

**Zoe Walker &
Neil Bromwich**

Statement

Our work explores the space between what exists and what is possible. Within this liminal space we create objects and situations that lead our audience on transformative experiences inviting them to consider an ‘other’ way of being. We ask participants in our work to examine their relationship to the environment they inhabit and reflect on a global context. We are interested in art’s potential to act as a catalyst for social and political transformation. At the heart of our work is the pursuit of an ideal and the question ‘is it possible for Art, and more particularly our practice, to provide practical, aesthetic and poetic solutions to social political and environmental problems?’

Our work crosses between the gallery space and the public realm; we use installations, social sculptures, and public performances as tools to open up a space where the possible and the actual come together. Here we can collectively begin to question the limits of society and imagine a better world. We believe that through experiencing something, even for a moment, can start a powerful process of change.

We work in response to specific sites and communities drawing on an environment and its people to form the work. We employ a strong aesthetic language that keys into the ‘popular imaginary’ as useful and effective communication tools from which a complex discourse unfolds, crossing boundaries geographical, social and metaphorical. Through the playful nature of the work and engagement with of the process participants become involved in events and situations that open up discussion around subjects like the pursuit of happiness, open borders, and the nature of belief. Our aim has been and is to exploit the power of this aesthetic language to its full potential as a catalyst for change in both localised communities and on a wider global scale.

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Image over leaf, *Sci-fi Hot Tub*, at *Kielder Art and Architecture*, *Kielder Water*, *Northumberland*



Sci-Fi Hot Tub 2006-10

Sci-Fi Hot Tub - A floating hot tub contained within an inflatable iceberg. Designed to cocoon participants within warmth and comfort whilst floating amid sublime and sometimes hostile environments. On entering Sci-Fi Hot Tub the participant is invited into an environment that is intended to improve their state of physical and emotional wellbeing.

Testing Sci-Fi Hot Tub - Walker & Bromwich's search for artistic 'solutions' that simultaneously offer participants an aesthetic experience and a practical tool to improve life, led them to work with staff from Phase One Drugs Trials Unit at Hammersmith Medicines Research. The medical team, led by Dr. Mark Down, collaborated with the artists to devise a scientific methodology that examines the relationships between art-works and audience. The project explores through scientific and artistic means whether the work of artists can improve the wellbeing of the audience encountering the work.

Panacea Casebook - The results were presented in the performance lecture Panacea Casebook at Tate Britain, Baltic, John Hansard Gallery, Modern Art Oxford, CCA Glasgow

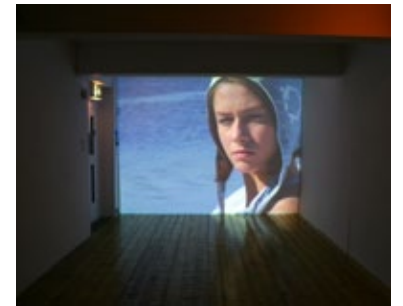
Partnership with Kielder Art & Architecture, Cornerhouse Manchester Funded by Wellcome Trust Production Award, Arts Council England, Sci-fi Hot-Tub budget £60,000, Part of Panacea Project overall budget £152,000



Testing Sci-fi Hot Tub, Kielder Forest Water



Cornerhouse Manchester 2006



Celestial Radio 2004-11 ongoing

Celestial Radio is a seductive and functional sculptural object, a radio station housed on a sailing boat whose surface is covered by 60, 0000 inch square mirror tiles; she splinters daylight as if transmitting Morse code messages. The Celeste travels literally across the high seas while conceptually exploring the metaphorical oceans of life's big questions both cosmic and microscopic.

Each time the Celeste anchors off shore in a new location we engage local people in conversations and interviews, recording sound and mixing music to create a site-specific broadcast. The Celeste began her life anchored off the Essex coastline between St Peters Chapel and Bradwell Nuclear Power Station, triangulating the philosophical and spiritual distance between the church and the reactor. The broadcast 'How the Universe Sang Itself into Being' mixed together interviews with members of the Othona Community at St Peter's Chapel, and scientists working in Bradwell Nuclear Power station with album tracks from the 1960s pirate radio era. The soundwork explored ideas of faith in the origins of the universe through both science and religion. Listeners tuned in on their home radios across the estuary or on headphones while walking along the coastline; they became immersed in a filmic experience, absorbed in this spacious soundscape while encountering the distant glimmer of The Celeste.

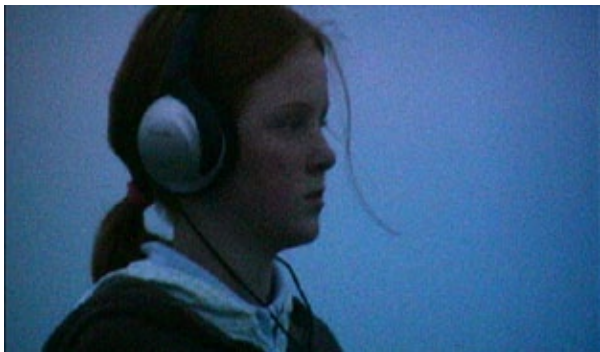
Celestial Radio was originally commissioned by Commissions East and Essex County Council, funded by Arts Council England. Original Project budget £45,000.

