

EMPYREAN

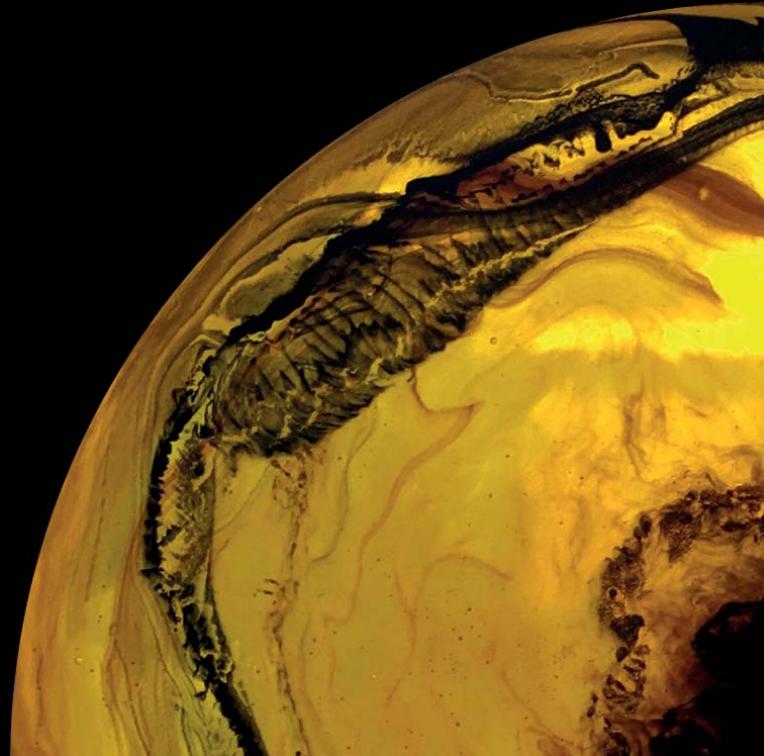
AN INTERACTIVE
LIGHT AND SOUND
INSTALLATION

PAUL LIPTROT

Visual Artist

HOLLY EARLY

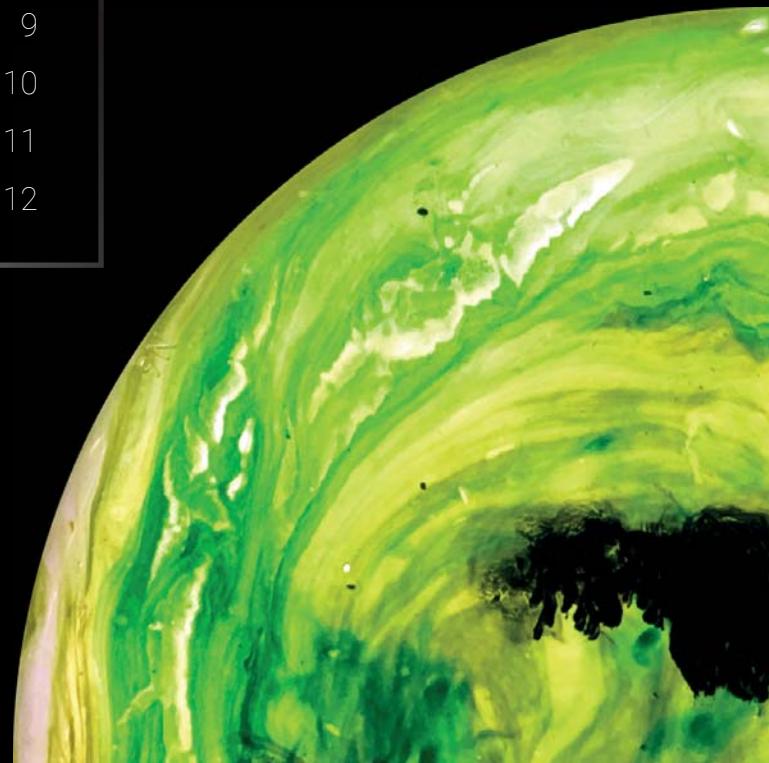
Sound Artist





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ABOUT EMPYREAN

The installation was created for a group show, 'Contemplations', as part of the Lady Bay Arts Festival 2018.

Paul was delighted to be given the opportunity to react to the pulpit in All Hallows' Church, a beautiful and historic structure. He was struck by the potential to create something immersive, engaging and beguiling. He was keen to realise an installation which respected the space; while creating the potential to connect, surprise and create reactions, spiritual or otherwise, with visitors.

Key to the experience was the chance to work with Holly, a sound artist who understood Paul's aims and brought her experience, enthusiasm, keen sense of space and the potential of sound.

