

AlanJames Burns and Creswell Crags announce the first UK edition of *Entirely hollow aside from the dark*



AlanJames Burns, *Creswell Crags Cave*, 2019. Photo: Stephen Garnett/Charlotte Graham Photography

Creswell Crags Cave, Worksop, Nottinghamshire
3rd – 7th September 2019

Visual and Environmental Artist AlanJames Burns, collaborating with Creswell Crags Museum & Heritage Centre, is delighted to announce the first British presentation of Burns' *Entirely hollow aside from the dark*.

The immersive psychoacoustic sound artwork will be 'staged' inside the depths of Creswell Crags Cave this September, following the huge critical success of an Irish nationwide tour. Together with his creative team, Burns will install a new version of this unique experience specifically created for the cultural significance of Creswell Crags – a site located in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, that boasts Britain's only examples of Ice Age Rock Art created some 13,000 years ago.

Entirely hollow aside from the dark takes place inside ancient natural auditoriums carved into the underbelly of earth's crust. Using the cave as a physical metaphor for the mind the cavern personifies the consciousness of Mother Earth as she struggles with her worsening mental health, brought on by the human distressing of her body.

In the darkness, an audible inner dialogue echoing Mother Earth's thoughts and regrets unfold and a symphony of choreographed sounds shifts around the cave mirroring processes of the human mind. *Entirely hollow aside from the dark*, created by AlanJames Burns in collaboration with writer Sue Rainsford and sound editor Ian Dunph, simultaneously aims to break down the stigma surrounding mental health and encourage environmental sustainability.

Creswell Crags recently hit the headlines all over the world because of the discovery of hundreds of Witches' Marks. Heritage experts have revealed what is thought to be the biggest concentration of apotropaic marks, or symbols to ward off evil or misfortune, ever found in the UK. The collection was another huge find for the world-renowned, award-winning heritage site which is already on the UK's tentative list for nomination for World Heritage Site status.

Watch a 3-minute video of the previous version of the artwork: <https://vimeo.com/192907108>

For further information, please contact:

Carla von der Becke

carla@albanyartscommunications.com
t: +44 (0) 20 7278 3029; m: + 44 (0) 7974 252 994

Harry Dougall

harry@albanyartscommunications.com
t: +44 (0) 20 7278 3029; m: + 44 (0) 77 69 51 25 42

Notes to Editors

Concept: A key conceptual aim of this work is to create a dialogue on the processes of human thought. The artist, AlanJames Bruns, says: 'We all too often talk about what we think and rarely about how we think. The aural mind is often full of thoughts darting around, hard to follow, disconcerting at times. This artwork presents the thoughts of a relatable Mother Earth character moving from audio speaker to speaker, through the natural environment of a cave, achieving a relatable parallel to these processes of the human mind.'

Experience Generation: *Entirely hollow aside from the dark* is a fully immersive multi-sensory artwork in complete darkness that is experienced rather than observed. It is an artwork of our time for our time, engaging cutting edge technologies with the most pressing challenges of our time, climate change and mental health.

Environment: *Entirely hollow aside from the dark* creates a visceral experience of journeying into Mother Earth's inner dialogue by using advanced three-dimensional audio technology. AlanJames has worked with sound engineers and electricians to devise a low voltage audio system which has a low impact on the environment the experience is staged in. The artwork has a leave no trace policy. The team are travelling by boat and train to install the artwork and have adapted a largely plant based diet throughout the project.

Well-being and Mental Health: The artist has engaged with voice hearers, cognitive psychologists, neurologists and anthropologists in the structural and content development of the artwork. In redeveloping the work for Creswell Crags, Burns is working with Claire Howlin, music psychology researcher and Irish Research Council funded scholar. Through these collaborations the project embraces the physical and mental principles of wellbeing and addresses themes of stress in the context of everyday life and mental illness. The natural and calming environment of the cave reduces sound and light pollution creating an opportunity to demonstrate different states of mind, encouraging biophilia and sleep aspects of wellbeing. The work is intended to assist in breaking down the stigma that surrounds mental health with diverse audiences.

Site-specific: Creswell Crags is home to the British Isles only examples of Ice Age Rock Art as well as the largest collection of Witches' Marks in the UK. Historically, caves have played a vital role in the simultaneous evolution of creativity and abstract thought. In February AlanJames undertook a research trip to South Africa to examine the archaeological findings at Blombos Cave and the origins of human consciousness and creativity as it evolved from caves in South Africa into modern Human Consciousness. Blombos Cave is home to the oldest creative expression on the planet, a cross hatch drawing found there predates the Ice Age rock art of Creswell Crag by 60,000 years.

ALBANY

Arts Communications

About the artist: AlanJames Burns is a visionary environmental artist working primarily through audio, virtual reality and performance. He is concerned with the experience of consciousness and how multimedia technology can be used to further our understanding of the inner experience. Burns holds a Masters in Visual Arts Practice from The Institute of Art, Design & Technology, Dun Laoghaire and a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art from Dublin Institute of Technology. He has exhibited and performed extensively both within Ireland and internationally. He is currently finalising Silicon Synapse, a VR experience commissioned by Fingal County Council and funded by the European Commission & Arts Council of Ireland, launching simultaneously in Dublin, Ireland and Milan, Italy in October 2019.

Link to book tickets: <http://entirelyhollowasidefromthedark.com/>



#entirelyhollowasidefromthedark #entirelyhollow #alanjamesburns #creswellcrag #immersiveart
#experiencegeneration



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Culture Ireland
Cultúr Éireann

