

DORSET MOON

FEATURING LUKE JERRAM'S MUSEUM OF THE MOON

PRESS RELEASE

DORSET MOON

Friday 28 – Sunday 30 June, War Memorial, Central Gardens, Bournemouth

Friday 5 – Sunday 7 July, Sherborne Abbey

Friday 12 – Sunday 14 July, Nothe Fort, Weymouth

Free

www.dorsetmoon.com

Hundreds of carbon footprints made by Dorset residents and visitors will combine to create two new large-scale artworks with an environmental message at Dorset Moon, this summer's county-wide celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the first lunar landing.

The arts spectacle starring Luke Jerram's monumental *Museum of the Moon* installation, is being staged in Bournemouth, Sherborne and Weymouth with a supporting programme of exciting and thought-provoking cultural experiences at each site. As part of that Dorset artist Carrie Mason is making her latest work, a collective drawing project called *Pledge*, under the moon at Bournemouth and Weymouth.

Inspired by astronaut Neil Armstrong's famous words, she is inviting audiences to take 'one small step' and pledge to do something that will reduce their carbon footprint, then make a giant leap and leave their carbon footprints on the canvas before placing their pledges in a basket.

"Luke Jerram's moon is made up of incredible NASA imagery of the moon's surface," says Carrie. "It's literally out of this world, but NASA imagery of Earth is also being used to show us what we are doing to our own planet – we can see the effects of the melting ice caps and deforestation. I wanted to turn Neil Armstrong's words on their head and make them about Planet Earth."

In each location a 3m x 10m canvas will be spread out on the floor beneath the Moon. At one end will be a large wooden disc with a mound of locally sourced lump charcoal on top. Carrie will stamp on the charcoal to make a fine powder then announce her pledge before walking across the canvas to place her pledge form in a basket and inviting onlookers and bystanders to follow her.

"I want as many people as possible to fill out a pledge form, anonymously if they like, to say

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what they will do to reduce their carbon footprint, then step across the canvas. At the end the canvas will be dark with charcoal dust footprints and tyre marks – it's wheelchair and pushchair-friendly – so when the disc is removed there'll be a moon-shaped circle of clean canvas. It's a call to action to show that when we act collectively our small actions can add up to something significant that can make a real difference."

The decision to use local charcoal from a sustainable source is an important part of the work.

"The demand for cheap charcoal is a major factor in global deforestation so by working with Dorset Charcoal Company I can be sure that the charcoal I'm using comes from natural hardwood grown in well-managed local woodlands. Pledging to buy locally produced charcoal is one small step we can all make."

Pledge will begin at 4.17pm – the time that Apollo 11's lunar module landed on the Moon – on Sunday 30 June at Dorset Moon in Bournemouth Gardens and again at the same time on Sunday July 14 in Nothe Fort, home to the Weymouth Moon. Each performance will last for 117 minutes, the length of time that man walked on the moon on that historic mission.

"In my artistic practice I'm all about stripping things back and making them as simple as possible," says Carrie. "*Pledge* seems a very straightforward way to highlight a problem that can seem really complicated and distant but there are little things we can all do that can make a difference."

Dorset Moon is curated by Inside Out Dorset (produced by Activate), Arts by the Sea and b-side festivals.

The other new works commissioned for Dorset Moon are cross discipline and from artists at varying stages of their careers, including Dorset-based Ra Zamora's sound installation *Call of the Wild*; Laura Reid's silent disco soundtrack *Celestial Bodies*; Matilda Skelton-Mace's installation *Earth Module* in which infinity mirror effects and organic lighting patterns evoke the night sky and play with scale; *This Then Is the Moon* a 150-second immersive experience by George Roberts with Natasha Salkeld and Immy Howard; *Wind and Unwind*, and *Wind and Unwind*, Helen Ottaway's ten-minute composition for musical box and voice.

For more details on Dorset Moon and the full supporting programme in each location visit www.dorsetmoon.com.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Dorset Moon is produced by the Dorset Festivals Consortium: Inside Out Dorset (produced by Activate), b-side and Bournemouth Arts by the Sea. Commissioned by the Arts Development Company with funding from European Regional Development Fund and Arts Council England.

Museum of the Moon is a touring artwork by UK artist Luke Jerram. Measuring seven metres in diameter, the moon features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the lunar surface. At an approximate scale of 1:500,000, each centimetre of the internally lit spherical sculpture represents 5km of the moon's surface. Museum of the Moon allows us to observe and contemplate cultural similarities and differences around the world and consider the latest moon science. Depending on where the artwork is presented, its meaning and interpretation will shift. Through local research at each location of the artwork, new stories and meanings will be collected and compared from one presentation to the next.

LOCATIONS AND DATES

Friday 28 – Sunday 30 June **Central Gardens, Bournemouth**

The Upper, Central and Lower Gardens have all been Green Flag winners since 1999 and run from Bournemouth Pier to the boundary with Poole. The gardens are 3km long. They are all part of the Bourne Valley Greenway and are Listed Grade II in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens. DORSET MOON will be in Central Gardens, near the War Memorial.

Friday 5 July – Sunday 7 July **Sherborne Abbey, Sherborne**

Founded by St Aldhelm in AD705, the Abbey has developed from Saxon cathedral to the worshipping heart of a monastic community, and finally, to one of the most beautiful of England's parish churches. For many it is still the 'Cathedral of Dorset' and its Benedictine heritage lives on in the daily offering of prayer and praise.

Friday 12 July – Sunday 14 July **Nothe Fort, Weymouth**

Nothe Fort is now one of Weymouth's major attractions and a venue for a wide range of public events. You don't have to be a military enthusiast to enjoy your visit. It's a great day

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out for all the family with lots to see and explore. This weekend also sees the Nyetimber Dorset Seafood Festival return to this picturesque harbour town.

EVENT PARTNERS

The Arts Development Company

ADC believe the arts can transform and change people's lives for the better. They deliver creative projects with cross-sector partners, lobbying and influencing policy and strategy in the arts and supporting and developing the cultural infrastructure. Based in Dorset, they work nationally and across Dorset and the South West of England. They also work with UK networks and partnerships.

Activate and Inside Out Dorset

Inside Out Dorset is recognised across Europe for producing high quality international outdoor arts and specialising in siting work in the landscape as well as in its more urban locations in the programme. Produced by Dorset-based Activate Performing Arts, the festival seeks out and commissions extraordinary events in extraordinary places, transforming some of the county's most remarkable landscapes with exceptional experiences – most of which are free to attend.

Bournemouth Arts by the Sea

The Arts by the Sea festival is Bournemouth's annual celebration of culture, bringing an intriguing, exciting and carnivalesque mix of the arts to Bournemouth's unique and beautiful locations. The festival aims to increase opportunities for people to participate in the arts and enhance a sense of community, while supporting talented artists creating work that makes a real impact on the audience and the town. Diverse music, art and dance, site-specific installations and large-scale spectacles are all key to this festival. Most events are family friendly and free to attend.

b-side

b-side is an internationally recognised and locally loved arts organisation, producing unique, innovative and pioneering projects that connect artists with people and place. b-side supports artists to make site-responsive artwork in collaboration with communities encouraging artists and audiences to be playful, curious and open-minded. There is a b-side festival every two years on Portland bringing new, unique art to audiences from Dorset and beyond and sharing incredible stories about the Isle of Portland with the rest of the world. As well as the festival b-side co-ordinates a year-round programme of projects for artists, young people and Dorset residents to help empower communities and individuals to experience and value creativity and its vital role within well-being, education, place making and the local economy. b-side is part of Arts Council England's National Portfolio.

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