The resulting piece, *'Empyrean'*, combines vibrant petri-dishes with three channels of ever-changing sound scapes in an environment designed to transport visitors from the everyday to a place of wonder and serenity. It subtly reacts to each person's unique personality, history and sense of self. The space is such that it can be simply observed or fully engaged with depending on one's viewpoint.



VISITING EMPYREAN

You are invited to enter and make yourself comfortable; you can sit or stand inside the space, either alone or with a friend.

Let your imagination, emotions, memories, thoughts and sensations arise naturally as your surroundings encompass you.

In creating a separated world we hope your unique experience is an enjoyable one.

OPEN NIGHT

Tuesday 19th

June 2018

6.30pm - 9pm

Empyrean Viewing Information

The installation is open for viewing after Sunday services at All Hallows' Church in Lady Bay.

The installation will be open to the public on the evening of the 19th of June from 6.30pm to 9pm.

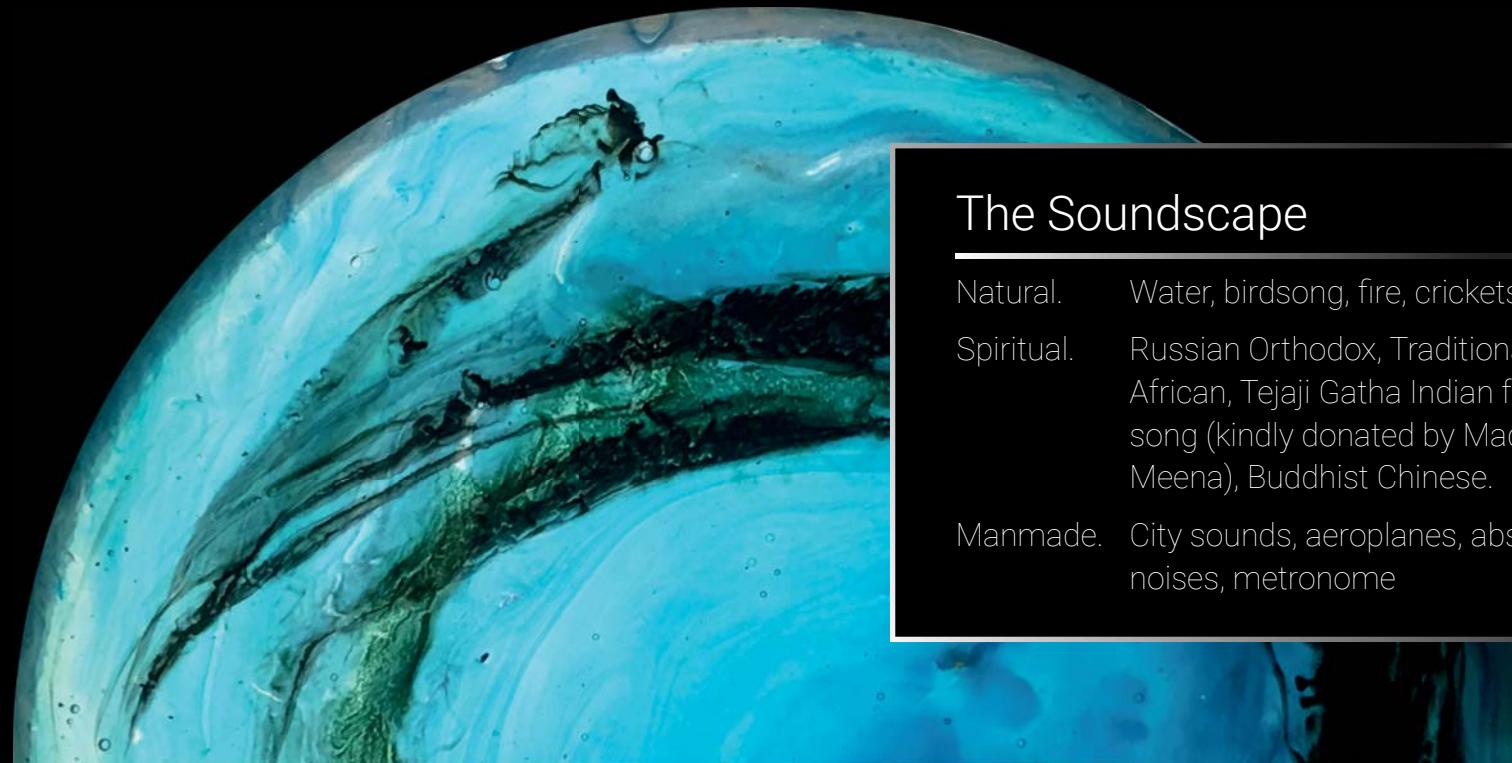
All Hallows' Church
Pierrepont Road,
Nottingham,
NG2 5BP



VISUAL INFORMATION

The key element of *Empyrean* is the petri-dishes which are part of an ongoing investigation by Paul Liptrot into the potential of blending liquid latex with acrylic ink and various chemicals to create small abstract images or worlds. In this installation three distinct colour identities were created using different sized petri-dishes, each attempting to evoke different elements - fire in the smallest dishes, earth in the medium and air/water in the largest.

