

Roberta M Graham

I was pleased to be involved in the earlier days of NRLA, at a time when installation/environment and time-based work was often accorded poor attention, with many venues lacking both organisation and understanding.

Pale Battalions, though not an NRLA exhibit, was first shown in the late '80s as part of the *Lighting Up Time* exhibition at the Third Eye in Glasgow, programmed by Nikki. It was a cyclical tape/slide work, projected within an arched construction of skeletal figures, made up of large, hand-painted photographic images taken from the *Mort Homme* funereal monumental sculpture in Eastern France. These mirror-imaged figures embraced the screen, towering over a triangular carpet of fresh grass, giving the illusion of a cemetery field.

The enthusiasm of the Gallery team gave the piece the care and attention it needed, helping make it a powerful and unique work – and thanks for keeping the grass watered!

March 2009