Since its maiden voyage Celestial Radio has toured to the following venues broadcasting a site responsive new soundwork to each new location: Thessaloniki Biennale, Greece, 2009; Tour of Kent commissioned by Turner Contemporary, Margate including Folkestone Triennial and Whitstable Biennale, 2008; Breakfast of Champions, London with Resonance FM 2009; and the Big Chill Festival radio station 2007; AV06 Festival, Newcastle, 2006; Forthcoming in Sept 2011, Isle of Skye with Atlas Arts.

Celestial Radio 87.7FM



Location: - Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex Coast
Media: Sailing boat, 60,000 mirrors, FM transmitter
Soundwork collaboration with Tim Olden & Chris McKenzie



Stills from the video work: Celestial Radio - How The Universe Sang Itself into Being



2006 Commission: AV06 Festival
Location: River Tyne Newcastle/ Gateshead
Soundwork in collaboration with Zoviet*France
featuring interviews with scientists from Centre for Life



Friendly Frontier 2005 - ongoing

Friendly Frontier is an inflatable mountain range equipped with emergency slides to bridge international borders. It is a symbolic territory that operates as an open border to be used like a child's toy to slide with ease between nation states. It has become the focal point for a number of public events, inviting participants to consider the ideal of a world living in peace and collaboration together.

The Artists' aim is to make a full size version of Friendly Frontier to be used by the public as a focal point for a major live event.

Friendly Frontier is supported by Arts Council England; Wysing Arts, Cambridge; Zeppelin Museum Germany. Project Budget £37,000





For Friendly Frontier – Meditation for Peace (2008) the artists collaborated with Tibetan Buddhist monks from the Tashi Rabten order in Austria. After a period of discussion at the monastery, the monks decided to lead a ceremony of prayer for peace using Friendly Frontier’s potential as a symbolic object. The event was staged

at the Zeppelin Museum in Friedrichshafen in Germany in the context of ‘Nothing to declare’, the Oberschwaben Triennale, which explored the themes of identity, borders and migration around the Lake Constance region which links Austria, Switzerland and Germany.

