

# Resonant Terrains

Festivals and Sites - platforms for arts practice



6pm October 10 – 6pm October 12 2013

HM Prison The Verne

Portland

Dorset

Two days of creative intervention and energetic dialogue, exploring the question:

**'If festivals are the new platform, and sites the new venues, what can they offer and what can't they offer artists, curators and audiences?'**

## Programme Schedule

### Thursday 10 October

6pm Registration and welcome

7pm Buffet supper at HMP The Verne provided by Blue Fish Café, Portland

8pm **Film screening**

**Joseph Losey 'We Are The Damned' (1963)**

Filmed in Weymouth & Portland and featuring the sculpture of Elizabeth Frink, this is a stylish, thought-provoking, cryptic and apocalyptic early cult sci fi movie starring Macdonald Carey, Shirley Ann Field and a young and superbly glowering Oliver Reed.

A unique blend of romance, thriller, teen alienation picture, nuclear age angst movie, government conspiracy paranoia and science fiction - the film synthesizes elements from all these genres, defies categorization and is like nothing else ever produced by Hammer Studios.

9.30pm End

### Friday 11 October

9.30am Registration for delegates arriving on Friday.  
Coffee

Morning Welcome & introductions

**Peter Heslip** Director Visual Arts, Arts Council England

**Alan Rogers**, b-side Executive Director

**Michelle Preston** Business and Community Partnerships Manager, HM Prison The Verne

**Key Note Presentation**

**Phil Smith: Walls, Doors and Strata**

Phil Smith – the Crab Man - will discuss the making of performances in sites of constriction, containment and ambiguity. He will address the potency of sites with multiple histories and how conventional heritage narratives can be turned on their heads and re-used in performances that seek to escape the bounds of official narratives. Drawing on the geological, military and prison histories of the Verne site, the Crab Man will interrogate the possibilities and limitations of a performance that weaves the qualities of a stratified site with the multiple personae, free and restrained, of a performer.

Lunch Packed lunch or café – see below

Afternoon Options (choose one walk, talk or bus tour)

**Option 1: Artist led walk**

**Sue Palmer and Joff Winterhart: 'walks and conversations with Sue and Joff'**

Exploring the unexamined corners, signage and human life of Fortuneswell: questions and answers not necessarily in that order, live drawing and socialising, all leading to something to take home with you - the artistic equivalent of a bit of sponge cake wrapped in kitchen roll at the end of a friend's birthday party. Lunch at Jacksons Gallery Café, Fortuneswell, Portland.

**Option 2: Artist led walk**

**Jez Riley French: 'a quiet position: Portland'**

Meeting, to walk, to listen - to spend some time allowing locations to impose themselves on us. We can talk, ask questions of each other and simply take pleasure in re-focusing our ears.

During this walk certain unconventional devices will be used to provide different ways to listen to sounds hidden from our naked ears - the meeting between the immediate and these audible silences widens our locale. Lunch at Blue Fish Café, Chiswell, Portland.

**Option 3: Artist led bus tour**

**Neal White: Office of Experiments - The Portland Experiments**

This bus tour will draw upon the role of Portland as an experimental site. Portland's unique coastal location, geological properties and social history make it an ideal field laboratory for use by scientists, naturalists and the military. This tour will take in a number of sites to explore through myth and fact, conspiracy and official histories, Portland's role in past and future experimental work.

Mobile packed lunch.

**Option 4: Talk**

**Alex Murdin: Local Partnerships and Local Authorities: what do festivals offer local agendas?**

Alex Murdin, producer and researcher will explore with delegates the potential and proven benefits of siting art in public space, asking how it can contribute to social and economic objectives such as environmental improvement, regeneration, community engagement, health, wellbeing, tourism, marketing and wider sustainability agendas. Lunch at The Jailhouse Cafe.

Break Tea and cakes with discussion and feedback from the walks, talk and tour

Followed by

**Presentations and discussion: Research led practice**

Artists Simon Ryder and Frances Scott discuss and share examples of research processes for festival and sites contexts followed by open discussion with contributions from the newly commissioned b-side 2014 festival artists.

**Simon Ryder: Sharing a Singular Way**

How blogging became a way of making. How making became a way of researching. How researching is a process of never endings.

