



# Gina Czarnecki

## Contagion

18 July – 03 August  
Brisbane Festival 2008

Coloured clouds move slowly within a huge red circle, merge, become translucent and eventually disappear. Black flecks occasionally flit across the circle, infecting as they go...

*Contagion* is Czarnecki's major new interactive video installation, a powerful work about images, perception, surveillance, human interaction and bio-security. The work not only refers to the viral spread of disease, but also to the spread of ideas and information.

The tiniest movements of visitors in the installation space are tracked and made visible as projected colours, with new colours and sounds created as visitors' paths collide. However, hidden in the dark lurks a highly infective agent. *Contagion* models the spread of this agent amongst present, past and future visitors, using rules and behaviours based on the epidemiology of SARS and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. This data is processed to create a rich, complex and constantly evolving visual system accompanied by an atmospheric sound score by electronic musician/composer Christian Fennesz.

Czarnecki's films and installations are informed by human relationships to image, disease, evolution, genetic research, and by advanced technologies of image production. She collaborates with epidemiologists and other scientists to gain a deep understanding of the evolution and science of contagious disease. Through editing sound and image at a micro-level, Czarnecki constructs vivid, highly aesthetic spaces. Her work engages the viewer through its scale, beauty and through interactive technologies.

Czarnecki's work has been exhibited internationally at major museums and festivals including *Silvers Alter* at Natural History Museum, London, 2003; *Infected* at Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Melbourne, 2003; *Nascent* at Adelaide Film Festival, 2005 and *Stages Elements Humans* at Ars Electronica, Linz, 1992.

In 2006, she was commissioned to make *Spine*, a large-scale video work for outdoor projection at the AV Festival, Newcastle, and for the Laneways public art programme, Melbourne.

Gina won the prestigious Creative Scotland Award in 2002 for work on her interactive installation *Silvers Alter*, a Fleck Fellowship with the Banff Centre, Canada in 2004, and a Wellcome Trust Sci-Art Award in 2005 for production of *Contagion*. Her film, *Nascent*, has been screened extensively across the world, winning several awards and prizes.

Exhibition produced by Forma.

**For further information please contact:**  
**Janette Scott, Media Consultant**  
[janettescottartspr@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janettescottartspr@yahoo.co.uk)

**Roisin Stimpson, Forma**  
**+44 (0)20 7837 7777**  
[rs@forma.org.uk](mailto:rs@forma.org.uk)

## Notes to editors

**Brisbane Festival** is one of Australia's leading international Arts Festivals. Held biennially, the Festival places great emphasis on creating new work and facilitating exchanges between local, national and international artists and companies. Under the direction of Lyndon Terracini, Artistic Director and CEO, Brisbane Festival 2008 features the most acclaimed international productions in the world today, plus an abundance of free events for all Brisbane residents and visitors to enjoy. The Festival runs from 18 July – 3 August. For more information visit [www.brisbanefestival.com.au](http://www.brisbanefestival.com.au).

**Forma** is one of Europe's leading production agencies for high quality, interdisciplinary contemporary art. Collaborating with some of today's most interesting artists, it produces, tours and publishes groundbreaking new projects that seamlessly combine diverse media including new hybrid forms of music, visual art, film, new media, dance and live art. Recent projects include collaborations with Antony and the Johnsons/Charles Atlas (Turning: Barbican, London, Romaeuropa Festival, Rome and others, 2007), Charles Atlas/Fennesz (Optronica Festival, BFI, London, Centre Pompidou, Paris and others, 2007), Carsten Nicolai/Ryuichi Sakamoto (insen: European, Asia and Australia tours, 2005 & 2006), Lone Twin (Town Crying: various locations north-east England, 2007) and Beck's Fusions (ICA, London, 2007). Forma also represents the work of Ryoji Ikeda, Lynette Wallworth and Gina Czarnecki.

**Forma is supported by Arts Council England.**  
**[www.forma.org.uk](http://www.forma.org.uk)**

Contagion, the exhibition, is produced by Forma. The work *Contagion* was funded by a Wellcome Trust Sci-Art Award, with additional support from Arts Victoria, Melbourne City Council, and Experimedia at The State Library of Victoria, AU, 2005-7.