Dimensions

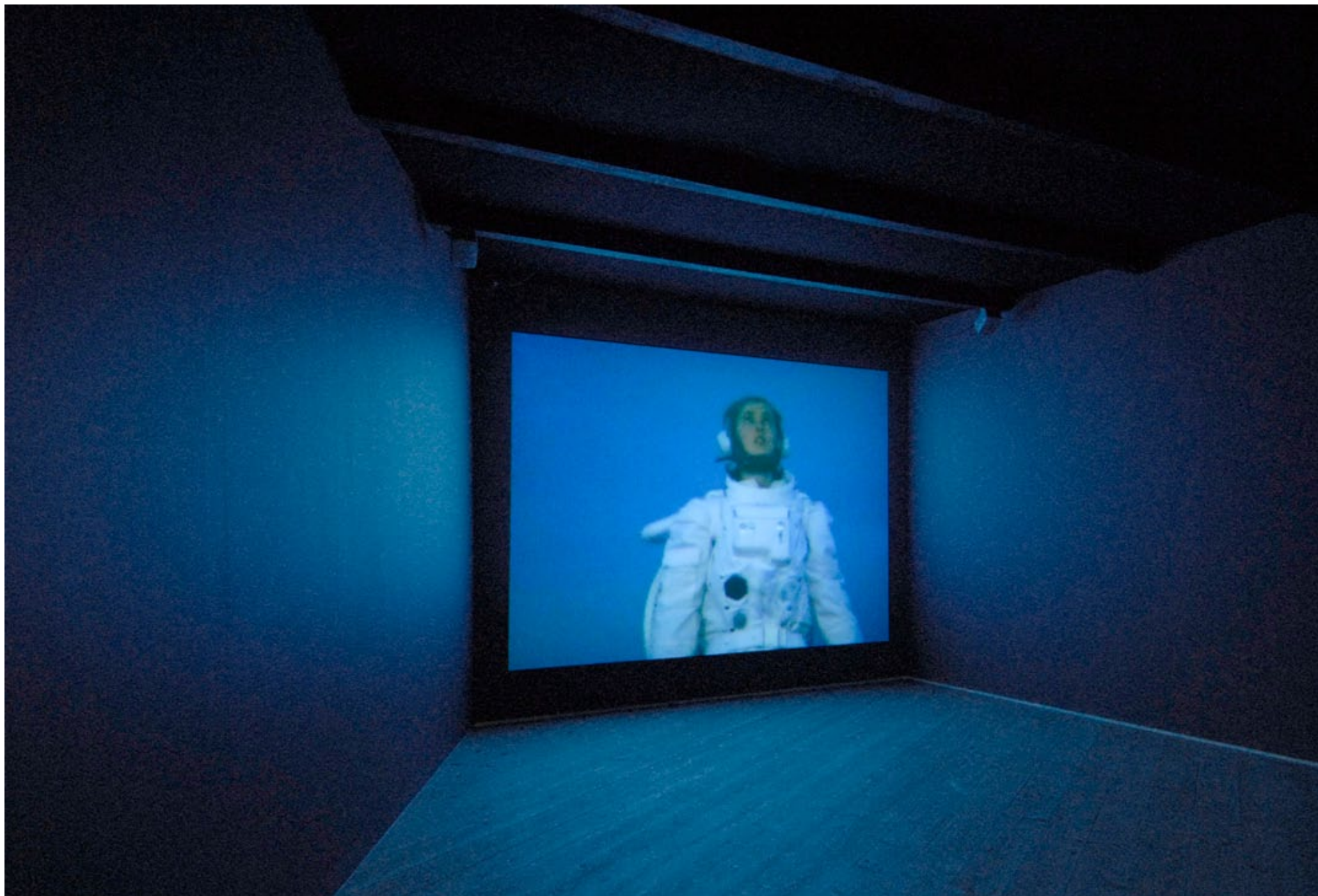
FF1 - 17m, 4.5m, 3m

FF2 - [2x] 5.5m, 3.5m, 2m

Limbo-Land 2002

Limbo-Land was filmed on a remote beach on the Scottish-English border. Echoing the melancholic atmosphere of this expansive coastal landscape it evokes a condition of 'inbetween-ness' that is both physical and psychological. The films present Walker as an amateur astronaut caught between the land and the sky in a tragicomic attempt to harness the moon's energies and reach the ultimate frontier. The point of letting go or holding on becomes postponed in a hypnotic moment that revels in its liminal state

Commissioned by Berwick Gymnasium Fellowship
Budget £25,000





Solo Exhibition at BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art 2008



The Conch [Sound Studio] 2010-11

The Conch [Sound Studio] is a travelling structure – part shell, part ark – that gathers the sound of people's hopes and fears for the future, questing for a change in consciousness. The soundtrack gives voice to diverse opinions around the challenges that currently face society and the ways these might be overcome. Commissioned as the centre piece artwork for SHE, Scotland's first Sustainable Housing Expo in Inverness 2010, the artwork has gone on to tour remote rural communities in the Scottish Highlands becoming a vessel for conversations, research and reflection around sustainable communities. The Conch Sound studio will be exhibited at Jupiter Artland during the Edinburgh Festival 2011.

Commissioned by IOTA (Inverness Old Town Art) and the Highland Council, funded by Creative Scotland's Rural Innovation Fund, Project budget £42,000





Selected Biography

Selected Solo Exhibitions and Performances

2010-11 CONCH [Sound Studio] SHE Scotland's Housing Expo, Inverness and Highland Tour
2010 Performance Panacea Casebook, TATE Britain
2009 Performance Panacea Casebook, CCA Glasgow; BALTIC Gateshead;
Modern Art Oxford; John Hansard Gallery, Southampton
2009 Event Bank of Reason, Collective Gallery, Edinburgh
2008 On the Threshold of a Dream, Turner Contemporary, Margate
2007 Limbo-Land, BALTIC, Gateshead
2006 Performance - Love Cannon, Brick Lane and Whitechapel Gallery London
2006 Panacea Hothouse, Cornerhouse Manchester
2006 Panacea SuperSpa, Le Parvis, Centre d'art Contemporain, France
2005 Panacea the Art of Wellbeing, John Hansard Gallery, Southampton
2005 Performance - Love Cannon, Les Arques Village, France
2004 Panacea l'art d'être bien CCC Tours, France.
2004 Celestial Radio, off shore Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex Coast.
2000 My Island Home, V&A Museum London
2000 Somewhere Special ACCA Melbourne

Selected Group Exhibitions

2011 Musrara Mix Festival Jerusalem
2009 Running Time – Scottish National Gallery of Contemporary Art, Edinburgh
2009 Tina B. The Prague Contemporary Art Festival, Prague
2009 A Celestial Odyssey a commission for - Praxis, Biennale 2, Thessaloniki Greece
2009 One Day Sculpture, Dunedin, New Zealand
2008 Becks FUSION, Love Cannon Parade, Manchester
2008 Celestial Radio – Visionary Journey, Kent Tour - Folkestone Triennial, Margate and Whitstable Biennale, Kent
2008 Nothing to Declare, Zeppelin Museum, Friedrichshafen, Germany
2006 Madame Arkwright's Salons, Camden Arts Centre, London
2003 Site-Seeing: A Disneyfication of Cities?, Künstlerhaus, Vienna
2002 My Father is the Wise Man of the Village, Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh
2001 Urban Nomads, South London Gallery, London.

There work has been featured by publications such as Frieze, Flash Art, Contemporary, Art Monthly, Art Review, MAP, The Guardian, Scotland on Sunday, The Times, Time Out and has featured on BBC1 Imagine with Alan Yentob

A monograph of their work and companion publication Panacea, featuring texts by JJ Charlesworth, Evelyne Tossaint & Sally O'Reilly is published by John Hansard Gallery and available from Cornerhouse Publishing

Represented by Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London

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