



AV FESTIVAL 10 HIGHLIGHTS in NEWCASTLEGATESHEAD International Festival of Electronic Arts (5-14 March 2010) www.avfestival.co.uk

The North East based biennial AV Festival is one of the UK's largest international festivals of electronic arts. It returns to NewcastleGateshead, Middlesbrough, and Sunderland 5-14 March, presenting a diverse programme of work including 24 exhibitions, 20 performances, 10 screenings, 14 talks, 4 club nights and 3 symposia, by over 100 visual artists, musicians and filmmakers, and will include 15 World Premieres of new AV Festival commissions.

The theme of this year's Festival is 'energy' and all the works in the Festival respond to this idea in some way ranging from sound, light and mechanical energy, to the spiritual and human.

Carol Bell, Head of Programme Development at Culture¹⁰, said:
"AV Festival 10 is set to be the best yet with a real diverse programme of events, many of which offer a variety of opportunities for engagement. The theme of energy shines through and is sure to leave those involved feeling they have experienced something both unique and special."

Highlights for NewcastleGateshead audiences include:

- * Charlemagne Palestine Trilogy, 3 performances by US composer with the carillon bells at Newcastle Civic Centre, change ringing bells at two Newcastle churches, and a 6-hour work for organ at another.
- * Power Game by Liliane Lijn, a late night card game and improvised art performance with cross-dressing croupiers at the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead.
- * English Journey Revisited with Iain Sinclair and Alan Moore, filmmaker and writer (Sinclair) and cult graphic novelist (Moore) in a unique evening of words, music and film at The Sage Gateshead.
- * Sounds of Science, an evening of fantastical sonic experiments at The Sage Gateshead as artists make music using a Tesla Coil, firework sparklers, levitating gold leaf and a harp on a block of dry ice.
- * Rivers, three international sound artists visited Northumberland rivers and have used these underwater recordings as a basis for a concert at The Sage Gateshead.
- * artificiel, a FREE exhibition of dozens of oversized electric light bulbs in the darkened Great Hall at Discovery Museum, Newcastle.

* Recycled Film, are rubbish skips the film archives of our time? A series of talks, screenings, and a one-day symposium at Tyneside Cinema on the art of recycled film and reusing archive footage.

* Kenneth Anger, legendary American filmmaker and writer (Hollywood Babylon) whose fans include Martin Scorsese and Andy Warhol visits Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle.

* all art is, is rhythm, a new FREE group exhibition at Hatton Gallery: Great North Museum, Newcastle features harps played by wind, 16 model wind turbines, 500 paper wind vanes and a medley of soft toys.

* Will Schrimshaw: Space Against Itself, a FREE sound installation inside the secret world of the North Tower of the Tyne Bridge, Newcastle.

* CHARLEMAGNE PALESTINE TRILOGY - Three unmissable performances by the legendary maverick American minimalist composer inspired by hearing the bells of Newcastle during a visit in 2005: Fri 5 March, Carillon Bells at Newcastle Civic Centre Bell Tower (6.15-7pm, FREE); Sat 6 March, 'Schlingen Blangen' at Church of St Thomas the Martyr, Newcastle (4-10pm, £6/£5 concessions); and, Sun 7 March, 'Charlemagne Maximus' at Cathedral Church of St Nicholas, and St John the Baptist Church, Newcastle (2pm, FREE).

A true living legend Palestine emerged from the 1970s New York music scene and swiftly became the 'bad boy' of the minimalist music movement. Widely admired but rarely seen he has gained worldwide notoriety for his earth-shaking performances. A true eccentric, Charlemagne has been known to play the carillon bells until his hands and feet bleed, in ritualistic style supping Cognac and surrounded by soft toys!

On 5 March he will perform the UK premiere of a new work for the 25 bells of the Civic Centre carillon, using both his fists and feet to play the keyboard and pedals! On 6 March Palestine will give a powerful solo organ performance that gradually builds over six hours as he uses all the pipes of the St Thomas the Martyr organ to play many tones at once. The performance on 7 March will be at two churches, when the local bell-ringers of Cathedral Church of St Nicholas, and St John the Baptist, will perform his first ever composition for change ringing church bells. (Change ringing is the art of ringing a set of tuned bells in a series of mathematical patterns, and no attempt is made to produce a conventional melody).

* POWER GAME with LILIANE LIJN - Join in late night card game and improvised art performance at the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead on Fri 5 March (9-11.30pm, Minimum £2 exchanged for chips to enter the casino. FREE to watch on video relay in the BALTIC Café Bar).

