

PRESS RELEASE EMBARGOED 00:01 FRIDAY 18 MAY

Cryptic's Sonica returns to Glasgow, UNESCO City of Music, with three major, family friendly, free events across the city

For Festival 2018, Robbie Thomson's *Portal* invites audiences to take an unforgettable subterranean odyssey through the Clyde Tunnel and Madeleine Flynn & Tim Humphrey's *Pivot* turns George Square into a playground with giant, talking seesaws

Louise Harris's *Visaurihelix* turns Charles Rennie Mackintosh's tower at The Lighthouse into an ambitious sonic sculpture

Cryptic's renowned Sonica returns to Glasgow, UNESCO City of Music, this summer with three major new, free sonic art installations to delight all ages.

Acclaimed Glasgow-based artist **Robbie Thomson** presents the world premiere of ***Portal***, a large-scale, unforgettable subterranean adventure through the Clyde Tunnel, which marks its **55th anniversary** in 2018 as part of Festival 2018 – the cultural programme of the Glasgow 2018 European Championships.

Cryptic Associate artist Thomson and composer **Alex Menzies** will create a unique audiovisual journey inspired by an undersea world. Interactive, kinetic sea creatures lurking in tanks, responsive underwater plants and light installations will animate and completely transform the southbound pedestrian walkway and cycle path of the Clyde Tunnel, accompanied by commissioned music from Menzies. *Portal* is made possible with the core support of Festival 2018, with thanks also to the generous support of Bots.co.uk, producers of collaborative robots for both industrial and commercial environments.

George Square will play host to giant, semi-intelligent talking seesaws for the Scottish premiere of ***Pivot***. From the amazing Australian artists who brought the interactive *Megaphones* to Glasgow for Sonica 2017, **Madeleine Flynn & Tim Humphrey** present *Pivot*. Equipped with built-in voice communicators with a mind of their own, the chattering apparatus will poke, probe, question and counsel audiences as they seesaw. Playful and joyful, *Pivot* helps everyone unleash their inner child whilst pondering the role of peaceful, shared dialogue in our modern world.

***Portal* and *Pivot* are presented as part of Festival 2018, the cultural programme that will run as part of the Glasgow 2018 European Championships taking place in August 2018.**

Festival 2018 will deliver a programme of world-class arts and cultural activity during Glasgow 2018. George Square will be the beating heart of Festival 2018, with a host of free and exciting events for the whole family to enjoy.

Cryptic are also delighted to present ***Visaurihelix*** by Louise Harris, an interactive, audiovisual installation based on the geometric forms and proportions that form a central part of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's architecture. Installed in the Mackintosh Tower at The Lighthouse, *Visaurihelix* is an ambitious work of three constituent parts: an audiovisual composition on continuous loop, spread across 6 speakers throughout the tower; the visual representation of that composition on a custom built, circular construction positioned at the base of the tower, and an interactive sonic element consisting of bowed and e-bowed piano strings connected between levels of the staircase.

All three Cryptic events are free to attend and suitable for audiences of all ages.

Cathie Boyd, Cryptic's Artistic Director, said: "I'm thrilled that Cryptic's Sonica is back with a summer of extraordinary free art across Glasgow. Our two collaborations with Festival 2018 are interactive treats for all ages - people will be able to re-discover their inner child on the delightful intelligent seesaws of *Pivot* and see the Clyde

Tunnel transformed into an otherworldly spectacle in Portal, thanks to Glasgow artist Robbie Thomson. We could not have achieved the vision of Portal without the vital support from bots.co.uk. It is companies like Bots which make high quality, innovative arts projects happen and thanks to their generous backing of the project we can create an unforgettable show. A huge thank you to Tim Warrington and the team at Bots for helping to supply the robotic arm for the show. We also can't wait to experience the premiere of sound and audiovisual artist Louise Harris's Visaurihelix, which will turn one of Mackintosh's iconic Glasgow buildings into a sonic sculpture."

