

EXCERPT

# APOLLO

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FEATURES

## When the medium is the messenger – the art of communicating with spirits

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*Octagonal Drawing* (1976), Ann Churchill. Photo: Ben Westoby; courtesy the artist







Finnish artist Pia Lindman, who will present six small 'diagrams' in pencil and felt tip pen, also works to render the unseeable visible. In *GL 28 (Emotional Soup)* (2016) a human body has been atomised: its legs a wobbly blue contour, buried under a haze of scribbles; its trunk a rotund shape in orange; its head a levitating, vermillion smudge. Evocative phrases are scrawled across the sheet: 'Throat Lock', 'Heart Small', 'Emotional Soup'. The series documents synaesthetic visions witnessed by the artist when healing people. (Her practice fuses various sensory techniques, from the Finnish tradition of Kalevela bone setting to sound and energy healing.) Lindman tells me about her initial scepticism when, during a period of ill health, she first participated in esoteric healing practices ('I'm a rational being!'), but that they cured her. In contemporary culture faith in the spiritual has been usurped by faith in the scientific method and any deviation from this script is deemed sacrilege. But, in Lindman's view, science is just another man-made myth, a narrative framework. 'And it's not that science is wrong, it's that this myth is not working.'