

UNTRUE ISLAND

WEDNESDAY, 27 JUNE 2012

## Untrue Island, Orford Ness



Between *Sunday, July 8th* and *Monday, July 30th* Turner Prize nominees Jane and Louise Wilson will be exhibiting *Untrue Island*, on the island of Orford Ness off the coast of Suffolk, England. Louise and Jane will be exhibiting this originally commissioned work alongside performances from writer and poet, Robert Macfarlane, and jazz musician Arni Somogyi, as part of the London 2012 Festival. On *8 July*, there will be two public performances by Arnie and Rob, but number are limited.

Jane & Louise's piece, named 'Blind Landings', can be viewed (and heard) amongst the debris of decaying buildings, and ageing atomic weapons facilities that dominate the skyline. Paul Malpas (Engineered Acoustic Designs) spent time on this fascinating and historic place with the sisters preparing the audio environments to accompany the installations. Together they explored, auditioned and gathered recordings of the spaces in and around the buildings. The recordings have been compiled into atmospheres that will be heard playing gently amongst the natural sounds of the groaning building, the gulls, the desolate North Sea.

*Engineered Acoustic Designs* are installing F55 loudspeakers, kindly loaned from John Newsham at Funktion One, along with a bespoke arrangement of remotely powered audio sources designed to operate continuously throughout the 3 week event in locations over a mile from either shelter or mains electricity.

Access to Orford Ness is managed by the National Trust by the means of a small passenger ferry from Orford Quay. Note that numbers at any time, and especially in the ferry crossings, are limited and places can be booked by calling the National Trust on 01394 450900.

FOR MORE INFO: [WWW.COMMISSIONSEAST.ORG.UK/  
LONDON FESTIVAL 2012](http://WWW.COMMISSIONSEAST.ORG.UK/LONDON_FESTIVAL_2012)

**UNTRUE ISLAND** is a series of new commissions for Orford Ness initiated and developed by Commissions East and the National Trust.

A combination of sculpture, musical composition, narration and the real-time sounds of Orford Ness capture the spirit of this constantly changing, evocative and remote location.

The project brings Orford Ness' unique experience to existing and new audiences, communicating the complex landscape and ecology, and the historical significance of the site in a contemporary context.

The project is part of the National Trust's 'Trust New Art' programme.

**ORFORD NESS** is an internationally important nature reserve, which contains a significant portion of the European reserve of vegetated shingle habitat.

The site has a fascinating military history and was used for top secret development of a vast range of armaments, including radar and nuclear weapons.

Orford Ness Nature Reserve is now managed by the National Trust and is open to the public, though access is strictly controlled to protect the fragile habitats and due to a residual danger from unexploded bombs and other debris.

# ORFORD NESS

## 8-30 JULY 2012

### OPENING TIMES

Ferries leave Orford Quay regularly between 10 am and 2 pm, Tuesday - Saturday. Purchase your ticket from the ferry office at the back of Orford Quay.

Last ferry leaves Orford Ness at 5 pm.

There are a limited number of tickets available each day so arrive early to avoid disappointment.

Due to the dangerous nature of the AWRE site access to view 'Blind Landing', Jane and Louise Wilson's sculptures may be unavailable on some days. Please call for details before visiting on 01394 450900.

### ADMISSION

National Trust Members	£4.00 adult / £2.00 child
Non-members	£8.00 adult / £4.00 child

### ACCESS

Access is only by National Trust ferry from Orford Quay.

Access to the site is difficult and potentially dangerous, and only suitable for visitors with adequate mobility. Embarking and disembarking from the ferry involves negotiating steep and slippery steps (height influenced by tides). There are no hills or long climbs but the visitor routes are long (the shortest 5.5 miles in total length). Mobility parking - drop-off on Orford Quay and return car to Quay Street car park (150 yards).

Adapted toilets are available at the Warden's office when on duty.

### PERFORMANCE DETAILS AND BOOKING

Two performances will take place on the Ness on 8 July 2012.

On 15 July 2012 there will be three performances for local residents only as part of Orford Ness' annual community open day.

Places for all performances are extremely limited due to site access restrictions and booking is essential.

