



June 2014 - Media Release

Six artists from the North East of England selected to travel to Johannesburg for the continuation of SUPERDREAM

British Council's Connect ZA (UK/SA), **ISIS Arts** (UK), **The Swallows Foundation** (UK/SA) and **The Trinity Session** (SA) are happy to announce that six artists based in the North East have been selected to travel to Johannesburg, South Africa for the continuation of **Superdream** – a project which began in Windmill Hills Park, Gateshead in May 2014.

Sean Cotterill, Mariam Rezaei, Andrea Masala, Richard Glynn, Lucy Carolan and Marek Gabrysch will travel to Johannesburg in July 2014 for two weeks to develop artworks with a group of South African artists, which will then be presented as part of a major public event in Jeppe Park, Johannesburg on 19th July 2014.

Superdream connects two urban park spaces: Windmills Hills Park (Gateshead, UK) and Jeppe Park (Johannesburg, South Africa) through a series of artists' responses. Working with UK and South African based artists, Superdream explores urban living, ideas and uses of public space, and the role local communities can play in stabilising and redefining public cultural life.

The initial event saw six UK artists work in Windmill Hills Park to create outdoor interventions that interrogated ideas around the role art can play in public space. Their work was inspired by the park and the people that use it. Through video projections, a dance performance, interactive Audio Visual installations and a mobile photography studio the artists transformed the park for an evening, for the launch of Gateshead International Festival of Theatre 2014.

Work produced for the Windmill Hills Park event will go on to be developed and presented in Jeppe Park in Johannesburg alongside works by a series of South African artists.

Stephen Hobbs of **The Trinity Session**, who are producing the event in Jeppe Park, said: *"Having witnessed the recent Windmill Hills event, and knowing that the UK artists will be presenting in Johannesburg soon is all the more exciting. Our social and spatial conditions are so different, and the opportunity now to share and collaborate further in Johannesburg is all the more enriching and substantial."*

Clymene Christoforou, Co-Director of ISIS Arts, said: *"We are delighted that six artists from the north-east of England will travel to Johannesburg to work alongside South African artists and present their work in Jeppe Park. We hope that this visit will create opportunities for future collaborations between South Africa and the UK."*

The Superdream project is commissioned by the **British Council** as part of their **Connect ZA** programme, which supports cultural connections between young people aged 18-35 in the UK and South Africa. Superdream is produced by ISIS Arts (Newcastle), The Swallows Foundation (Newcastle) and The Trinity Session (Johannesburg).

For more information please contact Charlie Gregory on charlotte@isisarts.org.uk or 0191 261 4407 or British Council's Mary Doherty on mary.doherty@britishcouncil.org or +44 (0) 207 389 3144

More Information:

Artists

Sean Cotterill is a Newcastle-based musician and audiovisual artist working in the fields of performance, improvisation, installation and composition. Working using Re-appropriated instruments, Mixed Electronics, Sensor arrays, Video and Amplified objects, he works in projects with a wide scope of musical material and influences, as well as working on audiovisual and mixed media installations and compositions. Sean is currently working on a BA Music degree at Newcastle University and is co-running a monthly experimental night at Bar Loco, Blue Rinse.

Andrea Masala is a renowned dancer and choreographer, having worked with some of the finest dance artists in the UK. Andrea has worked with companies such as MotioHouse DT, Surface Area DT, Raffael Bonachela (Raffael Bonachela Dance Company, Sydney Dance Company), Vivien Wood (DV8), Neville Campbell (Phoenix DT, Tumbuka Dance Company) and most recently has been working closely with Martin Hylton (Phoenix DT, Gateway Studio Project DC).

He has taught and created various works for schools and Universities across UK, Youth and community companies, the CAT (Centre for Advance Training), FTP (Foundation Training Program). Andrea studied Dance at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance (Leeds) and has a PGD in Professional Contemporary Dance Performance.

Marek Gabrysch is a sound artist with an on-going fascination with science and technology, with a particular interest in interactivity that underpins much of his creative output. Gabrysch trained as a marine biologist and worked for many years as a professional musician, recording engineer and artist. Gabrysch's work explores the crossover point between genres, disciplines and environments.

Mariam Rezaei (b.1984) is a composer, improviser and performer, working predominantly with piano, vocals, turntables and electronics. She is Artistic Director of NOISESTRA, a turntable ensemble of young people, resident at the Old Police House, Gateshead. Mariam is the first Composer in Residence at the Literary and Philosophical Society in Newcastle, Music Director for productions with theatre companies Zende and Curious Monkey and will be touring her first solo release 'Lion's Blood' throughout Europe in 2014. For more information visit www.rezaei.co.uk.

Wideyed is an independent artist-led collective. Founded in 2008 by **Lucy Carolan, Richard Glynn** and Louise Taylor, the group is dedicated to creative collaborations that lead to the production and innovative dissemination of new works. Its photographers have taken part in international photography festivals (The Social, Marseille-Provence 2013, FORMAT, Fotofestival Lodz, Brighton Photo Fringe, Mois de la Photo and Mois-OFF), received awards and bursaries, completed residencies, worked on commission, and exhibited from England to India.

Organisations

The Swallows Foundation

The Swallows Partnership/Sihlanganiswa Ziinkonjane was established to develop arts and cultural exchange between the North East of England and the Eastern Cape of South Africa. This

Partnership is made up of two foundations, The Swallows Foundation SA in Port Elizabeth, South Africa and Swallows Foundation UK in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK. Together the two foundations work to deliver the aims of the partnership as well as running their own artistic programmes. Both foundations create and deliver projects within the arts, which allow development of artists, their practices and international exchange. www.swallowsfoundation.co.uk

ISIS Arts is a visual and media arts organisation based in central Newcastle. ISIS works with established and new partners across the north east and internationally, from neighbourhood-to-neighbourhood and region-to-region. Our artistic reach is international: our audiences are local. We support visual and media artists to create art, which responds to people and place, and with partners to present the work innovatively in public settings. www.isisarts.org.uk

The Trinity Session

Directed by Stephen Hobbs and Marcus Neustetter, The Trinity Session is a contemporary art production team defined by exchanges with their home-city Johannesburg, in relation to Africa and similar developed / developing contexts. Key activities include; temporary interventions and performances, in addition to producing and curating large scale public art programmes. Concerned with context specific technology applications and site-specific social practices, the artistic output of Hobbs/Neustetter guided by issues of urban decay, xenophobia and public access, results in live actions and video documentation works. www.onair.co.za

British Council – Connect ZA

Connect ZA is a major new series of cultural exchanges between the UK and South Africa marking 2014 as a celebration of 20 years of democracy in South Africa. From 2013 to 2015, the programme will support cultural connections between young people aged 18-35 in the UK and South Africa with a series of arts projects and use digital platforms to build creative networks through live music, film, theatre and the performing arts, visual art and design.

Projects will range from partnerships with arts festivals and workshops to working with artists, writers, filmmakers and designers. Connect ZA aims to reach new and diverse audiences for the arts and stimulate innovation, whilst forging new collaborations with organisations and individuals on both continents. www.britishcouncil.org connectza.tumblr.com



the trinity session

