

EN MASSE

CREATED BY
GENEVIEVE LACEY (AUS)
AND MARC SILVER (UK)

ARTS HOUSE

FUTURE TENSE

ARTS HOUSE
NORTH MELBOURNE TOWN HALL
TUE 19 - SAT 23 OCTOBER 2010

“EN MASSE WAS A HYPNOTIC BLEND OF MUSIC, SOUND AND FILM, EXPERIENCED WHILE LAYING ON LOUNGES IN A DARKENED ROOM. BLISS.”

The Weekend Australian

ABOUT EN MASSE

We were in the bush, by the sea, when the first germs of **en masse** were conceived. Experiences and ideas of nature have remained central to it.

We wanted to make a world that would hold you, yet one that also gives you space.

The music was born of a series of improvisations, caught one day in a studio. Six sound artists responded to these sounds, creating enough material for a lifetime's worth of pieces. Lawrence and I (Genevieve) remixed a work from this vast sound catalogue: the electroacoustic track that plays in duo with the footage.

The sounds that you hear are new. They come originally from simple wooden pipes. When I play live with these computer-altered sounds, you hear both the transformation and the source. My voice is a way of making the electroacoustic world human again.

When I make music, I feel as though I enter another element. I close my eyes, listen, breathe and play and find myself in a world that is not the same as my daily reality. There is something particularly beautiful about this experience of diving into sound, following its tides. I wanted you to have the chance to access this intensely heightened, tranquil state, to feel wrapped in sound and movement.

I (Marc) wanted to create something that alludes to the themes of my past work (the impact of globalisation, individualism, consumerism), without overtly dealing with them. I was also considering how people find peace in a world of apparent chaos. Without answering this specifically, the behaviour of the birds hints at solutions.

The shots have been held for a long time to allow you to lose yourself in the image. It's the antithesis of editing for TV and film, where the cuts tell the story.

The lack of cuts in this piece redefines the relationship between the viewer and the image allowing, I think, for much more reflection. The images were shot over a period of two weeks, at sunrise and sunset, in two different locations. A lot of time has gone into grading the footage so it looks and feels as one, so that it flows.

The space itself is as important as the sound and image. We wanted it to be comfortable rather than rigid, we wanted it to be at odds with the world outside. The piece is the space, the sound, the image, all the collaborators and you, working **en masse**.

Genevieve and Marc

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Performance and Composition:

Genevieve Lacey

Film: **Marc Silver**

Installation Sound: **Lawrence English**

Musical collaborators: **John Rodgers, Christian Fennesz, DJ Olive, Nico Muhly, Ben Frost, Steve Adam, Taylor Deupree**

Production Management:

Michael Jankie, Traffilight

Sound: **Jim Atkins**

Lighting Designer: **Paul Lim, Traffilight**

Costume Designer: **Paula Levis**

Systems Designer: **Pete Brundle, nicedevice**

Movement advice: **Helen Herbertson**

BIOGRAPHIES

Genevieve Lacey is a recorder virtuoso. Her repertoire spans ten centuries, and she collaborates on projects as diverse as her medieval duo with Poul Høxbro, performances with the Black Arm Band, concerts as a soloist with orchestras across the world, and her role in Barrie Kosky's production of Liza Lim's opera 'The Navigator'. Genevieve is the artistic director of the Four Winds (biennial) Festival 2010-2014. Her most recent project has been with Scott Rankin and big hART, who commissioned her to create the music for 'Namatjira' (premiered at Belvoir St, Sydney, Sept 2010). Genevieve has a substantial recording catalogue with ABC Classics, and her work has won her many awards, including an ARIA. She is passionate about contemporary music and has commissioned and premiered countless works. Over the last 12 months, Genevieve has performed in Rome, Moscow, Copenhagen, Tallin, Paris, Vancouver and London.

Marc Silver. As one of the pioneer directors to use DV as a means of telling stories that otherwise could not be told, Marc Silver made a seminal film on the anti-globalisation movement for the BBC called Global Protest. Marc went on to direct films for other broadcasters including the first critical film on the Burning Man festival commissioned by Channel 4. As a visual artist Marc has collaborated with some of the world's most interesting contemporary artists including Matthew Herbert, Faithless, the Beastie Boys, Michael Nyman, Ben Okri, Nitin Sawhney, Cirque du Soleil and Jamie Cullum. He is currently

directing a feature length documentary and online project with Gael Garcia Bernal on political resistance around the world.

Lawrence English is a media artist, composer and curator based in Brisbane, Australia. Working across a broad range of aesthetic investigations, English's work is eclectic and characterises a long-term exploration into various themes including audio/visual environments, found sound/vision, subtle transformation of public space and sonic art works that exist at the very edge of perception. In recent years English has recorded, performed and improvised with the likes of David Toop, Terry Riley, Keith Whitman, Ami Yoshida, Steinbruchel, Damo Suzuki, Marina Rosenfeld, DJ Olive, Philip Samartzis, Scanner, Tetuzi Akiyama, Janek Schaefer, KK Null and others. English has recently been producing a number of full-length recordings for a variety of artists including Japan's avant-pop icon Tujiko Noriko, Tokyo based psychedelic folk collective Tenniscoats and Australian noise-pop unit The Rational Academy. English's imprint and multi-arts organisation ::ROOM40:: maintains a steady release schedule from an eclectic array of Australian and international artists.

John Rodgers is a composer, improviser, violinist, pianist and guitarist. He graduated with a Bachelor of Music from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music in 1984. John is a founding member of the Australian Art Orchestra and also performs with Hydromys Chrysogaster, and the Robyn Archer band. John has worked with the New York performance artist Penny Arcade, Artisans Workshop and many of Australia's leading improvising musicians. He is the primary creative member of Madam Bone's Brothel, a sex-and-death cult rock band. Recent compositions include Dream Catchers (Queensland Music Festival), The Ultimate Prize: the John Rodgers Show (Brisbane Cabaret Festival), Tulp: the body public (Sydney and Brisbane Festivals). Theatre Compositions include: A Cheery Soul, Hamlet, The Marriage of Figaro all directed by Neil Armfield; Radiance and Fountains Beyond, directed by Wesley Enoch.

THANK YOU

Warmest thanks to those who have made this piece with us, and who are now a part of it - Steven, Deanna, Lawrence, Michael, James, Jess, Andrew, Jim, Pete, John, Christian, Gregor, Steve, Nico, Ben, Taylor, Paula, Martel, Kate, Paul, Kate, Lesley, Lindy, Paul II, Rob, Cornel, Brett, Vivia.

en masse is a new Australian work produced by Arts House and commissioned by the Adelaide and Melbourne Festivals under the Australian Government's Major Festivals' Initiative managed by the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals. Developed in the CultureLAB.

en masse is produced and presented by Arts House in association with Melbourne Festival.

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Arts House is a City of Melbourne contemporary arts initiative. Each year Arts House presents a curated program of contemporary art featuring performances, exhibitions, live art, installations and cultural events.

Arts House operates as a multi-dimensional resource hub for artists: producing, programming, devising, supporting and funding. Work is presented across two sites: Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall and Arts House, Meat Market.

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