

Media release: for immediate use

Lynette Wallworth: Premiere UK solo show

Damavand Mountain, Hold: Vessel 1, 2001 and Invisible by Night

National Glass Centre | Sunderland | 17 Mar – 17 Jun



Damavand Mountain



Invisible by Night



Hold: Vessel 1, 2001

Following her residency at the National Glass Centre, Sunderland, in 2006, Australian born artist Lynette Wallworth presents three immersive installation works in her first UK solo exhibition. An artist whose practice spans video installation, photography and short film, Wallworth describes her intention as ‘bringing together technological advances and ancient understandings, new media and old practices, electronics and the electricity of human touch.’

Wallworth's work is about the relationship between ourselves and nature, about how we are made up of our physical and biological environments, even as we re-make the world through our activities. Produced by Forma, this exhibition presents a series of environments that rely on activation and participation by the viewer. The interplay between moving image, sound, space and visitor is central to Wallworth's work, and her pieces *Damavand Mountain*, *Hold: Vessel 1, 2001* and *Invisible by Night* all employ the medium of glass in the creation of environments which offer a tactile gateway.

Damavand Mountain is an elegant and simple video installation based on imagery filmed by Wallworth during an artist's residency in Iran in 2004. A series of images track the cycle of a short lived poppy flower, a woman and a snow covered mountain. The movements of the flower's petals, the woman's chador and the clouds suggest the impact of invisible forces that shape them daily. Their adjustments to the changing environment evoke a sense of endurance – in human nature and nature itself. Through this series of visual metaphors *Damavand Mountain* presents a poetic and unobtrusive exploration of the global and governmental forces that shape the lives of those in Iran and around the world.

In *Hold: Vessel 1, 2001* the visitor is invited to carry a glass bowl into a darkened space and encouraged to ‘catch’ projected images of underwater life in the bowl. The work explores the immensity of the natural world and our relationship to it. With intimate moments of synchronised light and sound, *Hold: Vessel 1, 2001* celebrates minutiae - the microscopic forms of life. Offering a sensation akin to holding life in your hands, the work creates a sense of communal participation as visitors pass the bowl to each other, leaving them with an impression of shared responsibility and hope.

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The gently interactive video installation *Invisible by Night* responds to touch, presenting a projection of a life-sized woman, whose eternal pacing can be quietly interrupted by the viewer. Commissioned originally for The Melbourne Festival 2004, in response to the layered history of the site of Melbourne's first morgue, the piece explores suffering, the process of grief and loss, and the transient nature of compassion.

This exhibition presents these highly accomplished works to UK audiences for the first time.

For further press information and images please contact Sara Harrison

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Notes to Editors:

Lynette Wallworth has exhibited widely in Australasia, and in November 06 presented her premier solo exhibition at New Crowned Hope Festival, Vienna. Wallworth recently received a New Media Arts Fellowship from the Australia Council for the Arts, enabling her to research and develop a new series of installations through residencies in Iran, Italy and at the Lode Star Observatory, New Mexico. In February 2006, The Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol, presented the European premiere of Wallworth's work *Still:Waiting2*, an interactive installation piece, presented as part of the Inbetween Time Festival. Wallworth also recently completed an Arts Council England Fellowship residency at the National Glass Centre, Sunderland.

Lynette Wallworth is represented by Forma.

This exhibition is produced by Forma, in association with the National Glass Centre.

Damavand Mountain, 2006 | Produced by Forma | Commissioned by New Crowned Hope Festival
Hold: Vessel 1, 2001 | Touring produced by Forma | Courtesy of and commissioned by the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Melbourne, AU

Invisible by Night, 2004 | Touring produced by Forma | Commissioned by Experimenta.org

National Glass Centre is a contemporary cultural venue. Housed in a spectacular glass building situated on the banks of the River Wear it is dedicated to offering its diverse audience an exceptional visitor experience, and promoting the innovative and creative qualities of glass through its exhibition and education programme, glass production facilities and visiting artists studios.

Forma is a creative production agency for ambitious, interdisciplinary contemporary art.

Working closely with artists over extended periods of time, Forma produces, tours and publishes groundbreaking new projects that seamlessly combine diverse media. Its extensive international touring programme, delivered in collaboration with major venues and festivals world-wide, pioneers new hybrid forms of music, visual art, film, new media, dance, theatre and live art.

For further information, please visit www.forma.org.uk

Forma is supported by Arts Council England

Listings Information:

Lynette Wallworth

Saturday 17 Mar – Sunday 17 Jun 2007

National Glass Centre, Contemporary Gallery, Liberty Way, Sunderland, SR6 0GL, UK

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Opening Hours: Monday - Sunday 10.00 – 17.00.

Last entry is 30 minutes before closing time.

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