The resulting 90 dishes are embedded in a double skinned box, also containing speakers, designed to fit neatly on the pulpit. The placement of the dishes blends order, repetition and chaos in such a way that different vistas are available to the viewer. Different connections can be made depending on how one interacts with the work, whether seated and looking up, or standing and able to view the dishes directly.



The Soundscape

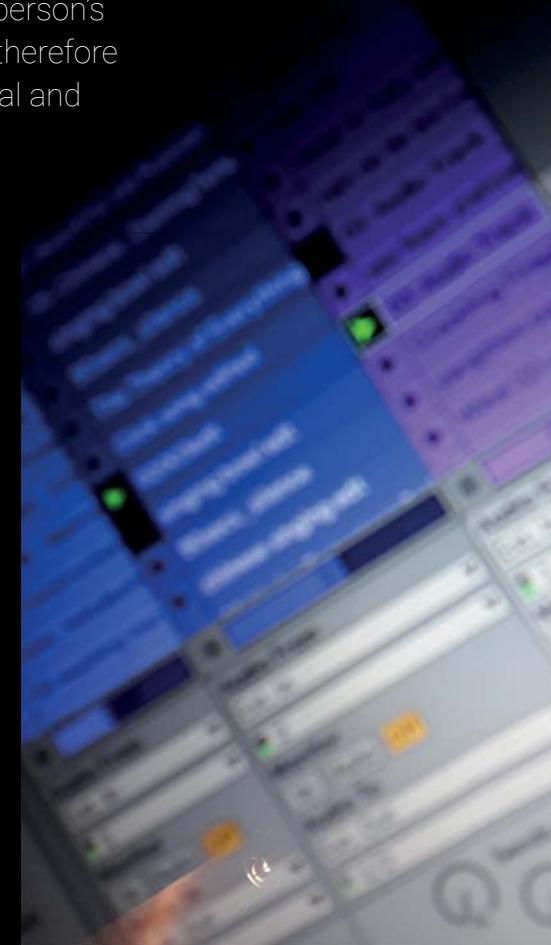
- | | |
|------------|---|
| Natural. | Water, birdsong, fire, crickets, wind |
| Spiritual. | Russian Orthodox, Traditional South African, Tejaji Gatha Indian folk song (kindly donated by Madan Meena), Buddhist Chinese. |
| Manmade. | City sounds, aeroplanes, abstract noises, metronome |

SOUND INFORMATION

From the outset *Empyrean* had to be a space that would transport visitors from one place to another. Soundscapes occupy our every waking hour, whether we are conscious of it or not, therefore it made sense to use audio to heighten the immersive experience.

From ambiguous noises to cityscapes, nature and spiritual music, each audio track intensifies perception of the vibrant and colourful forms within the petri-dishes. These sounds are played independently of each other to produce an unpredictable and captivating atmosphere.

This shifting soundscape is also left to chance, making each person's experience entirely unique and individual to them. *Empyrean* therefore not only reflects the theme of Contemplation, but is an ethereal and tangible experience to the everyday visitor.



TESTIMONIALS

One of the most stunning works in this year's church exhibition was the site-specific installation created by Paul and Holly. The work brings together a specially created 'nook' that incorporates the church's pulpit, stunning circular coloured dishes and haunting selections from meditative music around the world.

The shifting soundscape alters visual perception. At one moment, I saw echoes of birds in flight, as if caught in one's peripheral vision. At another accompanied by sounds of chanting from Asia, the forms in the dishes became human figures in exuberant dance. There was a lively energy to the experience and yet simultaneously, it was a calming space. Paradoxically in such a small enclosure, the experience was transcendent; the subtly breaking symmetry of the arrangement of the circular glasses reminding me of the notion of spontaneous symmetry breaking so fundamental to some scientific explanations as to how there is something rather than nothing in this Universe.

I was so taken with this work that it felt like a wasted opportunity to allow it to be taken down after just two days. I've invited Paul and Holly to leave it in situ for a month so that our congregation and others can continue to experience its contemplative potential.

Mark Rodel, Vicar at All Hallows' Church

Certainly a highlight of the wonderful "Contemplations" exhibition in All Hallows Church for the Lady Bay Arts Festival was Paul & Holly's installation, "Empyrean". In the initial stages of planning I had talked with Paul about the pulpit. I happened to say that we would be interested if an artist could "respond" to it. Keeping in mind that the festival is only open for one weekend we would not expect such an elaborate installation that took much labour and coordination to produce. What Paul & Holly did was astonishing. They brought something beautiful, creating an immersive experience with stunning visuals and a soundtrack.

