



NVA and Edinburgh Art Festival commission visual artist Katri Walker to create new work as part of Speed of Light programme

Public Art Charity **NVA** and the **Edinburgh Art Festival** have jointly commissioned visual artist and filmmaker Katri Walker to create a new moving image work as part of Speed of Light's investigation into the culture of endurance running. The resulting work will be a document or portrait relating to the community of endurance runners who are at the heart of the project. One version of the work will be presented on The Space in September/October 2012 and a final version will be presented at the Edinburgh Art Festival in 2013.

One of Scotland's official contributions to London 2012 Festival and the Cultural Olympiad, *NVA's Speed of Light*, is a tremendous fusion of sport and culture which will see Edinburgh's iconic mountain brought to life through sporting endeavour and performative visual art. Runners will activate specially designed light suits at night, illuminating the hillside. The audience will generate their own light through the movement of bespoke walking staffs as they ascend to the summit to witness the remarkable moving tableaux below.

Walker explores the space between contemporary art and documentary film making, experimenting with forms of documentary and portraiture. She will be developing the work in the period leading up to Speed of Light, researching with participating endurance runners. Walker, whose recent projects include a Wall of Light Moving image Commission for the 2014 Commonwealth Games and a residency at Edinburgh's Stills Gallery, is a keen runner herself; this new work takes hill-running as its starting point, and the symbiotic relationship between the runner, their environment and daily life presents fertile ground for poetic investigation.

Of the commission Walker said: 'As a keen hill runner myself and having grown up in Edinburgh, I was thrilled to be invited back to the city by NVA. It's proved really

challenging to visually articulate a physical and emotional experience that is so often beyond words, but I hope that people will be able to connect with the work and perhaps even feel inspired enough to give the hills a go themselves.'

A version of this work will be presented on the online platform www.thespace.org in September/October 2012 ahead of the final work being presented as an audiovisual installation at Edinburgh Art Festival next year.

Katri Walker will be talking about her practice and approach to this major new commission as part of EAF's programme of artists' talks on Saturday 10th August, 11am. This free event is ticketed. Tickets available from www.edinburghartfestival.com

NVA's *Speed of Light* takes place on:

9–12, 15 –19, 22–27, 29–31 August and 1 September

Guided walking groups meet at NVA's *Speed of Light* base every 15 minutes at 9.15pm, 9.30pm, 9.45pm, 10.00pm, 10.15pm, 10.30pm, 10.45pm and 11.00pm

Tickets £24 or £18(concession) available from www.eif.co.uk/speedoflight

Please go to www.speedoflight2012.org.uk for more details

Follow us on twitter: @_NVA_ #nvasol

For further information, to request images or arrange interviews please contact:

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Notes to editors:

1. **NVA** was established in 1992 by creative director Angus Farquhar. In recent years the organisation has achieved international recognition with a number of incomparable and critically successful works, notably *The Storr: Unfolding Landscape on Skye* and *The Hidden Gardens, Glasgow*. NVA is an acronym of *nacionale vitae active*, a Roman phrase describing 'the right to influence public affairs'. www.nva.org.uk
2. **NVA's *Speed of Light*** will culminate in a mass participatory event on Arthur's Seat between the 9th August and 1st September 2012. Audience members will generate their own light through the movement of bespoke walking staffs as they ascend to the summit. Tickets now on sale through eif.co.uk/speedoflight
3. Based in London, **Resonance Radio Orchestra**, was formed in 2004 by Ed Baxter and Chris Weaver as a vehicle to explore their shared interest in radio phonic composition and live performance. Together they have written over a

dozen pieces including "Overheard," for musicians, actors and boxers, commissioned by Arika in 2010 for Kill Your Timid Notion, Dundee; "Overheard 2," a 48 hour live performance featuring actor Tam Dean Burn in 2010 for Install, Glasgow; and in 2009 the European Cultural Foundation-supported "Suspension of Belief," a five hour broadcast event with live rock climbers on the sheer cliff face of the Penon d'Ifach in Alicante. The Orchestra adapts itself to each specific context or circumstances, with a floating pool of collaborators – among them Adam Bushell, Fari Bradley, Kay Grant, Ivor Kallin, and Veryan Weston.

4. Featuring world class new and classic drama, opera, music, dance and visual spectacles the **Edinburgh International Festival 2012** runs from Thursday 9 August to Sunday 2 September across the city in theatres, concert halls, opera houses and temporary venues attracting people from around the world to Scotland's picturesque capital and providing the best in international culture to a global audience. More information is available at www.eif.co.uk. The Edinburgh International Festival is supported by The City of Edinburgh Council and Creative Scotland. Scottish Charity (SC004694)

5. **Legacy Trust UK** is an independent charity whose mission is to support a wide range of innovative cultural and sporting activities which celebrate the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and which will leave a lasting legacy in communities throughout the UK.

The Trust is funded by a £40 million endowment from the Big Lottery Fund (£29m), Department for Culture Media and Sport (£6m) and Arts Council England (£5m), and is a Principal Funder of the Cultural Olympiad and London 2012 Festival.

6. **Creative Scotland** is the national development agency for the arts, screen and creative industries, and its ambition is to see Scotland recognised as one of the world's most creative nations. Its vision is:

That Scotland is recognised as a leading creative nation – one that attracts, develops and retains talent, where the arts and the creative industries are supported and celebrated and their economic contribution fully captured, a nation where the arts and creativity play a central part in the lives, education and well-being of our population

2012 is also the Year of Creative Scotland: a chance to spotlight, celebrate and promote Scotland's cultural and creative strengths on a world stage.

7. **sportscotland** is the national agency for sport in Scotland. We passionately believe in the power of sport and the unique contribution it makes to lives and communities across Scotland. Our mission is to encourage everyone in Scotland to discover and develop their own sporting experience, helping to increase participation, improve performance and achieve success in Scottish sport.

8. **jogscotland** was started in 2002 by **scottishathletics** – with support from NHS Health Scotland, **sportscotland** and the Scottish Government's Healthy Living Campaign. It is a truly unique healthy living initiative that is leading the world when it comes to jogging. Since it was established, jogscotland has helped over 25,000 Scots improve their lifestyle through structured walking, jogging and running programmes tailored at all levels of ability from complete beginner up to 10ks, half marathons and more! For more information on **jogscotland** please visit www.jogscotland.org.uk.

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