
GROUNDWORK

Press Release

Francis Alÿs, Manon de Boer, Janet Cardiff, Rosemary Lee, Sean Lynch, Christina Mackie, Steve McQueen, Steven Rowell, Semiconductor and others

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A season of international contemporary art in Cornwall

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



Rosemary Lee rehearsing on Par beach, near St Austell.
Image: Steve Tanner © CAST (Cornubian Arts and Science Trust)

In May 2018, the Helston-based arts organisation CAST (Cornubian Arts and Science Trust) launches GROUNDWORK, a season of international contemporary art in Cornwall, by renowned artists including **Francis Alÿs, Manon de Boer, Janet Cardiff, Rosemary Lee, Sean Lynch, Christina Mackie, Steve McQueen, Steven Rowell** and **Semiconductor**. Conceived as an exploration of place as a terrain of past, present and future human activity, GROUNDWORK will present contemporary art projects from May to July, concluding with a programme of special events in September.

With an emphasis on moving image, sound and performance, the programme will include presentations of new commissions and acclaimed existing works at locations across West Cornwall including Par Beach, the Godolphin Estate, Goonhilly Earth Station, Helston Museum, the Telegraph Museum Porthcurno, Tremayne Quay, Kestle Barton Gallery, the CAST building in Helston and other venues to be announced.

Supported by funding through Arts Council England's Ambition for Excellence scheme, CAST has developed GROUNDWORK as a three-year programme in partnership with Kestle Barton, Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange and Tate St Ives.

Teresa Gleadowe, Director of GROUNDWORK said, 'This unfolding season of exhibitions and events has grown out of collaborations and partnerships with a host of artists, institutions, organisations, schools and colleges in Cornwall and beyond. It will provide exceptional opportunities to experience outstanding work by artists of international renown.'

A new film commission by Dutch artist Manon de Boer draws on her experience of attending master-classes at the International Musicians Seminar held annually at Prussia Cove; a moving image work by Brighton-based artist duo Semiconductor (Ruth Jarman and Joe Gerhardt) has grown out of their explorations of Goonhilly Earth Station on the Lizard peninsula and from meetings with the astronomers who plan to explore deep space using the old antennas on the site; and a new site-specific dance work by choreographer Rosemary Lee, developed in partnership with Dance Republic 2, will inhabit the vast expanse of Par Beach, one of Cornwall's most distinctive sites.

GROUNDWORK will also present celebrated works including Janet Cardiff's widely acclaimed *Forty Part Motet* (2001), a 40-speaker installation of individual unaccompanied voices performing the iconic choral work *Spem in Alium* by sixteenth century composer Thomas Tallis; exceptional moving image works by Steve McQueen and Francis Alÿs presented in the CAST building, originally a Science and Art School; a sculptural installation by Christina Mackie in the King's Room on the Godolphin Estate; Steven Rowell's ongoing photographic investigation of trans-Atlantic telecommunications sites presented at the Telegraph Museum in Porthcurno; and a new film by Sean Lynch, partly inspired by recent visits to Cornwall.

Phil Gibby, Area Director, South West, Arts Council England said, 'Our Ambition for Excellence fund is aimed at stimulating and supporting ambition, talent and excellence across the arts sector in England. GROUNDWORK is a great example of this in action; the project is a fantastic model for a large-scale event that will create new opportunities for the visual arts in a rural place.'

Further artists and works will be announced early in 2018, as well as a programme of field trips, music, screenings, talks and readings, many in places usually closed to the public.

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.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Groundwork

The GROUNDWORK season of international contemporary art runs from 5 May to September 2018. Locations include Par Beach, the Godolphin Estate, Goonhilly Earth Station, Helston Museum, the Telegraph Museum Porthcurno, Tremayne Quay, Kestle Barton Gallery, the CAST building in Helston and other venues to be announced.

GROUNDWORK is an exploration of place as the terrain of past, present and future human activity. It aims to develop connections between the visual arts and other specialist fields and to build on strong working relationships with organisations in Cornwall and beyond. It is dedicated to encouraging national and international connection and exchange and has grown out of earlier projects in Cornwall exploring ideas of place, including The Falmouth Convention in 2010 and The Penzance Convention in 2012. Informed by ongoing conversations with Cornwall's exceptional community of artists, Groundwork also draws on the experience of residential workshops held at Kestle Barton since 2011, led by artists Mark Dion, Hamish Fulton, Simon Starling, Ben Rivers, Ruth Ewan and Christina Mackie; field trips led by artists, scientists, geographers and historians exploring particular themes and ideas; and CAST's energetic public programme of screenings, talks, workshops and performances. www.groundwork.art

About CAST

The Cornubian Arts & Science Trust (CAST) is an educational charity. It was established in 2012 and has developed out of the series of contemporary art events organised in Cornwall since 2010, including The Falmouth Convention and The Penzance Convention.

CAST is housed in a late-nineteenth-century school building, originally given to Helston by the eminent Cornish philanthropist John Passmore Edwards as a School of Science and Art. The CAST building provides studios for fifteen artists, a café and spaces for screenings, talks and workshops.

CAST works with artists, curators, writers and specialists from other fields, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally, to develop professional expertise and exchange, to present examples of outstanding creative practice, and to create opportunities for audiences of all ages to experience groundbreaking cultural activity.

Arts Council England has recently awarded a Small Capital grant to enable CAST to renovate and develop the public areas of the CAST building. The launch of Groundwork will coincide with the completion of the first phase of this scheme, which will include upgrading CAST's pop-up café to a full-time operation. The second phase will include refurbishment of the old school hall to make a multi-purpose space for workshops and events and the creation of a residency space. Cornwall Council and the Monument Trust have also given support to the scheme. www.c-a-s-t.org.uk

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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