



EXHIBITION of artist film installation exploring river-flow and its relationship to the human body, at Alchemy Film & Arts, Hawick, Scottish Borders

Hanna Tuulikki's *SOURCEMOUTH : LIQUIDBODY* is the second of four showcases of artist moving image installation in Alchemy Film & Arts' **Exhibition Programme 2018-19**, situated within Hawick town centre. Alchemy continually presents the most groundbreaking film and moving image from around the world and offers opportunities to engage with the work and its subject matters to both international and local audiences.



THE EXHIBITION

In the audiovisual installation *SOURCEMOUTH : LIQUIDBODY*, artist Hanna Tuulikki embodies the flow of water in river systems through choreography, vocal composition, costume and an innovative visual-score.

With an interest in the mnemonic landscapes of India and relationships between river systems and the human body, Hanna spent a month in Fort Kochi learning the ancient theatre and dance tradition Kutiyattam. Originating more than 2000 years ago in Kerala, India, Kutiyattam is an ancient form of Sanskrit theatre. Officially recognised by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity, it involves codified gestures of hands, eyes and bodies to unfold narratives.

Training with a leading practitioner, Kapila Venu, Hanna learned the distinct movements between action and stillness in the Kutiyattam's *Nadi Varnana*. Translating to *River Description*, the *Nadi Varnana* sees the performer become a mimetic embodiment of observations, translating the river cycle into a sequence of codified movements. Traditionally accompanied by a percussive arrangement, Hanna's *Nadi Varnana* poetically depicts the sounds of rain, wind, insects and the effects of water in motion, through her creation of a vocal composition.

Hanna has adapted the traditional sequence into three interlinked films. A silver-painted Hanna evokes the lines of river-flow with her body in the first film, layered and suggesting a liquid flow from source to mouth. In the second film, Hanna uses her eyes to project the direction of water, through choreographed eye gestures lifted up to visualise the peak of a mountain and down gesturing the fall of rain. As her eyes close, the third film shows Hanna's mouth, which incants a melody drawing on the vocal chanting style of Kutiyattam.

SOURCEMOUTH : LIQUIDBODY was commissioned for Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2016 and will now be shown in Hawick for two weeks with Alchemy Film & Arts. Hawick is characterised by its historic textile industry, with watercourses in the town providing its lifeblood for many years. The Stilrig Water flows into the River Teviot from Hawick town centre, and the Teviot, which has overtopped its banks 15 times in reported history, flows the length of the town. *SOURCEMOUTH: LIQUIDBODY* brings a physical embodiment and characterisation of water to Hawick, whose townsfolk have a distinct relationship with river flow, having been affected by it in many ways over the years.

SOURCEMOUTH : LIQUIDBODY also won the Sound Art Work/Electroacoustic prize at the 2017 Scottish Awards for New Music.

THE ARTIST

Hanna Tuulikki is an artist, composer and performer based in Scotland, who specialises in working with the voice and gesture. Hanna's innovative practice spans site-specific performance, immersive audio-visual installation and interactive new media, blending together textural tapestries of extended vocal composition, gestural choreography, iconic costume and original visual score drawings. Her critically acclaimed work has been commissioned and presented by organisations across visual, musical and performing arts in the UK, Europe, USA, India and Australia including: BBC Radio; Kochi-Muziris Biennale; Wood Street Galleries, Pittsburgh; Marseille Expos; Edinburgh Art Festival; Glasgow 2014's Cultural Programme; Glasgow International; RMIT, Melbourne; ATLAS Arts; BALTIC, Gateshead; CCA, Glasgow; Travelling Gallery for GENERATION; Tramway, Glasgow; The Space; Tectonics festival; Dovecot, Edinburgh; Cape Farewell; Red Note Ensemble; and Cappella Nova.

She studied at Glasgow School of Art's Environmental Art department and graduated in 2006. Her studio is based at the Briggait, and she is currently Magnetic North's Artist Attachment recipient, developing a

new body of work investigating deer mimesis and encodings of masculinity within traditional dance. - www.hannatuulikki.org

ALCHEMY FILM & ARTS

Alchemy Film & Arts was founded in 2010 and exists to champion the development of independent arts and film related projects in the Scottish Borders region and Scotland as a whole. It aims to advance the arts, by the practice, knowledge, understanding and appreciation of visual arts and film. Alchemy Film & Arts has produced eight editions of the Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival, runs annual exhibitions, and offers further opportunities via community engagement programming, artist residencies and commissions. www.alchemyfilmfestival.org.uk



Exhibition: SOURCEMOUTH : LIQUIDBODY

Fri 7 December – Thu 20 December 2018

Public Preview and Artist talk: Thurs 6 December, 6.00 - 8.00pm

Opening Hours: Monday – Friday 11am – 6pm / Saturday 11am – 4pm

Peter Scott building, Hawick

Vocal Workshop with Hanna Tuulikki

Sun 9 December 2018, 3pm – 5pm

For this exploratory workshop, Hanna Tuulikki will introduce participants to aspects of her vocal practice, taking in elements of her recent scores. She will share her unique approach and guide the class through explorations of wordless song, extended vocal expression and improvisation.

Unit 4: The Cornucopia Room, 4 Towerdykeside, Hawick, TD9 9EA
12 Places Available / Booking Essential

For **further information** or to sign up for the vocal workshop please contact Rachael Disbury, Programme Manager at Alchemy Film & Arts, at rachael@alchemyfilmfestival.org.uk or visit alchemyfilmfestival.org.uk/2018/

SOURCEMOUTH : LIQUIDBODY was made in collaboration with: *Kapila Venu (Kutiyattam mentor & choreography); Daniel Warren (film); Pete Smith (final sound mix); Emily Millichip (costume maker); Beinn Watson (production consultant); Amy Porteous (production management).* With special thanks to Kapila Venu, Di Ball and Mahin Manu.

This exhibition has been supported by:



CCA: Centre for Contemporary Arts



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