

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

Sonica 2018 at Kings Place London: Full Programme Announced

Scotland's major sonic arts festival comes to London 20 & 21 April 2018

176 snails will travel to King's Cross to take centre stage in the UK premiere of *Slow Pixel*

Australia's leading AV artist Robin Fox composes a concerto for a laser beam in *Single Origin* and *NYXedelica* promises a multi-sensory headphone opera

The packed weekend celebrates Cryptic becoming an Artistic Associate of Kings Place, London's independent hub for music, words, art and ideas marking its 10th anniversary in 2018

Cryptic's Sonica Festival will return to Kings Place following its successful London debut in 2016.

Over Friday 20 and Saturday 21 April 2018 Sonica will offer a packed weekend of the best international audiovisual work, intimate installations and multi-sensory performances from Australia, Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Ireland alongside emerging talent from across the UK. An offshoot of the biennial Scotland-based festival celebrating *sonic art for the visually minded*, Sonica London will mark Cryptic, the award-winning Glasgow-based production house, becoming an Artistic Associate of Kings Place, London's independent hub for music, art and ideas.

176 live snails will travel to King's Cross to take centre stage in the UK premiere of ***Slow Pixel***. French visual artist **Elizabeth Saint-Jalms** and lighting designer **Cyril Leclerc** conduct an immersive sensorial experiment as they harness each snail with a small diode and speaker. *Slow Pixel* highlights Kings Place's year-long theme of 'time' and invites the audience to slow down to a snail's pace as the creatures draw their unique individual trajectories.

In another UK premiere, Australia's top AV artist **Robin Fox** composes a concerto for a laser beam in his brand new audio-visual maelstrom ***Single Origin***. Renowned for creating stunningly expansive and intense sound worlds, Robin presents the third in his series of breathtaking works for laser and sound, which explore the possibilities of mechanically-induced synaesthesia.

Making their London-debut, Belgian mezzo-soprano **Els Mondelaers** and Dutch composer **Dyane Donck** join forces to create the multi-sensory headphone opera trip ***NYXedelica***. A unique performance where modern classical composition meets psychedelic pop, the audience don state-of-the-art binaural headphones to experience a unique 3D soundscape that's both intimate and immersive – a massage for the ears!

Sonica is also proud to showcase some of the hottest talent from the UK, including a double-bill from 2017 Oram Award for innovation winner **Kathy Hinde**. ***Phase Transition*** is a sculptural sound installation raising awareness of global climate change, as blocks of ice melt at rates determined by real-life climate-change data, their drips resonating in water-filled metal vessels. The dripping of meltwater blends with metallic sounds engraved on vinyl and played on customised turntables which turn faster and slower in accordance with the rate of melt, generating throbbing, fluctuating tones. Kathy also collaborates with Norwegian visual artist **Solveig Settemsdal** in the film installation ***Singularity***, which sees randomness find form. An isolated point of white light suspended in a void of darkness swells, expands and takes on ever more complex shapes before collapsing in on itself and blooming once again into something completely

new. Hinde's music score - crafted from violin and toy pianos - mimics this process as initially abstract sounds come together in an increasingly organised soundtrack.

With their humanist slant on techno receiving play-outs from the likes of Aphex Twin and Laurent Garnier, Irish duo **Lakker** are bringing the chopped-up, processed sounds of the '90s bang up to date. The brainchild of Irish duo **Dara Smith** and **Ian McDonnell**, Lakker's live AV show mixes eerily beautiful vocals, propulsive dance music and pulsating visuals to conjure up visions of glaciers, tectonic shifts and vast open spaces.

From Cryptic's native Scotland, **Robbie Thomson's *Infinite Lives*** turns Kings Place into a science laboratory with robots, kinetic sculptures, modified technology, real live sea monkeys and an irresistible electronic beat, experimenting with the farthest limits of our own consciousness. Glasgow-based US artist **Heather Lander's *Nearer Future*** is a translucent virtual reality sculpture which shows where technology has taken us - and asks us to question where we might go next. Symmetrical webs and weaves of light build into an extraordinary crystalline cathedral of light as **Robert Bentall's** ambient composition *Telian* (played on the traditional Swedish nyckelharpa) provides a captivating soundtrack.

Tickets are priced from £6.50 and go on sale 7 December from Kingsplace.co.uk/sonica / 020 7520 1490.

COMMENTS

Robert Read, Managing Director Kings Place says:

"Kings Place has immensely valued its collaborative relationship with Cryptic over many years. It seems especially fitting that as we approach our 10th birthday we officially welcome them to our family of outstanding collaborative Residents and Associates. At the core of this new relationship, Cryptic and Kings Place will welcome a biennial London edition of Sonica to Kings Place. Returning for the second time next April 2018 it is set to offer up something very special to our audiences."

Cathie Boyd, Artistic Director Cryptic says:

"Cryptic is delighted to join Kings Places' rostra of Artistic Associates and to be able to celebrate this year-long partnership with the return of Sonica. The venue's reputation as an independent creative hub makes it a perfect match for Cryptic's innovative, cutting-edge work, which spans immersive visual art, performance and film. We can't wait to showcase the work that Cryptic does with both major international artists and emerging UK talent, both at Sonica in April and throughout 2018."

What The Press Say

"A dizzying array of research and ideas, and a dedication to new and never-before seen techniques and processes." Frieze

"The festival gleefully seesaws between intoxicating, outlandish interdisciplinary performances and contemplative, subtly challenging artistic installations" The Quietus

Media Details

For images, interviews, press tickets etc. please contact Ruth Marsh on 07824468396 / ruth.marshpr@gmail.com

Notes To Editors

About Sonica

Sonica is a year-round touring programme dedicated to world-class visual sonic arts, punctuated by an 11-day biennial festival in Glasgow and a biennial long weekend at Kings Place, London. We present exceptional international artists alongside emerging Scottish talent in collaboration with renowned co-producers and venues. Since 2012, over 88,000 people have seen a Sonica event.

About Cryptic

Cryptic is an award winning Glasgow-based internationally renowned producing arts house, presenting today's most imaginative, innovative artists whilst also nurturing the creative talent of tomorrow. We create memorable experiences that engage and inspire our audiences.

Cryptic '*ravishes the senses*' with multi-media performances that fuse music, sonic and visual art. cryptic.org.uk

About King's Place

Kings Place is a creative centre within 5 minutes' walk of King's Cross-St Pancras, presenting music, paintings and sculpture from around the world. There are two beautiful concert halls, with concerts and events taking place nightly and cafes, bars and fine dining on the waterfront of Regent's Canal. In addition to providing the headquarters for The Guardian, The London Sinfonietta and The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, there are two art galleries within the building, Pangolin London, which is run by the renowned Gloucestershire-based sculpture foundry, and Piano Nobile at Kings Place, a major new concept space promoting painting and sculpture by international artists which aims to complement the Kings Place musical programme. Both have a rolling programme of free exhibitions with many works for sale. For more details, see the web site: www.kingsplace.co.uk