Listings Info

Portal

Thu 2 – Sun 12 August // Clyde Tunnel
Free but ticketed. Booking opens Mon 28 May at cryptic.org.uk
Suitable for all ages, fully wheelchair accessible

Pivot

Wed 1 - Sun 12 August // George Square
Free, non-ticketed
Suitable for all ages

Visaurihelix

Fri 5 July - January 2019 // Lighthouse
Free, non-ticketed
Suitable for all ages

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 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 100,000 people have seen, heard and experienced a Sonica event. sonic-a.co.uk

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

Festival 2018

The Glasgow 2018 European Championships, taking place between 2 and 12 August, will be the biggest sporting event in Scotland since the Commonwealth Games, but it's not just about the sport: Festival 2018 is a fun-filled cultural programme running alongside the 11 days of sporting activities. Festival 2018 will deliver a programme of world-class arts and cultural activity that empowers Scotland's cultural sector, with artists and organisations from across Scotland taking part. glasgow2018.com/festival-2018

The Lighthouse

The Lighthouse, Scotland's Centre for Design and Architecture, is a visitor centre, exhibition space and events venue situated in the heart of Glasgow, just off the Style Mile. The Lighthouse acts as a beacon for the creative industries in Scotland and promotes design and architecture through a vibrant programme of exhibitions and events. Formerly housing The Glasgow Herald, The Lighthouse was the first public commission completed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh and is the perfect place to begin a Mackintosh tour of Glasgow. thelighthouse.co.uk

Robbie Thomson

Robbie Thomson is a visual artist working in sound, kinetic sculptures and visuals. Based in Glasgow, he is a member of 85A; a collective that started in 2008. In 2011 Thomson was a founding director of the Glue Factory, an

independent arts venue in Glasgow and since 2013 has been a Cryptic Associate Artist. He also worked closely with Untitled Projects on their last two major productions and NVA's *Hinterland* at St Peter's Seminary, which premiered in March 2016. Recent 2016 performance, *XFRMR* has toured extensively including sell out performances at Melbourne Festival and was selected for the Made in Scotland showcase during the 2017 Edinburgh Festival. His Cryptic projects have been presented in Australia, France, Indonesia, South Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands and widely around the UK. Future performances include *XFRMR* at Brighton Festival (16 - 20 May 2018). robbiethomson.co.uk

Alex Menzies

Glasgow-based Alex Menzies is a musician and composer, operating in various fields of sound including electronic production, sound installation and instrumental composition. His main interest is in combining traditional forms of composition and musicianship with the more experimental approaches allowed by modern technology. Initially trained in classical cello, drums and singing, then progressing to electronic production under a range of monikers including Alex Smoke and Wraetlic, he has since increasingly focussed on sound for picture, psycho-acoustics and collaborations with visual artists and orchestral musicians. Recent work has included scoring BBC science programmes, *Order & Disorder* and *Mechanical Marvels: Clockwork Dreams*, composing a score for Scottish Ballet's *Sibilo* and providing music for various other film projects. He also regularly collaborates with visual artist Florence To on installation performances under the name of CØV and Nagoya-based Vokoi on the audio-visual performance project *Wraetlic*. alexmenzies.net

Madeleine Flynn & Tim Humphrey

Australian artists Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey create unexpected situations for listening. They have a long term collaborative practice. Their work is driven by a curiosity and questioning about listening in human culture and seeks to evolve and engage with new processes and audiences, through public and participative interventions. Their practice intertwines local, national and international relationships. Awards include Green Room Awards for Excellence in Hybrid Arts, the Australian National AMC-APRA Award for Excellence in Experimental Music and the Melbourne International Festival Award. In March 2017, Madeleine was awarded the prestigious Australia Council Award for Emerging and Experimental Artforms. madeleineandtim.net

Louise Harris

Louise Harris is an electronic and audiovisual composer. She is also Lecturer in Sonic and Audiovisual Practices at The University of Glasgow. Harris specialises in the creation and exploration of audiovisual relationships utilising electronic music and computer-generated visual environments, and her work encompasses fixed media, live performance and large scale installation formats. Harris' work has been performed and exhibited nationally and internationally, including at the AV Festival, Newcastle (2010); Musica Viva Festival, Lisbon (2011); International Computer Music Conference (ICMC), Huddersfield (2011); Naisa SOUNDplay festival, Toronto (2011, 2015); Strasbourg Museum of Modern Art (2012, 2013, 2014); Píksel Festival, Bergen (2012, 2013, 2014); Linux Audio Conference (2013, 2014); Festival Novelum, Toulouse (2013); Sonorities Festival, Belfast (2014, 2015); Sweet Thunder Festival, San Francisco (2014) and Kiblix Festival, Maribor (2015). louiseharris.co.uk

These Sonica works have been kindly supported by:

