munken paper in small editions. From the book's pages shown above you see one of her Leporello fans *Dune*, 32.5cm in height. The book's thoughtful layout records the evident synergy between the artists and copies are available for £20 + p&p.

For more information, and a price list contact [info@artfirst.co.uk](mailto:info@artfirst.co.uk) or [taigh@taigh-chearsabghagh.org](mailto:taigh@taigh-chearsabghagh.org)