

AV TRIPLE BILL

# *assembling.air*

Lucy Duncombe (UK) and  
Feronia Wennborg (SWE)

Fri 29 September 2023

@ Tramway

sonic-a.co.uk

Developed as part of a Cryptic Cove Park residency, *assembling.air* is a new work from artist-composers **Duncombe** and **Wennborg**. Their work treats voice as an 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.

**A Cryptic Commission kindly supported by the Embassy of Sweden, London and the Swedish Arts Grants Committee.**

As a Scottish artist & composer, **Lucy Duncombe** (Sound and Music New Voices award 2022) is interested in exploring the socio-technical legacy of voice-based technologies. Formerly a self-taught experimental vocalist, her new work (2019-2022) draws on practices of extended vocal technique via technological augmentation, voice cloning and virtual singing. Recent projects include *The Rapture of Cellular Accretion* and *3<sup>rd</sup> Remove from the Real*. She has also released work for 12th Isle & Warm Winters Ltd, alongside commissioned work for The National Opera of Belgium, Market Gallery, Radiophrenia, Counterflows Festival and Tectonics Festival.

**Feronia Wennborg** is a Swedish artist and musician working across performance, installation, sound and digital media. Her work explores the relational and re-imaginative possibilities embedded in listening and sound. Through processes of recording and digital transformation, her work captures traces of intimacy and friendship. Recent projects include *A WARMTH WHICH HOLDS US* (Konsthall C); *Air leaking through* (Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop); and *3<sup>rd</sup> Remove from the Real*. Feronia is also a member of **soft tissue** together with **Simon Weins**, presenting works at Counterflows, Cafe OTO, Edition Festival and West Den Haag.

Previous collaborative projects include a commission for Radiophrenia (UK), and performances at Fylkingen (SE), Heart of Noise (AT), and the Old Hairdressers (UK).

# Digital Skies

Sonia Killmann (UK/DE)

*Digital Skies* explores the phenomenon of light pollution in cities and the irony behind it. More and more, we find new museums or streets lit up at night with beautiful changing colours and many sparkly and flashing lights that aim to restore the beauty that nature once provided. While trying to imitate the beauty of a night sky, the more we deprive ourselves of the chance of ever seeing a sky truly lit by stars. Light pollution also causes sleep-deprivation and disrupts the natural patterns of wildlife too.

The soundscape for this piece contrasts lights both natural and manmade – star maps and the colourful constellations of cityscapes at night, enhanced by AI-created elements – in a peaceful, meditative exploration of these two separate but linked patterns. The accompanying soundtrack combines field recordings with live and recorded music, including Killmann performing live on saxophone and synthesisers.

## What inspired you to create this work?

*“I was inspired to create this work because I have seen the city of Glasgow grow brighter and more colourful at night over the past years and, while creating lamps in the shape of trees might seem like we are reconnecting with nature in the city, we are setting ourselves further apart from the natural. I have also increasingly become interested in embracing new technologies such as AI to create new audiovisual works and am currently conducting extensive research into how this is best made possible. The opportunity to finally perform live using my main medium (saxophone and electronics) along with new ways of creating immersive experiences is very exciting to me.”* **Sonia Killmann**

**A Cryptic Commission developed at IMAL Brussels and ArtHouse Jersey.**

**Sonia Killmann** is a Glasgow-based international composer and multi-media artist. As a saxophone player, electronic musician, and audiovisual artist, they have performed across the UK and Europe and were nominated for Best Electronic at the Scottish Alternative Music Awards 2022. Sonia is also a Cryptic Artist.

Her works explore the relationship between sound and environment through audiovisual soundscapes. She has worked with dancers such as **Constant Vigier**, with whom they worked on One Dance UK and BBC Dance Passion 2022, and created the Fringe Show *Bamboozled*. They also created the electronic soundtrack to **Jamiel Laurence’s** most recent ballet *Read Only Memory*, which premiered in Newport in 2022. Sonia also teaches electronic music techniques and live visual coding with the aim to make electronic and audiovisual music more accessible.

# Waxen Figures

Muto major

(Samm Anga (NG/UK) and Veronica Petukhov (IT/UKR))

**Waxen Figures** is a contemplation on the relationship between the Scottish landscape and its folkloric underworld. Indifferent to our whims, physical spaces suffer from our transgressions. We pluck, noil, burn and eat to make our potions. In return, we lose our crops and livestock, and suffer the full force of the elements. Sacred spaces exist as the epitome of this transaction, promising much, and demanding our solemn awe. In this work, Anga puts his ear to the underbelly of two of these spaces: the Covesea Caves and Munloch Cloutie Well.

Against backdrops of deep green landscape, digital ghosts flare and vanish, performing dances that suggest obscure rituals of old – summonings, offerings, celebrations. Around these glimmering, slippery figures, Pictish symbols stream and the Gaelic language speaks out, sometimes boldly, sometimes in shredded tatters of a vanishing tongue, reminding us that what is past is never entirely gone.

## What inspired you to create this work?

*“For a previous commission, I recontextualised the folklore of my ancestral lineage. From a family line of fishers, I re-imagined stories from my father about fantastical creatures in the Niger Delta. I wanted to apply this process to the land where I currently live. This led me to embark on research into Scottish folklore and mythology. I visited sites of spiritual significance around Scotland and this fed into musical compositions that began to sculpt a world around these stories. This work is a continuation of my interest in creating transportative audiovisual experiences inspired by indigenous folklore, and my constant inspiration is my belief that new technologies primarily should be used to revitalise and dispense ancient wisdom.”* **Samm Anga**

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**Samm Anga:** Director, Writer and Composer

**Veronica Petukhov:** Visual and 3D Artist

**Eleanor Macdonald (NORAA):** Textile Artist and Singer, **David Anga:** Filmmaker,

**Riahna Gayle:** Filming Assistant, **Kate Bilbow:** Animation, **Sophia West:** Laser Visual Support

**Samm Anga** is graduate from the London College of Communication MA Sound Arts programme. His work explores sonic flirtations with mythology and storytelling, re-contextualising themes of folklore and identity within audiovisual displays. Based in Aberdeen, he has been expanding his musical background and honing his specialism in all things sound related in recent years. With skills in composition, music production, and sound design, he brings a polished grit to reactive visuals.

**Veronica Petukhov** is an Italo-Ukrainian digital artist and VJ based in Scotland. She graduated in Contemporary Art Practice at Gray’s School of Art, where she found a passion for digital art, installation, video and performance. Her work revolves around creating surrealist scenes and videos through 3D programmes, creative coding and video editing. She works closely with music, accompanying live performances and DJ sets with live visuals and audio-reactive elements that captivate the viewer and transmit a narrative. Veronica is also involved with the Glasgow-based queer collective **PowerPot** bringing diversity to the electronic music scene.

Sonica is produced by Cryptic, 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 performance, and the weird and wild areas where these disciplines intersect and cross over.

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