Power Game is a dynamic card game with improvised art performance, devised and performed by artist Liliane Lijn. Originally staged in 1974, and restaged at the ICA in London in 2009, it explores the power of words, politics and identity. BALTIC will be staged as a casino with leafy palms, cocktails, music and cross-dressing croupiers! At the heart of the game are invited players, (in 1974 these included film director Derek Jarman), who bet with their own money on the comparative power of two words.

* ENGLISH JOURNEY REVISITED, with IAIN SINCLAIR and ALAN MOORE - Renowned filmmaker/writer Sinclair, and cult graphic novelist Moore present the premiere of a new work inspired by JB Priestley's legendary 1933 travel book English Journey which ended in the North East. Closing Night performance on Sun 14 March (8pm at The Sage Gateshead, £12/£10 concessions)

Over 75 years since JB Priestley's account of his recession era journey, Iain Sinclair (Lights out for the Territory, London Orbital), and Alan Moore (V for Vendetta, Watchmen), will present a contemporary journey offering new social observations and predictions for the future, with a soundscape performed by musicians Stephen O'Malley, Susan Stenger and FM Einheit (percussionist from influential 1980s German avant-garde band, Einstürzende Neubauten).

* SOUNDS OF SCIENCE - An evening of sonic experiments with music emanating from highly unusual sources: a Tesla Coil, firework sparklers, levitating gold leaf and a harp placed on a block of dry ice! Sat 13 March (6.30pm at The Sage Gateshead, £8/£6 concessions).

An evening of four performances by artists who explore the science of sound energy. Featuring: artificiel, who present the UK premiere of POWER using a Tesla Coil as a live instrument firing electrical arcs to create a dramatic audio visual performance (a Tesla coil is a type of resonant transformer circuit invented by Nikola Tesla in 1891, used to produce high frequency alternating current electricity); Lee Patterson's Sparklers, which amplifies the intricate sizzling sound of sparkler fireworks, usually enjoyed only for their visual appeal; the UK Premiere of Russian artists Evelina Domnitch and Dmitry Gelfand's Sonolevitation, a live audio-visual performance in which slivers of gold leaf are suspended by sound waves, while a microphone relays the delicate sounds made as the gold fluctuates in the air, and finally, Rhodri Davies's Dry Ice Harp in which an electronic harp is placed on a block of dry ice, and the sound of the air evaporating on the harp is amplified. This event is produced in collaboration with Newcastle ScienceFest.

* RIVERS - Earlier in 2009 three international sound artists visited Northumberland and recorded its rivers using underwater microphones. The three new pieces based on these recordings will be performed at The Sage Gateshead on the Closing Day, Sun 14 March (3pm, £8/£6 concessions).

The new commissions by Kaffe Matthews, Lee Patterson and Jana Winderen have all captured the dramatic energy, ecology and destructive power of our rivers and environment by recording underwater in locations ranging from the river Coquet to the lesser-known river Till. Kaffe recently undertook a residency in The Galapagos working with sharks and conservation scientists. Lee's work explores hidden sounds within everyday objects from wind turbines to peanuts! While Norwegian artist Jana makes work that reveals the complexity of the marine world and other unseen sound sources.

* ARTIFICIEL: CONDEMNED_BULBES - An exhibition of dozens of oversized electric light bulbs in the blackened Great Hall at Discovery Museum, Newcastle from Fri 5 to Sun 14 March (Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, FREE).

The English premiere of a new work by Montreal based digital artists artificiel (Alexandre Burton, Jimmy Lakatos and Julien Roy). A series of incandescent light bulbs hang in the stunning hall of the Discovery Museum, and as electricity passes through a special dimmer, the bulb coils come to life and become audible. The result is a spectacular electric chorus and flashing light display. Presented in collaboration with Newcastle ScienceFest, it marks the invention of the incandescent light bulb by Sunderland-born Joseph Swan, early versions of which can be seen in the Discovery Museum.

* RECYCLED FILM - A series of screenings, performances and talks, which focus on artists who produce new work using found film footage and archive material. Various dates, times and venues throughout the Festival but including, RECYCLED FILM SYMPOSIUM on Thurs 11 March at 6.30pm (launch event), and Fri 12 March at Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle (9.30am-5pm, £25/£20 concessions). Plus a special guest appearance by the legendary filmmaker and writer on Hollywood scandals Kenneth Anger (Fri 12 March, 7pm-9pm, Tyneside Cinema)

The Recycled Film Symposium is a national one-day seminar which will bring together international experts on film archives ranging from online film archives in the cultural sector such as San Francisco based Rick Prelinger (Prelinger Archives), a collection of over 60,000 films, Kenneth Goldsmith, American poet and founder of UbuWeb, the largest archive of avant-garde material online, and writer and filmmaker Iain Sinclair. Other screenings of films which use recycled or found footage include a presentation by Craig Baldwin, including a screening of his latest film, Mock Up On Mu, a fictional story based heavily on archive film of amongst others, L. Ron Hubbard and Aleister Crowley.

