

Press Release

GROUNDWORK

A season of international contemporary art in Cornwall

May - September 2018. Launch Weekend: 5 - 7 May 2018

Francis Alÿs, Manon de Boer, Janet Cardiff, Adam Chodzko, Tacita Dean, Andy Holden, Rosemary Lee, Sean Lynch, Christina Mackie, Steve McQueen, Steven Rowell, Simon Starling, Semiconductor, Laureana Toledo and others



CAST (Cornubian Arts and Science Trust) is delighted to announce GROUNDWORK, a season of international contemporary art in Cornwall between May and September. With a focus on place and an emphasis on moving image, sound and performance, the programme presents new commissions made in Cornwall, together with existing works by internationally acclaimed artists.

Two exceptional new commissions launch GROUNDWORK at the beginning of May.

Bella, Maia and Nick (From nothing to something to something else, Part I), by Dutch artist **Manon de Boer**, is presented in the gallery at Kestle Barton. Filmed at Porthmeor Studios in St Ives, the work portrays three local music students experimenting with new sounds and rhythms. The film is made with the artist's characteristic quality of quiet attention and has grown out of her continuing fascination with the importance of 'open time' in creating the conditions for invention and creation.

Following research at Goonhilly Earth Station, the large telecommunications site first established on the Lizard peninsula in the early 1960s, **Semiconductor** (Ruth Jarman and Joe Gerhardt) have developed a new moving image work that explores how we experience nature through the language of science and technology. Seen through the shifting reflections of a fictional elderly female scientist, the film combines new video footage filmed at Goonhilly Earth Station, archival material, and scientific data acquired through the process of radio astronomy. Semiconductor's work is shown with *Black Drop* (2012), **Simon Starling's** film inspired by the 2012 transit of Venus. *Black Drop* tells the story of the relationship between astronomy, photography and the beginnings of moving image technology, starting with the idea that the 2012 transit may be the last to be recorded on celluloid. Both works are

presented on the Goonhilly site, a place with a strong sense of its own history, achievements and future endeavours, where nature and technology co-exist.

GROUNDWORK takes the industrial, social and cultural histories of Cornwall as the starting point for a programme that brings together related histories from other parts of the world. Christina Mackie's *Judges II*, an installation inspired by the rock formations of New South Wales and by ideas of geological, mythical and personal time, is presented in the Kings Room at Godolphin, a seventeenth-century estate built from the profits of copper and tin mining. At CAST, **Steve McQueen's** film *Gravesend* (2007), exploring the mining of coltan, the mineral used in the manufacture of mobile phones and laptops, is shown in a specially constructed black box projection space.

Also opening on GROUNDWORK's launch weekend is **Sean Lynch's** ongoing video work, *What Is An Apparatus*, which gradually reveals the evidence of increasingly technocratic living through the artist's seemingly random encounters with nuclear submarines, postmodern architecture, robots, scrapyards and supermarkets in Europe and North America. Including new footage shot in Cornwall, the work is presented in Helston Museum amongst artefacts relating to the town's working history.

At the end of May, **Janet Cardiff's** internationally acclaimed sound installation *Forty Part Motet* (2001) opens in the Richmond Chapel in Penzance, a former Wesleyan Chapel and Grade II listed building, usually closed to the public. Cardiff has reworked sixteenth century composer Thomas Tallis's choral piece *Spem in alium nunquam habui* by recording forty individual male voices (bass, baritone, alto, tenor and child soprano) and playing each individual voice through its own speaker, so that the visitor can move amongst the forty speakers to listen to single voices or be immersed in the overall complexity of the choral ensemble.

Passage for Par, a new site-specific dance work by choreographer **Rosemary Lee**, commissioned for GROUNDWORK in partnership with Dance Republic 2, will inhabit the vast expanse of Par Beach in June. Bracketed at one end by the china clay refineries at Par Docks and at the other by the green fields of Gribben Head, Par beach is the most bio-diverse site in the whole of Cornwall. At low tide, over the course of an hour, thirty women dancers will come together as a singular form slowly moving across the sands.

At the Telegraph Museum in Porthcurno **Steve Rowell** presents his photographic installation *Points of Presence*, an ongoing investigation into the history, geography and archaeology of trans-Atlantic telecommunications sites, documenting places in Cornwall, Newfoundland and the US where the first telegraph cables physically connected the old world with the new. Porthcurno is the point at which many trans-Atlantic and intercontinental submarine cables came ashore.

