

Press Release: 28 April 2014

THIS SPRING THE CALDER PRESENTS *HAGGARD CARAVAN*



THE FIRST BRITISH PUBLIC EXHIBITION BY A SWISS-AMERICAN COLLECTIVE  
OF ARTISTS AND MUSICIANS

JEANNE GRAFF, TOBIAS MADISON, FLAVIO MERLO, EMANUEL ROSSETTI,  
GREGORY RUPPE, WILLIAM Z. SAUNDERS AND STEFAN TCHEREPNIN

FRIDAY 18 APRIL – SUNDAY 1 JUNE 2014

Exhibition Preview & Live Performances: Thursday 17 April 2014, 6.30 – 9.30pm

- This collaboration of musicians and artists, whose band is known as 'Solar Lice' comprises: Jeanne Graff, Tobias Madison, Flavio Merlo, Emanuel Rossetti, and Stefan Tcherepnin with Gregory Ruppe and William Z Saunders
- The ensemble present their first UK public exhibition *Haggard Caravan* at The Calder – The Hepworth Wakefield's new space for contemporary art, technology and interdisciplinary practice
- The new site-specific installation is based on the group's experiences of Wakefield, the industrial heritage and supernatural histories of The Calder, a 19<sup>th</sup> century former textiles mill
- Field recordings taken in Wakefield and electronic sounds produced with the Serge Modular Synthesizer will be combined to produce a major new sound piece which will fill the Calder space
- *Haggard Caravan* is co-commissioned by The Hepworth Wakefield with The Modern Institute. It is part of Glasgow International 2014 for the Glasgow International Festival 2014
- *The exhibition* is supported by Pro Helvetia, The Swiss Cultural Fund in the UK and Basel Kultur

This spring a collaborative group of artists and musicians made their UK institutional debut with a new exhibition entitled *Haggard Caravan*. The installation opened on Good Friday, 18 April and runs until Sunday 1 June at The Calder, The Hepworth Wakefield's new 600sqm space for contemporary art.

Co-commissioned with The Modern Institute and part of the Glasgow International Festival 2014, the exhibition features sculpture, installation, performance, music and video, building on the collaborative practice the Swiss-American group first explored in *Drip Event*, an expansive sculpture and sound installation at The Power Station, Dallas, USA in 2013.

*Haggard Caravan* is an experimental sound and sculpture installation conceived in response to The Hepworth Wakefield's new space The Calder. The project stems from an ongoing collaboration between artists Tobias Madison, Emanuel Rossetti and Stefan Tcherepnin who use collaborative strategies to disrupt and reflect on the processes of artistic creation. For *Haggard Caravan* Madison, Rossetti and Tcherepnin have collaborated with Jeanne Graff, Flavio Merlo, Gregory Ruppe and William Z Saunders, who complete the line-up for the group's band, 'Solar Lice'.

In their site-specific projects, the group make use of a wide range of media including sculpture, video, painting, music, text and photography. They engage with the gallery as both a production studio and a live space in which they play with temporal aspects of the exhibition experience.

Produced over 10 days at The Calder, *Haggard Caravan* has been made in direct response to the site's architecture, riverside setting and the histories embedded in this reclaimed building. The 19<sup>th</sup> century former textile mill is part of the Rutland Mill complex, a series of Victorian warehouses located in The Hepworth Wakefield's gallery gardens. Situated next to the River Calder, the complex has been cited on numerous occasions as a hotspot for paranormal encounters and hosted the controversial television show *Most Haunted* in 2005.

The group have used The Calder as a space to collate and process their experiences of Wakefield. The most physical manifestation of this idea is realised as a 30-metre long cement 'relief', in which debris collected each day has been embedded in its surface. The work evolved over the 10 day build, gradually obscuring the main bank of windows in the space and redefining the threshold between inside and out. Intensely illuminated wire mesh sculptures play on the idea of sculpture as a filter, drawing visitors' attention to the various infrastructures within a gallery space.

*Haggard Caravan* reflects on different sources of energy present in and around the gallery, in particular the kinetic energy of the river Calder in which the exhibition space sits. A major element of the installation is a new immersive site-specific audio piece that combines sounds created by a Serge Modular Synthesizer with field recordings of inconsequential or 'discarded' sounds taken in Wakefield. Lasting 40 minutes and timed to play as a series of 'sound screenings' on the hour from midday – 4pm, visitors are encouraged to engage with the piece from start to finish, allowing it to guide their movement through the installation.

*Haggard Caravan* forms part of The Hepworth Wakefield's extended contemporary exhibition programme as Andrew Bonacina, Chief Curator explains: "*The focus of the programme at The Calder is on exploring interdisciplinary relationships between the visual arts and other fields such as music, dance and performance. The space is an important platform for young and emerging artists to present new work on an international stage. Haggard Caravan brings together a really exciting group of artists and musicians. It is an all-encompassing experience and very different to what our audiences have seen before.*"

Solar Lice commenced their European tour with a performance at the opening night of the new exhibition, with a series of improvised sessions. The free public opening took place on Thursday 17 April from 6.30pm.

The artists commented: *"For the opening night we combined guitar, bass and drums with site-specific vessels and vocals, with references to water from the River Calder playing a key role. There's no easy way to define our sound. We're eight members-strong, with a vast range of influences and perform instinctively, through improvisation."*

For details of The Hepworth Wakefield's full exhibition programme and Easter events are available on the website [www.hepworthwakefield.org](http://www.hepworthwakefield.org) or by telephoning 01924 247392.

