

Media release: 18 October 2006

## Lynette Wallworth - Evolution of Fearlessness

New Crowned Hope Festival, Künstlerhaus, Vienna, 17 Nov – 13 Dec 2006

Press preview: Thursday 16 Nov 2006, 10.00

### **Australian-born artist Lynette Wallworth presents her eagerly anticipated first European solo exhibition**

*Evolution of Fearlessness* is a major exhibition comprising of five large-scale immersive installation works, two of which are new commissions. Curated by Peter Sellars and produced by Forma, the exhibition spans video installation, photography and short film, and presents a series of environments that rely on activation and participation by the audience/viewer. The interplay between moving image, sound, space and visitor is central to Wallworth's work and in this exhibition becomes a metaphor for our connectedness with biological, social and ecological systems.

The show carries the title of Wallworth's major new work that pays tribute to women who, challenged by terrors by which most of us would be crippled, find a way to grow stronger and deflect the unforgiving elements they encounter daily. In creating this work, Wallworth filmed portraits of several women residing in Australia, but originating from countries such as Afghanistan, Sudan, Iraq and El Salvador, who have lived through wars, survived concentration camps, or extreme acts of violence. The finished piece is an intimate, interactive installation that responds to touch, as the "fearless women" are beckoned by the viewer, appearing slowly from a dark light. This new work is a sequel to *Invisible by Night* [2004], which employs a similar format to explore suffering, grief and loss and the transient nature of compassion.

*Damavand Mountain* [2006] is a video installation based on imagery filmed by Wallworth during an artist's residency in Iran in 2004. The piece is a poetic and unobtrusive exploration of the global and governmental forces that shape the lives of those in Iran and around the world.

*Still:Waiting [2]* [2005], presents breathtaking imagery of the Flinders Ranges of Southern Australia at dusk, and invites the viewer to consider the impact of others, of communal life and the complex interconnection of co-existing species and cultures.

The exhibition concludes with *Hold: Vessel 1* [2001] which explores the intimacy and immensity of the natural world and our relationship to it. The visitor is encouraged to 'catch' projected images of underwater life in glass bowls. With intimate moments of synchronised light and sound, this is a work that celebrates minutiae - the microscopic forms of life. The work creates a sense of communal participation as visitors pass the bowl to each other, leaving them with an impression of shared responsibility and hope.

*Evolution of Fearlessness* presents a highly accomplished and powerful body of work that takes audiences on a journey of emotional transitions. Wallworth's works deal with violence and struggle, loss and its aftermath, responsibility and compassion, alongside the invisible processes of healing, continuity and endurance, and beyond that, hope and strength.

#### **For further press information and images please contact:**

**Hannah Barnes, Communications Manager, +44 (0)191 230 6357 E [hb@forma.org.uk](mailto:hb@forma.org.uk) or**

**Sara Harrison, Programme and Communications Officer, +44 (0)191 230 6354 E [sh@forma.org.uk](mailto:sh@forma.org.uk)**

## **Notes to editors:**

### **Listings information:**

17 Nov – 13 Dec 06

Lynette Wallworth – The Evolution of Fearlessness  
New Crowned Hope Festival, Künstlerhaus,  
Karlsplatz 5, A1010 Wien, Austria

Opening hours: 12:00 – 20:00 daily, Thursday 12:00-  
21:00. Daily events: 18:00 – 19:00. Free entry.

### **Lynette Wallworth - biography**

Lynette Wallworth is an Australian artist whose practice spans video installation, photography and short film. To date Wallworth has exhibited widely in Australasia. Forma represents Lynette Wallworth worldwide for touring of the artist's installation work with a current focus on developing new exhibition dates in Europe. Wallworth's work is about the relationships between ourselves and nature, about how we are made up of our physical and biological environments, even as we re-make the world through our activities. The activation of the work by the viewer becomes a metaphor for our connectedness within biological, social and ecological systems. She uses technology to reveal the hidden intricacies of human immersion in the wide, complex world.

The artist describes her intention as 'bringing together technological advances and ancient understandings, new media and old practices, electronics and the electricity of human touch.'