Also in June, CAST will present an exhibition of *The Silence of Ani* (2015), **Francis Aljys's** film set in the ruins of the ancient Armenian city; **Adam Chodzko** will explore tidal estuaries and the still waters of disused china clay pits in *Ghost*, an iconic wooden kayak carrying a single recumbent passenger; **Tacita Dean's** *Event for a Stage* (2015), her filmed exploration of live theatre with actor Stephen Dillane, will be presented at Falmouth University's performing arts centre; and **Laureana Toledo's** sound and video installation *Order and Progress* (2013-16), exploring Britain's colonial exploitation of the Mexican isthmus, will be presented at CAST, with live performances by cellist **Natalia Perez Turner**.

In partnership with Tate St Ives, Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange and Kestle Barton Gallery, and supported by funding through Arts Council England's Ambition for Excellence scheme, CAST has evolved GROUNDWORK from a three-year programme of the same name that has brought internationally celebrated contemporary art to Cornwall and invited artists to lead field trips, workshops and learning projects.

In addition to funding from Arts Council England's Ambition for Excellence fund, GROUNDWORK has received support from Freelands Foundation, Ampersand Foundation, Quercus Trust, Outset Contemporary Art Fund and Cornwall Council.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The GROUNDWORK season of international contemporary art, 5 May to September 2018. For further information www.groundwork.art

Programme, Opening Weekend, 5 – 7 May 2018

Semiconductor, *As the World Turns* (2018), 5 – 3 June, Old Battery Store, Goonhilly Earth Station, Helston, Lizard Peninsula TR12 6LQ

Simon Starling, *Black Drop* (2012), 5 – 3 June, Old Battery Store, Goonhilly Earth Station, Helston, Lizard Peninsula TR12 6LQ

Steve McQueen, *Gravesend* (2007) and *Unexploded* (2007), 5 May – 3 June, CAST, 3 Penrose Road, Helston TR13 8TP

Andy Holden, *Laws of Motion in a Cartoon Landscape LIVE*, Saturday 5 May, 7pm. Academy of Music and Theatre Arts, Falmouth University, Treliever Road, Penryn, Cornwall TR10 9LX

Sean Lynch, *What Is An Apparatus* (2016 - 2018) and *Latoon* (2006 - 2015), 5 May – 3 June, The Old School Room, Helston Museum, Market Place, Helston TR13 8TH

Manon de Boer, new commission, *Bella, Maia and Nick (From nothing to something to something else, Part 1)*, (2018), 5 May – 8 July, Kestle Barton, Manaccan, Helston, Cornwall TR12 6HU

Christina Mackie, *The Judges II* (2011) 5 May – 24 June, The Kings Room, National Trust Godolphin, Godolphin Cross, Helston TR13 9RE

Abel Rodriquez, drawings, 5 – 7 May, Visitor Centre, Trebah Garden Trust, Mawnan Smith, Falmouth TR11 5JZ

Abigail Reynolds, *The Mother's Bones*, screening and live performance, 6 May, 6pm, Epworth Hall, 42 Coinagehall St, Helston TR13 8EQ. Closing performance in September.

Programme May – August 2018 (please note that some dates are to be confirmed and new announcements are published on the website)

Janet Cardiff, *Forty Part Motet*, 25 May – 27 August, Richmond Chapel, Tolver Place, Penzance TR18 2AB

Tacita Dean, *Event for a Stage*, 31 May – 3 June, Academy of Music and Theatre Arts (AMATA), Falmouth University, Treliever Road, Penryn, Cornwall TR10 9LX

Francis Alÿs, *The Silence of Ani*, 8 June – 8 July, CAST, 3 Penrose Road, Helston TR13 8TP

Steve Rowell, *Points of Presence*, June 2018 – April 2019. Telegraph Museum Porthcurno, Eastern House, Old Cable Lane, Porthcurno TR19 6JX

Laureana Toledo, *Order and Progress*, July, CAST, 3 Penrose Road, Helston TR13 8TP

Rosemary Lee, new commission, *Passage for Par*, 22-24 June, Par Beach, St Austell, PL24 2AS

Adam Chodzko, *Ghost* (2018), voyages in May and June, dates and locations to be announced

Groundwork is organised by CAST in partnership with Tate St Ives,
Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange and Kestle Barton

CAST



NEWLYN
ART GALLERY
& THE
EXCHANGE

KESTLE BARTON

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Image: film still from new commission for GROUNDWORK by Semiconductor, 2018. Courtesy the artists.