

Press Release
Landscape : Islands

An innovative ceramic and sound art project at Shetland Museum, Artist Open Houses (AOH), Phoenix Brighton, University of Brighton, Brighton Digital Festival and 51 Zero

Summary:

Artists Kay Aplin (ceramics) and Joseph Young (sound art) have been working together for the last 2 years to develop new ways of combining sound art and ceramic sculpture in an exhibition at Shetland Museum & Archives opening April 16th 2016. The project continues in Brighton as part of Artists Open Houses in May with an exhibition of ceramics inspired by the theme of "Landscape : Islands" and a series of sound performances and artist talks at The Ceramic House. This is followed over the summer by a residency series at Phoenix Brighton and exhibitions of work during Brighton Digital Festival in September. A touring version takes to the road in the autumn bringing the work to audiences in Kent and Medway, in collaboration with 51 Zero.

Background:

After an initial research trip, funded by a New Collaborations Bursary from a-n, Aplin and Young returned to Shetland in August last year to spend a month in residency at Scalloway Booth, during which they explored the landscape and soundscape of the Shetland Isles through walking routes mapped out with the aid of Shetland Amenity Trust.

The result is a collaborative installation inspired by the work of John Cage entitled "In A Shetland Landscape", after Cage's famous composition "In A Landscape". The exhibition explores the experience of being part of a landscape rather than simply observing it, through an immersive four channel sound installation, that takes the listener on a sweeping journey through the unique sounds of land and sea. This is accompanied by a series of ceramic panels celebrating the indigenous "micro-flora" of the Shetland Isles, magnified to produce delicate designs of vibrant colour and texture.

Expanding the project:

Excited by their own collaboration, Aplin and Young decided to extend the project to offer the opportunity for other artists from ceramic and sound backgrounds to collaborate together in a series of month-long residencies hosted by Phoenix Brighton. The results will be exhibited at Phoenix Brighton Gallery during the Brighton Digital Festival. At the same time "In A Shetland Landscape" will transfer from Shetland Museum to a new gallery space at the award-winning Ceramic House (Best House, AOH 2013) accompanied by further performances and artist talks at venues including Brighton University.

Leading film and digital producers 51 Zero will then tour the work to selected venues in Kent and Medway during October and November, featuring film programmes, artist talks, temporary exhibitions and performances. A sumptuous catalogue/artists book will be published accompanied by a CD release of the soundworks from "In A Shetland Landscape", in collaboration with Portuguese label Green Field Recordings.

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