



DETAILED PRESS RELEASE: ‘THE REMNANT’ (Version 1)

WHAT: A New Media Interactive Installation

PLACE: Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve Ecological Information Centre, 148 Mountain View Road, Maleny, Queensland 4552, Australia - 2010 Sunshine Coast Council’s TreeLine

OPENING EVENT: 11am, Sunday 30th May

SHOWING DATES: 28th May – 6th June 2010, 9am-4pm

Keith Armstrong, James Muller and Leah Barclay present the premiere of the new media interactive installation THE REMNANT (v.1), a major commission for the 2010 Sunshine Coast Council's TreeLine ecoArt <http://www.treeLine.org.au/>. A remnant is something that remains when the majority of that something has been lost. By focusing upon an isolated remnant rainforest set within a patchwork quilt of surrounding blocks, this art-science project challenges audiences to re-imagine our conceptions of country in ways that will lead us to better reconnect and sustain today’s heavily divided landscapes.

THE REMNANT (v.1) draws upon the dramatic power of holographic 3D illusion, satellite imagery, surround sound and intuitive body driven interactivity. Participants peer into a mysterious, long tunnel of imagery whilst navigating entirely via their gentle head movements - allowing them to both 'steer' in three dimensions and also 'alight', as a butterfly might, upon a sector of landscape - which in turn reveals an underlying 'landscape of mind'.

THE REMNANT (v.1) was commissioned by the 2010 Sunshine Coast Council's TreeLine ecoArt event, which focuses upon trees and their stories as a means to inspire others to take action for the environment. The work will be presented at a stunning remnant block of subtropical rainforest called ‘Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve’ - located 100kms north of Brisbane near the township of Maleny. Once a small part of a thriving subtropical rainforest region called the Maleny Plateau, Mary Cairncross Reserve is now the only significant rainforest block left in that vicinity. Cairncross is an archetypal ‘remnant’.

THE REMNANT (v.1) draws upon a range of local but universal themes: The tragedy of an ecological ark contrasts with the vision of the site’s bequestors and a local community of support. An argument continues between preservation and pasture; between crops and housing. The voice of local indigenous custodians contrast with the fences and boundaries conception of private property based democracy. And in between these clashes sits the story of a critically endangered butterfly, hanging on through dint of community will and one key host plant found in the reserve. Butterflies and their rainforest hosts are flagship examples of that which we are losing - threatened species who have suffered so much because of us now depend upon us to ‘allow’ them survive.

THE REMNANT’ therefore speaks for a fundamental rethinking of the critical relationships that frame our worlds - the social, the political, the economic and the cultural, asserting that the ecological crisis is not out there .. but that WE are the crisis and therefore it is we who must now understand how to act.

FURTHER INFORMATION

KEY URLS:

<http://www.treeline.org.au/program/keith-armstrong-and-james-muller>

<http://www.embodiedmedia.com/#/page/the-remnant>

<http://www.mary-cairncross.com.au/>

ARTISTS:

KEITH ARMSTRONG has specialised for 18 years in collaborative, hybrid, new media works. His ongoing research focuses on how scientific and philosophical ecologies can both influence and direct the design and conception of networked, interactive media artworks. Keith's artworks have been shown and profiled extensively both in Australia and overseas and he has been the recipient of numerous grants from the public and private sectors.

www.embodiedmedia.com

JAMES MULLER runs Earth Base Productions, a multi-disciplinary, creative media studio. He has over 12 years experience in the film, television and digital media industries. Earth Base Productions produce a diverse range of projects utilising screen technologies and emerging digital media. They collaborate in cross sector and cross platform environments to create projects with intrinsic cultural and creative values. Earth Base Productions is based on the Sunshine Coast and works throughout the State. www.earthbase.com.au

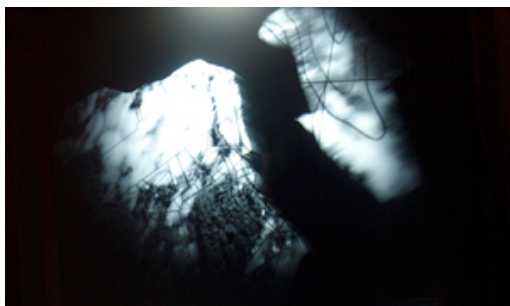
LEAH BARCLAY has been recognised as one of the most promising Australian composers of her generation. Since graduating from the Queensland Conservatorium, she has performed, published and produced commissioned works across Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Europe, India and Korea. Her dynamic work has resulted in numerous awards, including the 2009 Asialink Performing Artist Residency at Art Centre Nabi in Seoul, South Korea and the inaugural Qld Premier's National New Media Art Scholarship. www.leahbarclay.com

TREELINE

Sunshine Coast Council's TreeLine is a challenging, interdisciplinary and interactive art/science/community event that will highlight the impact of human lifestyle choices on our ability to sustain a healthy planet. TreeLine incorporates visual and new media arts, theatre, dance, music, sculpture and storytelling, actively involving participants in the creative process in order to raise awareness of local and global issues through the arts and encourage environmental action. <http://www.treeline.org.au/>

CREDITS

The Remnant has been possible with generous support from the Sunshine Coast Council's TreeLine, Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve, Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, QUT Creative Industries, Embodiedmedia, Earthbase Productions and Indigenous Consultant Bev Hand, Ray Seddon, Julie Dean and Darren Pack of E2E Visuals.



Images from The Remnant, 2010