

**ANTHEM: A live performance and film work by Beth Derbyshire
with music by Ulrike Haage showing at the Eden Project**

Premiere: Saturday 14 November 2009, two performances 6:30pm and 8:30pm



Still from *Nuna*, Part 2 of *Anthem*, Beth Derbyshire

Cape Farewell and the Eden Project, two leading environmental organizations, have collaborated with artists Beth Derbyshire and Ulrike Haage to create a live performance with film on 14th November 2009 at the Eden Project in Cornwall. Entitled *Anthem*, the performance is a trilogy of short films by Derbyshire that documents a disappearing landscape. The powerful choral accompaniment encourages the audience to explore the impact man is making on the global environment. Stunning imagery from the Arctic, Newfoundland and the United Kingdom, together with haunting sounds from composer Ulrike Haage's musical score, will be accompanied by the vocal ensemble, Stile Antico.

Anthem uses metaphors of landscape and song to assemble ideas around issues of nationality, identity and language borrowing from sources such as national anthems, ancient land names and etymology. Derbyshire was inspired to make this work in 2001 during a walk along the Scottish/English border. While filming the area, which was engulfed in mist at the time, she was "struck by the idea of blurred borders and nationalities. This was compounded by the fact that the boundary of the British Isles fluctuates with the tide... our borders are useless in the face of the weather crisis." Derbyshire decided she wanted to make a work about land, place and nation.

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Derbyshire established that there was a synergy between her line of enquiry and the Cape Farewell creative mission, to work with artists to communicate on an emotional level the urgency of the global climate challenge. She was invited to join the 2007 Cape Farewell expedition to the High Arctic, where she joined a crew of 20 artists and scientists and sailed the 100 year old schooner *Noorderlicht*, from Svalbard to the east Coast of Greenland, to the north coast of Iceland.

During the trip, Derbyshire wrote in her diary: "I am here to make a film, part of a trilogy of musical films that explore ideas around nationality by making national anthems that are both aural and visual. Migration due to climate change has already begun and will continue to accelerate. I wanted to explore these ideas in the Arctic, a place without borders, a kind of no-man's-land - or is it? I can see from the amount of cameras on the boat that we are rapacious in our appetite for the Arctic, as am I. I realized, as I am filming the sublime, that I am kind of shooting an ad. The Arctic has become a product and more so as it is an increasingly contested site."

Footage from this voyage will be presented for the first time in *Anthem* at the Eden Project, a platform that helps people to understand environmental and climate change issues that the global community is facing. As Tim Smit, Chief Executive of the Eden Project says: "To face the challenges ahead we need the best of our imagination and creativity, our technology and science, our humanity and vision. The Cape Farewell project is a wonderful example of how to explore issues and initiate discussions around climate change in an engaging, compelling and moving way, which is also positive and forward thinking."

In Conversation - Saturday 14 November 2009, 7.30pm to 8.15pm
Beth Derbyshire in conversation with Ulrike Haage and Dr. James Ryan, Associate Professor of Historical and Cultural Geography, Exeter University - all welcome.



Still of the trilogy, Beth Derbyshire

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Notes to Editors:

Exhibition Continues

15 November – 9 December 2009

Anthem will continue to be screened with music, but without live performance, from Sunday 15 November to Wednesday 9 December. Please check Eden's website for details of future screenings.

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Eden Project

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Cornwall PL24 2SG

www.edenproject.com

Partners in the making of Anthem:

Eric Franck, Arts Council England, Eden Project and Cape Farewell.

Supported by: Lichfield Festival, The Rooms, Alexandra and Hope Thompson, FACT and the University of Central England.

www.capefarewell.com

Anthem website link:

www.capefarewell.com/anthem

Beth Derbyshire is available for interview

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