Contact the National Trust on 01394 450 900.

ORFORD NESS  
8-30 JULY 2012

Look  
Listen  
Read



# UNTRUE ISLAND

**Robert Macfarlane**

**Arnie Somogyi**

**Jane & Louise Wilson**





ORFORD NESS

8-30 JULY 2012

# ARTISTS

Listen. Listen now. Listen again to the sounds of this slow-flowing shingle river. Listen to the voices of this untrue island. Listen to the Ness: it speaks gull, it speaks wave, it speaks rust, it speaks lichen. Hear the Ness: it speaks bullet, it speaks ruin, it speaks redshank, it speaks deception, it speaks pagoda, it speaks transmission, it speaks reception, it speaks pure mercury, it speaks fluent flint, it speaks utmost secret, it speaks swift current, it speaks broken signal, it speaks shifting shingle, it speaks precarious wisdom, it speaks rapid-fire.

Robert Macfarlane,  
Untrue Island 2012

## Robert Macfarlane

Robert Macfarlane has written a libretto for Untrue Island, which has been set to music by jazz musician Arnie Somogyi. The narrated text, improvised music and sound recordings make up the 'voices' of the Ness, which will be performed publicly on the island.

Robert Macfarlane is a British travel writer and literary critic. He is currently a Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge. He won the Guardian First Book Award, the Somerset Maugham Award, and the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award for his first book, Mountains of the Mind (2003). His second, The Wild Places (2007), was similarly celebrated, winning three prizes and being shortlisted for six more. Both books were adapted for television by the BBC. Robert Macfarlane's latest book The Old Ways: A Journey on Foot was published in May 2012.

### COMMISSIONS EAST

Commissions East is one of the UK's leading public art agencies. We work in partnership with the public and private sectors to develop and deliver outstanding projects that define places, unite people and challenge perceptions.

[www.commissionseast.org.uk](http://www.commissionseast.org.uk)

## Arnie Somogyi

Arnie Somogyi has brought together an impressive group of leading British musicians to work on Untrue Island, including Suffolk vocalist and British Jazz Award nominee, Polly Gibbons; vibes and percussion player, and a founding member of London's acclaimed LOOP Jazz Collective, Jim Hart; and highly-accomplished jazz and roots multi-instrumentalist, Neil Yates.

Arnie Somogyi is one of the UK's leading jazz bass players, composer, bandleader and jazz educator. Arnie's long-standing musical association with the Suffolk coast includes his Aldeburgh-developed album, 'Accident and Insurgency', which was nominated for both a BBC Jazz Award for Best Album and a Parliamentary Jazz Award for Best Ensemble in 2008. He plays frequently at Ronnie Scotts as one of the All-Stars, has worked with many of the world's top jazz musicians, and is featured on over 50 albums and film soundtracks.

### NATIONAL TRUST

The National Trust is Europe's largest conservation organisation and looks after special places across England, Wales and Northern Ireland for ever, for everyone.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

### TRUST NEW ART

Trust New Art is the National Trust's programme of contemporary art and craft developed in partnership with Arts Council England.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/trustnewart](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/trustnewart)

## Jane and Louise Wilson

Jane and Louise Wilson's project for Orford Ness is called 'Blind Landing'. Referring to the Blind Landing Experimental Unit that was operational during the Cold War period, the work comprises of a series of sculptures inspired by a yardstick measure once employed in the film industry as a measure for scale in the building of film sets. The sculptures are sited within the laboratory buildings, challenging the sense of scale and ruin, pointing to the architecture of forensics and camouflage, and highlighting their historic relevance as 'future ruins'.

Jane and Louise Wilson have exhibited and worked together throughout their career. Their films work with an archeology of modern architecture and utopian design to study the darker side of human nature, dissecting hierarchy and power and prodding our collective anxieties. In 1999, they were nominated for the Turner Prize for their disquieting study of two cold war behemoths, the abandoned missile silos at Greenham Common and the deserted headquarters of the Stasi in the former East Germany.

### MAJOR FUNDERS

Arts Council England  
National Trust  
PRS Foundation for Music  
Sfumato Foundation  
Trust New Art

### SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS

Aldeburgh Music  
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