Wallworth recently received a New Media Arts Fellowship from the Australia Council for the Arts, enabling her to research and develop a new series of installations through residencies in Iran, Italy and at the Lode Star Observatory, New Mexico. In 2005, she presented her premiere US exhibition at the Davis Museum and Cultural Center in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

In February 2006, The Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol, UK, presented the European premiere of Wallworth's work with *Still:Waiting2*, a new interactive installation piece, presented as part of the Inbetween Time Festival. Wallworth also recently completed an Arts Council England International Fellowship residency at the National Glass Centre, Sunderland, UK. The new work *Evolution of Fearlessness* will be presented as part of the Auckland Triennial, NZ, from 9 March – 3 June 2007.

Lynette Wallworth is represented by Forma Arts and Media Limited.

## **Forma Arts and Media Producers**

forma is one of Europe's leading agencies for contemporary, cross-artform projects. It commissions, tours and publishes work worldwide, managing large-scale and technically innovative productions with flair. Creating rich dialogues between artists, audiences and places, the company pioneers art projects that suggest new possibilities for our current and future culture.

Recently, forma productions have been presented at major festivals and venues in Australia, Belgium, Brazil, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Monaco, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and USA. Productions include work with Antony & the Johnsons, Carsten Nicolai, Cerith Wyn Evans, Charles Atlas, Kim Gordon, Philippe Parreno, Ryuichi Sakamoto, Ryoji Ikeda, Saburo Teshigawara and Richard Wilson.

For further information visit [www.forma.org.uk](http://www.forma.org.uk)  
Forma is supported by Arts Council England

### **New Crowned Hope**

Artistic Director: Peter Sellars  
Vienna, 14 Nov - 14 December 2006  
A Festival within Wiener Mozartjahr 2006  
Produced by Wiener Festwochen  
[www.newcrownedhope.org](http://www.newcrownedhope.org)

### **Exhibition credits:**

**Evolution of Fearlessness** is commissioned by New Crowned Hope [AT] and produced by Forma

**Hold – Vessel 1, 2001** is commissioned by and exhibited courtesy of Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Melbourne, AU, touring produced by Forma. Supported by the New Media Arts Board, Australian Council for the Arts

**Damavand Mountain** is commissioned by New Crowned Hope, produced by Forma and supported by Australia Council Fellowship New Media Arts Board and Visual Arts Board

**Lynette Wallworth - Invisible by Night** is commissioned by Experimenta.org [AU], touring produced by Forma

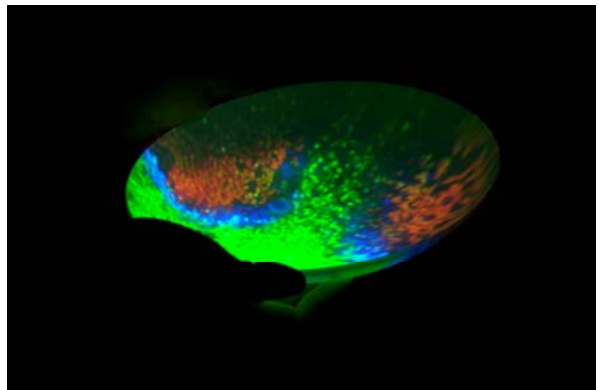
**Lynette Wallworth - Still: Waiting 2** is commissioned by New Crowned Hope and Arnolfini [UK]. Produced by Forma and supported by Arts Council England, City of Melbourne Arts House program, Australia Council Fellowship New Media and Visual Arts Board



## Exhibition Images



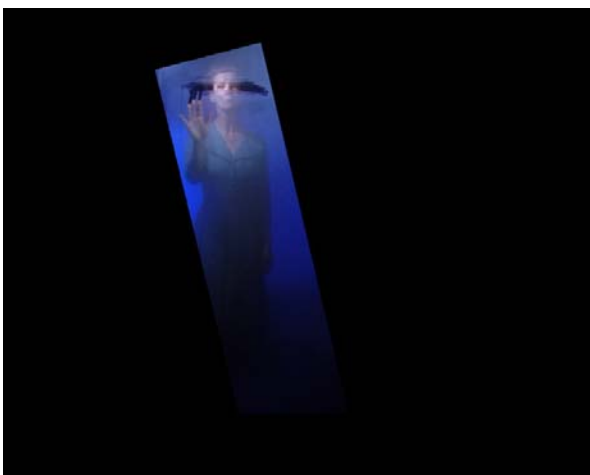
Evolution of Fearlessness, 2006



Hold: Vessel 1, 2001



Damavand Mountain, 2006



Invisible by Night, 2004



Still Waiting, 2005