

Cryptic at Kings Place

Scotland Unwrapped



Saturday 16 March 2024

Performance: 20:00

Running time: Approximately 80 minutes, including an interval.

Night Voyager by Ela Orleans

UK/Polish composer and audio-visual artist **Ela Orleans** performs her mesmerising *Night Voyager*. Set to soaring music featuring live synthesiser, theremin, vocals and violin, *Night Voyager* features NASA archive footage of the 1969 Apollo moon mission, matching the astronauts' emotional journey with fragments of *Night Thoughts* a collection of extended poetic mediations written by **Edward Young** in 1742. Rather than a linear re-telling, Orleans performance focuses on the wider meaning of the lunar trip and Young's exploration of mortality, time and human folly. Although now scarcely remembered, *Night Thoughts* was called in its time 'the grandest and richest poetry that human genius has ever produced'.

"Rather than a linear retelling, Orleans's show focuses on the astronauts' emotional journey and the wider meaning of the lunar trip." The National

Ela Orleans' work fuses elegant, noir-ish laments, lush and atmospheric fractured narratives with influences ranging from the BBC Radiophonic Workshop to the *Éthiopiennes* series and Bernard Herrmann film scores. Since her solo debut *Low Sun/High Moon* in 2008, Orleans has received international critical acclaim for her growing catalogue of work.

Orleans has toured across the UK, Europe, USA and Canada, performing work at MoMA PS1, New York; MoCA, Massachusetts; The Venice Biennale and TATE Britain. She has worked on several albums, film soundtracks plus theatre and opera works. She has also completed a remix of work by new age sound pioneer, Laraaji and one of her album's *Circles Of Upper and Lower Hell* was shortlisted for Scottish Album of the Year in 2017. Orleans joined the Cryptic Artists' roster in 2020.

Ela Orleans performance of *Night Voyager* is supported by PRS Foundation's Beyond Borders, a co-commissioning and touring programme run in partnership with Creative Scotland, Arts Council of Wales, Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Arts Council of Ireland /An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

INTERVAL

assembling.air by Lucy Duncombe / Feronia Wennborg

assembling.air by artist-composers **Lucy Duncombe** and **Feronia Wennborg** treats voice as instrument: snipped phonemes, caught breaths, coos, sighs and sung tones are manipulated and resculpted, forming alien patterns that never quite lose their connection to the human. Addressing the potential for voice-based technologies in musical composition, *assembling.air* pairs a vocal 'self' with its 'clone' in a dialogue that evolves organically as the performance unfolds. Composition meets text-based improvisation in a piece that literally speaks to the future of musical innovation.

Lucy Duncombe, a BSc Natural Sciences graduate from The Open University, is an artist and composer exploring voice-based technologies. Using performance, she stretches the limits of the voice with techniques like extended methods, vocal processing, cloning, transcription, and editing. Notable works include the radiophonic piece *3rd Remove From The Real* with Feronia Wennborg, incorporating voice clones and virtual singers. Lucy has showcased internationally at venues like QO2 in Brussels and The National Opera of Belgium, and locally in Glasgow at events such as Radiophrenia, BBC Tectonics Festival, Counterflows Festival, and Sonica Glasgow. In 2021, she released music with labels like 12th Isle and Warm Winters Ltd, including a self-released tape titled *The Rapture of Cellular Accretion*.

Feronia Wennborg is a Swedish artist and musician working interdisciplinary across performance, installation, sound, text and digital media. Her work is based in processes of recording and digital transformation, collecting traces of intimacy and friendship. Often working in close collaboration with others, Feronia explores the social and re-imaginative possibilities embedded in practices of listening and sounding.

assembling.air was made with support from the Embassy of Sweden, London and the Swedish Arts Grants Committee and premiered at Sonica Glasgow.

Celebrating 30 years - Producers and providers of unique experiences for curious minds. From pioneering artists to fresh new talent, Cryptic is always ravishing the senses.

Established in 1994, Cryptic is Scotland's internationally renowned home of audiovisual art and experimentation. Based in Glasgow but with a global reach, Cryptic presents and promotes the most dynamic talents of today and tomorrow as they explore new dimensions in live music, visual and sonic arts, and the weird and wild areas where these disciplines intersect and cross over. Producers behind Sonica Glasgow, next edition 19-29 September 2024.

Cryptic has been an Artistic Associate of Kings Place since 2018.