

Media Information: 3 May 2012

BALTIC

JANET CARDIFF

The Forty Part Motet

16 June –14 October 2012

BALTIC PROFILES COMMISSIONING LEGACY DURING 10TH BIRTHDAY SEASON

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead opened to the public at midnight on Friday 13 July 2002. This summer, to mark the 10 year anniversary of the opening, **BALTIC** will present a season of exhibitions highlighting its legacy of commissioning new work. It will re-stage **Janet Cardiff's *The Forty Part Motet*** and present two new commissions by 2007 Turner Prize winner **Mark Wallinger** and Newcastle based artist **Richard Rigg**.

The Forty Part Motet was co-commissioned and staged as part of BALTIC's pre-opening programme at the Castle Keep in Newcastle upon Tyne in **2001**. The work has since travelled internationally and now features in several major international collections such as the **National Gallery of Canada** in Ontario Canada and **Inhotim** in Brumadinho, Brazil.

A reworking of the renaissance choral work for forty voices *Spem in Alium Nunquam Habui 1573* by **Thomas Tallis**, *The Forty Part Motet* consists of forty separately recorded voices played back through forty individual speakers in eight choirs of five. The work allows the audience to get inside the music and experience it from the unique and intimate vantage point of the singers. As the audience moves through the space the voices weave in and out of each other, exchange back and forth between one choir and another, and can be heard all together in overwhelming waves of textured sound.

Cardiff's work reveals the music as a changing construct and explores how sound can physically create a space. The conventional audience position is to be seated in front of the choir. In Cardiff's *The Forty Part Motet*, however, the audience is free to move around the oval arrangement of speakers in the gallery to create their own unique experience of the work - connecting to different parts of the composition as the music passes back and forth and relating directly to individual voices – to immerse themselves entirely in the sound.

Information regarding the exhibitions by Mark Wallinger and Richard Rigg will be available shortly.

END

For further information and image please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Credits:

The Forty Part Motet by Janet Cardiff

A re-working of *Spem in Alium Nunquam habui* 1573, by Thomas Tallis

Sung by Salisbury Cathedral Choir

Recording and Postproduction by SoundMoves

Edited by George Bures Miller

Produced by Field Art Projects

The Forty Part Motet by Janet Cardiff was originally produced by Field Art Projects with the Arts Council of England, Canada House, the Salisbury Festival and Salisbury Cathedral Choir, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art Gateshead, The New Art Gallery Walsall, and the NOW Festival Nottingham.

Janet Cardiff has participated in the Munster Skulptur Projekte in 1997, exhibiting in the Carnegie International in Pittsburgh, 1999. She also represented Canada at the Venice Biennale in 2001 in collaboration with George Bures Miller. A major survey of Cardiff Miller works has toured to PS1 in New York, The Musée d'Art Contemporain, Montreal, The Astrop Fearnley Museum, Oslo and the Castello Rivoli In Turin. A current touring exhibition of Cardiff Miller works will be seen at MACBA, Barcelona, Institut Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt and the Miami Art Centre, Miami. She is currently represented by Luhring Augustine Gallery in NYC and Barbara Weiss Gallery in Berlin.

Forty Part Motet was jointly commissioned in 2001 by Field with the Arts Council of England; Canada House; the Salisbury Festival and the Salisbury Cathedral Choir; BALTIC, Gateshead; The New Art Gallery Walsall and the NOW Festival Nottingham, with the assistance of Tascam UK and B&W Loudspeakers.

BALTIC is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England. BALTIC presents a constantly changing, distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events, and is a world leader in the presentation, commissioning and communication of contemporary visual art. BALTIC has welcomed over 4 million visitors, since opening to the public in July 2002.

GALLERY INFORMATION:

BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art
Gateshead Quays
South Shore Road
Gateshead
NE8 3BA
UK

Admission: FREE

Opening hours:
Monday - Sunday 10.00 - 18.00
Except Tuesdays 10.30 – 18.00

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