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#### PRESS PREVIEW & ENQUIRIES:

To arrange an installation preview, interview or photo opportunity with the artists, Andrew Bonacina, Chief Curator or Simon Wallis, Director please contact:

Naomi Roberts, Media Officer  
T: +44 (0)1924 247 392 / 07717 807512  
E: [naomiroberts@hepworthwakefield.org](mailto:naomiroberts@hepworthwakefield.org)

Limited complimentary train travel is available please contact us for further details.

#### IMAGE REQUESTS:

For assistance with images please contact:  
Sarah Forrest, Marketing & Communications Assistant  
T: +44 (0)1924 247363  
E: [sarahforrest@hepworthwakefield.org](mailto:sarahforrest@hepworthwakefield.org)

#### EDITOR'S NOTES:

#### THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

The gallery is at the heart of Wakefield's regeneration. Designed by the internationally acclaimed practice, David Chipperfield Architects, it is funded by Wakefield Council and Arts Council England with additional funding from a number of charitable trusts and private individuals. The Hepworth Wakefield opened on 21 May 2011. It attracted 512,000 visitors within the first 12 months and welcomed its millionth visitor on 5 December 2013.

The Hepworth Wakefield, Gallery Walk, West Yorkshire, WF1 5AW  
Free admission  
Open Tuesday – Sunday, 10am – 5pm  
Open Third Thursday of every month, 10 – 9pm, as part of *After Hours* late nights  
Open for Wakefield Art on Wednesdays every other month, 10 - 9pm  
Closed Mondays (except for Bank Holidays and school holidays)  
[www.hepworthwakefield.org](http://www.hepworthwakefield.org)  
01924 247360

Follow: @HepworthGallery  
Like: [www.facebook.com/HepworthWakefield](http://www.facebook.com/HepworthWakefield)

PLEASE NOTE: The gallery should be cited in full, as The Hepworth Wakefield and not Hepworth Wakefield, Hepworth Gallery or any other configuration.

## THE CALDER

On Friday 30 August 2013 The Calder, The Hepworth Wakefield's new contemporary art space opened to the public. The development of The Calder was announced on 21 May 2013, exactly two years since gallery opened.

Located on the ground floor of the Caddies Wainwright Mill, a 19th century former textiles mill, the new contemporary art space is situated adjacent to the main gallery site, on the banks of the River Calder. The Calder adds 600 square metres of exhibition and event space to the existing 10 gallery spaces within The Hepworth Wakefield and presents a contemporary art programme that runs in parallel to the visitor offer at the main gallery.

The development of The Calder is a capital project is funded by Wakefield Council, who own the building and are the principal proprietor of the waterfront site adjacent to The Hepworth Wakefield. The development of the new exhibition space at The Hepworth Wakefield forms part of the Council's Wakefield Waterfront regeneration plans.

The exhibition and event programme is funded from a number of charitable trusts, corporates and private individuals and is match-funded in part through the Arts Council England Catalyst Arts programme and by revenue from ticketed events.

The Calder capital project is funded by Wakefield Council; the on-going exhibition and event programme is funded through Wakefield Council, Arts Council England and Arts Council England Catalyst Arts programme.

The Calder, Gallery Walk, West Yorkshire, WF1 5AW  
Free admission (except for ticketed events)  
Open Tuesday – Sunday, 12 – 4.30pm  
Open Third Thursday of every month, 12 – 8.30pm, as part of *After Hours* late nights  
Open for the Wakefield Art on Wednesdays every other month, 12 - 8.30pm  
Closed Mondays (except for Bank Holidays and school holidays)  
[www.hepworthwakefield.org](http://www.hepworthwakefield.org)  
01924 247360  
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## YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE TRIANGLE

The Hepworth Wakefield, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Henry Moore Institute and Leeds Art Gallery are four of the UK's leading visual art organisations, situated within 30 minutes drive or train ride from one another. They build on West Yorkshire's unique artistic legacy as the birthplace of two of the most important 20th Century artists, Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore.

Visitor research shows that we all share audiences from Yorkshire and beyond and together, we are a world-class destination for art-lovers. This long term partnership aims to promote contemporary art and sculpture as inspirational settings to grow visitor numbers to all four

institutions and to raise the profile of West Yorkshire as the birthplace of Modern British sculpture.

For details on Yorkshire Sculpture Triangle visit [www.ysculpture.com](http://www.ysculpture.com)

Follow: @Ysculpture and #Ysculpture

Like: [www.facebook.com/YorkshireSculptureTriangle](https://www.facebook.com/YorkshireSculptureTriangle)

#### SOLAR LICE:

Formed in 2012, 'Solar Lice' is an eight-strong a band comprises musicians and artists: Jeanne Graff, Tobias Madison, Flavio Merlo, Emanuel Rossetti, and Stefan Tcherepnin with Gregory Ruppe, William Z Saunders.

Selected projects include: 'Drip Event', The Power Station, Dallas (2013); 'SOLAR LICE', Double LP, recorded at ISSUE Project Room, New York (2013); 'OOO &&& LLL', Kunsthalle Bern, Bern (2012); 'cut-out bin / apnegative', Kunsthalle Bern, Bern (2012); and 'POMOSHCH medelst dig hjälp mig? helpers', Galerie New Jersey, Basel (2012).

#### ARTIST INFORMATION:

Jeanne Graff (b. Lausanne, Switzerland); Tobias Madison (b. Basel, Switzerland, lives and works in Berlin & Zürich); Flavio Merlo (b. Zug, lives & works in Zürich, Switzerland); Emanuel Rossetti (b. Basel, Switzerland, lives & works in Basel); Gregory Ruppe (b. Houston, Texas, lives & works in Dallas, Texas); William Z. Saunders (b. Texas, USA); Stefan Tcherepnin (b. Boston, USA, lives & works in Brooklyn, NYC)

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