

PRESS RELEASE

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De Nadder / di -næd.ər

Exhibitions and Events

4 May – 1 July 2024

Messums West



Messums West Barn, Tisbury, Wiltshire

From 4 May, by the side of the River Nadder in Wiltshire as it flows towards Salisbury, we present an exhibition reflecting on our times.

“De Nadder / De Nada” is a soundscape installation and a celebration of no things, a consideration of personal presence set within the empty space of a tithe barn, the largest thatched building in the country. Surrounded by nothing but the building and the marks of time, a soundscape journeys you the length of the building on an object-free sensory

encounter that speaks to the felt experience and to an awareness of the presence. Devoid of things, the soundscape offers an experience of place and time to take away.

With the imagination set running and fired by the senses that normally have to operate in the background, our sense of space inspired by sound will, we hope, free the mind to flow and run its own course of creativity, pausing perhaps for a moment to consider the lightness of no things. Over the course of the soundscape and time within the building, we hope that thoughts, impressions and connections to nature and the environment will well up from within and find their own expression in your thoughts that may be lasting, fleeting or continue unnoticed much like the river that runs nearby.

'Nada' translates from Spanish to 'of nothing' / 'you are welcome'. Exploring for the first time our relationship with space, the exhibition will be free to enter with the option to pay whatever you feel as you leave – Dinero! De nada! Those who would like to experience the exhibition with their own group or even solely can book into an out-of-hours time slot. "I hope to see if people will make the connection with an experience they could control and space they could participate in as part of a community." – Johnny Messum, Director Messums Org.

A series of events from 24-27 May as part of *De Nadder* at Messums West will celebrate the spoken word in walks, talks and performance. Coinciding with the Salisbury Arts Festival (29 May – 9 June) Messums West is pleased to celebrate the diverse creativity that surrounds our use of language whether written or spoken, through a series of on-site events.

Further details on events: www.messums.org

The soundscape is a commission by Messums Creative Foundation from Orlando Gough and Alastair Goolden.

Artist Statement – Orlando Gough

"I have always been fascinated by taking music into the landscape. I have made many pieces in rural and urban landscapes which ask the audience to consider the relationship of music and place. These pieces generally involve many performers, some amateur, some professional. Recently I have become interested in taking music into the landscape in more covert ways, using hidden speakers (and in one case speakers hidden in fabricated sheep), so that the music seems to emerge from the landscape. In my home-town Brighton, there is an annual festival of Open Houses where people show and sell artwork amongst everyday clutter. I have always wanted to create a totally empty Open House where the exhibits are the house itself and its sounds. Here, at Messums, I want to bring a river into the gallery, its sounds, its geography, its history, to make music from those sounds, to consider the flow of the river through space and through time, to create something which emerges from nothing and is constantly evolving."

About Orlando Gough

Orlando Gough is a composer (and sometimes lyricist, librettist, music director, MC, recording engineer, cookery writer), who writes operas, choral music, music-theatre, music for dance and theatre, and creates large-scale site-specific work.

Recent work includes the music for *Macbeth* (National Theatre 2018), the music for *Staging Schiele* (Shobana Jeyasingh Dance 2019), the opera *Weather The Storm* (Garsington 2020), a book about Brighton *Coming and Going* (2021), the music for the artist Bruce Munro's lighting installation *Light Towers* (2021), music for *Albion* in collaboration with Gabriel Prokofiev and the viol consort Fretwork (2021), music for *En Route* (Protein Dance 2022), the opera *Bloom Britannia* (Barefoot 2022), the sound installation *Ready To Drop* (Artichoke 2022), the music for *Much Ado About Nothing* (Globe Theatre 2022), and the large-scale site-specific piece *Herd* (Artichoke and Kirklees Year of Music 2023).

He is currently writing music for *The Other Boleyn Girl* at Chichester Festival Theatre. His book *A Sculpture that Sings*, in collaboration with the artist David Ward, will be published by Little Toller in June.

The Still Point of the Turning World, a site-specific piece in response to Antony Gormley's installation *Time Horizon*, will be at Houghton Hall, Norfolk, in July.

www.orlandogough.com



Orlando Gough

About Alastair Goolden

Alastair Goolden has worked extensively as a sound designer over the past 45 years for many theatre and dance companies including The Royal Shakespeare Company; The Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester; Hampstead Theatre Company; Bristol Old Vic; The Almeida Theatre and The Royal National Theatre. After spending two sessions at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith as Assistant Director, he joined Bath's Natural Theatre Company as a writer

and performer. He has also collaborated on many site-specific and cross-platform projects and installations, including work by Wildworks (The Great Survey of Hastings), Artichoke (Dining with Alice, Peace Camp and Ready to Drop), Gobbledegook Theatre / Lorna Rees (Ear Trumpet), Somerset Art Works (In the Air) and Artmusic (Thin Air, Lachrymae, Line Dances et al). Work with visual artists includes the creation of soundscapes for Kate Lynch to accompany touring exhibitions of her work and production of audio exhibits at the Barbican Art Gallery and the Museum of Somerset. Academic posts include Senior Lecturer in Sound Design, Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (1995-98) and Lecturer in Sound and Lighting, The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland – formerly the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (1999). Miscellaneous projects have included design and consultancy for film and video projects, including The Old Laundry Theatre in Bowness on Windermere, Salisbury Cathedral, Listen and FilmBath Festival (for which he is also a programmer and curator of silent films with live musical accompaniment); he has also collaborated with composer Wendy Hiscocks on a number of live and recorded events, as well as creating the sound design for a number of short films.

About the building

Built on the site of an ancient henge and then the store house of what was once the second largest religious community in the country – the Benedictine nuns of Shaftesbury, the building has served as a farm building and most recently, following its restoration by the Fonthill Estate, as a centre for creativity. It is believed to be the largest surviving thatched building in the country and is constructed from same oak, elm and quarried stone that built Salisbury Cathedral 70 years earlier.

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For further information and press images, please contact: press@messums.org

ABOUT MESSUMS – MESSUMS WEST, MESSUMS LONDON AND MESSUMS ORG

MESSUMS WEST: Established as Messums Wiltshire in 2016 by Johnny Messum, Messums West is a leading multi-purpose gallery and arts centre set inside a restored thirteenth-century tithe barn with surrounding buildings, exhibition space, sculpture garden and restaurant.

MESSUMS LONDON is a 2,000 sq ft exhibition space on Cork Street behind the Royal Academy. It hosts a rolling programmed of exhibitions for our contemporary artists.

Under the umbrella MESSUMS ORG, the business continues to evolve the role of the gallery from presentational space to one that offers multiple ways to access, experience, understand and engage with the creative process and its outcomes. This has included establishing a network of venues and arts communities in the West and East of England – as well as connecting with our historic London gallery space, MESSUMS LONDON.

Our core specialisms are represented in the breadth of the arts we engage in as part of the programme of exhibitions and events at our venues. This encompasses painting, sculpture, ceramic, photography, and performance as well as film, architecture, textiles and more. Together with our exhibitions and events, we offer international artist residencies, contemporary dance premiers, symposia, and workshops. Underpinning all of this is an appreciation and respect for nature to which most artists and individuals would readily identify, and a belief that innovation like creativity itself runs at the vanguard of our thoughts.