**Frances Scott: Time Vision**

Taking as a starting point JG Ballard's short story The Greatest Television Show on Earth (1972), in which television executives return to the past to transmit events to future audiences, my presentation will consider a real and speculative experience of working in Portland and Weymouth; game-playing, shipping forecasts, time-travel, and the conflation of production and encounter

Evening Drinks and delicious food prepared by The Jailhouse café

8 - 9.30pm

### Film screening

#### **Francis Alys: When Faith Moves Mountains (2002)**

For this work Alys recruited 500 volunteers in the Ventanilla District outside of Lima, Peru. Each person moved a shovel full of sand one step at a time from one side of a dune to the other and together they moved the entire geographical location of the dune by a few inches.

Art critic Jean Fisher writes that "the radical event of art precipitates a crisis of meaning or, rather, it exposes the void of meaning at the core of a given social situation, which is its truth."

#### **Idit Nathan: 7 Walks in 28 Minutes (2013)** digital video

The film documents seven playful walks in the city of Jerusalem, where starting points are established with cards and routes get disrupted by dice pointing at different directions. Each walk has a thematic focus (e.g: lines, colours, portraits). The film invites the audience to join the artist as she moves around 'most contested piece of real estate in the world' searching for 'still life' and 'untitled' images. The film is produced collaboratively with documentary film maker James Murray White.

For the original walking project visit [www.iditnathan.org.uk/projects/sevenwalksinaholycity](http://www.iditnathan.org.uk/projects/sevenwalksinaholycity).

Saturday 12 October

9.30 am

Coffee and introduction to the day

Morning

#### **Presentations and discussion: Festivals and sites, platforms for arts practice**

In the UK we are making and creating artworks during a period of great economic change. The shifting and eroding artistic landscape demands that Artists and organisations forge new paths through unfamiliar territory. Finding a foothold on this on this rapidly evolving terrain, festivals and similar events are increasingly seen as the future.

**Grace Davies**, Coordinator for **Visual Art South West** discusses recent developments on the proposal for an international art event or biennial for the South West.

**Alex Murdin** presents community perspectives and the impact of temporary (socially engaged) commissions on social and economic objectives

**Katie Etheridge** brings an artist's perspective of making work for and within sites in a festival context.

**Dany Louise** speaks about the national picture of festivals and biennials and their economic and cultural benefits.

Lunch

Lunch at The Jailhouse Cafe

Afternoon

#### **Debate and discussion**

Facilitated group discussions drawing on themes emerging from the mornings presentations.

Artist intervention

Conclusions and feedback

Tea and cake

**Portland waves you a b-side farewell until next time**

## Travel and accommodation:

### How to get to HM Prison The Verne, Portland, Dorset:

**Trains: Weymouth Station:** Regular services from London Waterloo or Bristol Temple Meads

**Coach:** National Express to Weymouth, then taxi or bus

**Bus:** Number 1 From Weymouth to Victoria Square, Portland then walk or taxi.

**Please note: b-side may be able to provide a bus to pick up from Weymouth Station and Fortuneswell, Portland direct to HM Prison, The Verne if there is enough demand. Please let us know on your booking form if you would be interested in this option.**

**Accommodation:** b-side have arranged a special Symposium accommodation rate at: Hotel Aqua, Castletown, Portland, Dorset DT5 1BD. 01305 860269 [www.hotelagua.co.uk](http://www.hotelagua.co.uk). Guests should book directly on the Hotel Aqua website quoting **b-side deal £40 Single** or **b-side deal £50 double or twin** in the comments section. Credit card details are required to book.

There are many B&B's, hotels or rooms available on Portland please visit: [www.visitweymouth.co.uk](http://www.visitweymouth.co.uk) or <http://www.portlandholidaylet.co.uk/index.php> for lists and recommendations.

When booking your accommodation the nearest locations to the Symposium venue are: Castletown, Fortuneswell and Chiswell on Portland.

### Other accommodation options (cheaper, shared bunk houses etc):

Portland Bird Observatory and Field Centre <http://www.portlandbirdobs.org.uk/accomm.htm>

YHA Portland <http://www.yha.org.uk/hostel/portland>

Skin Deep Diving Accommodation <http://www.skindeepbandb.co.uk/>

The Green Shutter Diving Accommodation <http://www.thegreenshutters.com>

Please note that b-side has not checked or inspected any of the above options.

To book for Resonant Terrains please go to <http://www.b-side.org.uk/events/symposium-resonant-terrains>