This site-specific installation was respectful and very appropriate for a functioning place of worship, with references that could delight the parishioners, members of the community, art-lovers and visitors.

Lois Gardner Sabet, Artist Advisor
for Lady Bay Arts Festival

LADY BAY ARTS FESTIVAL REACTIONS

Every once in a while you come across art that makes you stop!

Paul and Holly's installation at the Lady Bay Arts Festival is one such piece. It is both a soundscape and a visual delight rolled into one and it does what all great art does; it takes you away from the everyday and invites you to a world of its own. The seamless blend of visual and aural is possibly one of the best ways to enjoy a "mindful" moment, or indeed a mind freeing moment or two.

If you get a chance to experience this installation I can guarantee that you will come away de-lighted and maybe even de-stressed. Well worth a visit.

Mike Finn, Festival Visitor

Other worldly – or just how this world really is?

Fab – love the 360 degree immersive experience

A good installation, love the colours and the evocative soundtrack

I felt connected to the voices outside, but alone in the space, able to enjoy the experience

Fascinating use of the space. Intriguing and beguiling. Immersive in sound and colour

A little oasis in a busy, noisy world

It really takes you away from everything

Unusual experience. Wonderful to take part in the installation

PAUL LIPTROT - VISUAL ARTIST

I'm a visual artist driven by materials from latex and ice, through to plaster, clay, oil and light which allow me to create ambiguous images and artefacts in paint, mixed media, installation and sculpture. My practice begins out of a scientific curiosity and I seek materials that intrigue me. I want to become involved in what the material represents and how I can transform into something beguiling that elicits a response from those engaging with it.

So for me the scientific and creative merge forming a tension between chaos and order which is constantly evolving, sometimes with rules and others with complete freedom.

Key to my practice is the desire to create reactions, not just in what I produce but in those who view it. I'm fascinated by the potential of abstraction to create a space within which people can express themselves, to bring their own experiences, memories and sense of self to what they see. I want to foster conversations about individual perception; the similarities and differences apparent in each person.

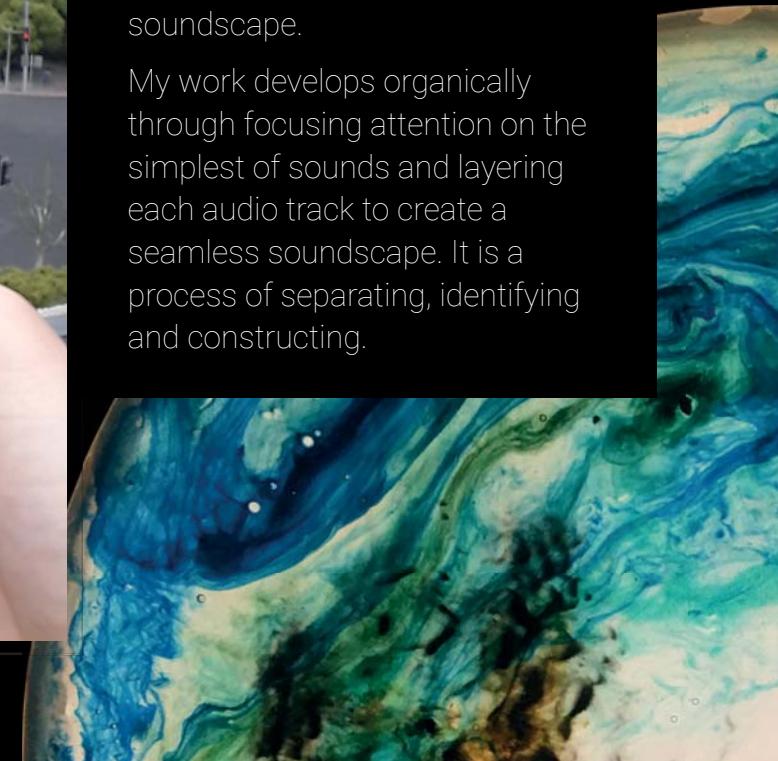


HOLLY EARLY - SOUND ARTIST

I'm a sound artist making work to heighten and focus aural perception. I record and edit audio with the intention of encouraging others to consciously listen and engage with their everyday surroundings.

I use tracks made up of ambient noise, cityscapes and nature to investigate how our visual perception and spatial awareness changes depending on the soundscape.

My work develops organically through focusing attention on the simplest of sounds and layering each audio track to create a seamless soundscape. It is a process of separating, identifying and constructing.





CONTACTS

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