

A Small Dream

By R&D Studio with Hemabharathy Palani

Audio and Visual Description

Event taking place on Saturday 29th June 2019, 2:30pm at St Peter's Church, Bournemouth.

Visual Description

A Small Dream is a three-part series of work. In this first part, presented in Bournemouth, a solo performer (Hemabharathy Palani; a professional female dancer of petite build, long black hair, brown eyes, Indian race) is dressed in a costume that draws on both traditional Indian and technological influences.

The costume is blue and silver in colour and created from a synthetic material, which looks metallic and shimmers in the light. It covers the performer's full body; shoes, long sleeves and trousers, and zips up with a hood that covers her hair and head, so only her face and hands are visible. On top of her head she wears a GoPro camera (a small black box) attached with a head-mount. This films the action from her point of view (the film-footage captured here will be played as part of the installation for 'Part Two' in Sherborne Abbey on 5th – 7th July 2019).

The performer represents an alien life form, a lone traveller lost in space. She moves extremely slowly and makes eye contact with the people she passes. She is curious.

The performance begins from Bournemouth Pier, where the performer will walk very slowly through the Lower Gardens, through to the 'Square' and the pedestrianised high-street in the Town Centre, until she reaches St Peter's Church.

On arrival to St Peter's, the performer gravitates towards the Museum of the Moon installation piece. The floor directly beneath the Moon is cleared for her arrival. She slowly, over a period of around 5-10 minutes, uses blue powder to create patterns on the red-tiled church floor, homage to Rangoli artwork.

Audio Description

At St Peter's, whilst the performer creates the Rangoli pattern underneath the Moon installation, music will be played over a 4-speaker surround-sound system. This music has been composed for The Small Dream series. It is electronic and meditative in nature and repeats in loops, designed to be suggestive of the orbital pathway the spacecraft will take on its journey to the moon.