* KENNETH ANGER IN PERSON - Legendary American filmmaker and writer (Hollywood Babylon) whose fans include Martin Scorsese and Andy Warhol, visits Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle on Fri 12 March (7pm, £8/£7 concessions).

Kenneth Anger is a pioneering force in avant-garde cinema and a prolific writer about Hollywood's rich and famous, including his 1959 bestselling expose, Hollywood Babylon. Creating films since the 1940s his work explores themes of counterculture and the occult and have influenced generations of filmmakers. He famously used tracks by Elvis, Bobby Darin (Blue Velvet), and Ray Charles in his seminal 60s film Scorpio Rising, and collaborated with Mick Jagger on Invocation of My Demon Brother (1969) after the original footage was mysteriously buried in Death Valley! For 20 years from the early 80s he released no new material, however he has recently started directing again and new films include Mouse Heaven (2004), a montage of toys from the 1930s, and Ich Will! (2008), a visual poem about Hitler Youth using archive material.

* ALL ART IS, IS RHYTHM - Harps played by wind, 16 model wind turbines, 500 paper wind vanes and a medley of soft toys feature in an exhibition at Hatton Gallery: Great North Museum, Newcastle from Fri 5 March to Sat 22 May (Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-6pm, FREE).

As stated by the famous modern artist Kurt Schwitters in 1928, 'art is nothing more than rhythm'. This group exhibition presents six contemporary artists including three

new commissions on the theme of energy and sound, featuring: Rhodri Davies's 'Room Harp' which is a series of harp sculptures played by mechanical fans, turning the harps into musical wind machines; 'Sky-Wheels' is a new work by Alec Finlay, a field of sixteen model wind turbines featuring poems by the artist on their kinetic blades; 'Its In The Air' by artist and physicist Felix Hess is an installation of 500 floor-based small paper vanes that respond to changing air flows in the room; Pe Lang's thermochromatic paintings an input of thermal energy to the canvas alters its molecular structure and slowly changes its colour; Liliane Lijn's installations made from copper wire create moving lines of light, while her drawings of wind turbines from 1970 predict a future of renewable energy, and Charlemagne Palestine's debut UK installation will feature 1,500 teddy bears.

* SPACE AGAINST ITSELF by WILL SCHRIMSHAW - A new sound installation that manipulates the acoustic signature of the Tyne Bridge's vast North Tower, creating the impression to the listener that the walls are closing in, from Fri 5 -Sun 14 March (entrance on Lombard Street, FREE).

Based on the idea that buildings emit a recognisable acoustic energy Will Schrimshaw's new installation invites us to listen to manipulated soundwaves from inside this Newcastle city landmark.

Ends.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

AV Festival 10: Energy
AV Festival, c/o Tyneside Cinema, 10 Pilgrim Street,
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AV Festival was initiated in 2003 to acknowledge the growing role that technology plays in creativity. Three editions of the AV Festival have taken place to date, in 2003, 2006 and 2008. 43,038 people attended AV Festival 08, which was held across three urban centres in the North East.

Electronic art is a vibrant interdisciplinary field of creativity. It includes work across the spectrum of visual art, music, performance and film created using technology and electronic media. It includes artists working collaboratively with scientists and occupies diverse spaces.

AV Festival 10 is organised by Audio Visual Arts North East, an independent charitable company. AV Festival 10 forms part of North East England's world-class programme of festivals and events developed by culture¹⁰.

AV Festival 10 collaborators to date include: amino, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, BBC Big Screen, Bow Brand, Contemporary Art Society, Circa Contemporary Art Projects, Cleer, CRUMB, Culture Lab, Discovery Museum, EAT! Festival, Environment Agency, Gallery North, Great North Museum: Hancock, Habit, Gallery: Great North Museum, Laing Art Gallery, mima (Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art), Middlesbrough Town Hall, MMM, Narec, National Glass Centre, Newcastle ScienceFest, Newcastle University, Nexus, Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Northern Lights Film Festival, No-Fi, NRFTA, Polytechnic, PRMNT Vibes, Road to Rimini, Reg Vardy Gallery, Science City, Star & Shadow Cinema, Sunderland Aquatic Centre, Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Sunnyside Partnership, Teeside University, The Arts Catalyst, The Sage Gateshead, Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, Tyneside Cinema, and Vane.

Media partners include: The Wire magazine and Little White Lies

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The full programme and website for AV Festival 10 will be launched on 20 January 2010: www.avfestival.co.uk