

Rooted in and connected to contemporary Dundee, **Our Surroundings** is a major exhibition of new works by seven artists. It takes contemporary art beyond the normal confines of the gallery, with works commissioned specially for the exhibition presented both at DCA and elsewhere in the city, all within a few minutes' walk of DCA.

Jordan Baseman, Mark Dion, Bridget Smith and Matt Stokes present their projects at DCA with works by Olafur Eliasson, Susan Philipsz and Apolonija Šušteršič situated externally. (See the map for details). A full and varied programme of talks and events runs throughout the exhibition – details are included at the back of this leaflet.

**Our Surroundings** aims to prompt a fresh, at times surprising view of our specific place, while the works within it offer diverse experiences and a dynamic engagement with our context.

# Jordan Baseman

Life All Over It  
More Than Religion

DCA Gallery 1

Using images produced by and in the University of Dundee's Satellite Receiving Station, Jordan Baseman has produced two video works which play back to back in Gallery 1. In *More Than Religion*, Baseman has animated thousands of images from the Station's archive to offer an atmospheric musing on life beyond earth.

*Life All Over It* looks more closely at the mechanisms that produce these images of earth. Filmed in the Station, it focuses on the information generators – the computers and satellites that produce, for us, masses of data from every satellite orbiting the earth today. This contemporary diptych offers personal and professional, individual and collective, emotional and scientific, views of the big question of life beyond earth.

# Mark Dion

Dundee Bear Broch

DCA Gallery 1  
Camperdown Wildlife Centre  
(from October 2005)

A collaboration with  
Dundee City Council  
Leisure & Arts Department

Supported by:  
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

Mark Dion presents plans for his major collaboration with Camperdown Wildlife Centre, a project that will result in a remarkable new permanent artwork, in the form of a space for visitors at the Centre's re-developed bear enclosure later this year. This new permanent installation will take the form of a circular stone 'broch' which will function as a space to tell the story of the European Brown Bear and its role in the culture of nature via images, objects, fixtures and artefacts. It will also provide a large window enabling visitors to look straight onto the bears' environment, to watch them at rest and play.

At DCA, drawings, plans and a model of the new structure are on display alongside one of the broch's more imposing exhibits – a life-size reproduction of a sleeping brown bear chained up inside a dungeon.

# Olafur Eliasson

## Waterfall

College Green  
University of Dundee

Dundee's renowned river setting is a key reference for Olafur Eliasson's impressive sculptural waterfall. Tucked in between buildings on the University Campus and reaching seven metres in height, 'Waterfall' is fabricated from industrial materials: scaffolding bars, large metal containers and plastic and uses Eliasson's typically straight-forward technology.

One of the most impressive and awe-inspiring of natural phenomena, the waterfall is associated with romantic visions of beauty and the sublime, associations brought into stark relief by Eliasson's industrialised version. The growing appreciation of the value of our natural environment is the wider context for this remarkable work, an abstract, seemingly chaotic structure through which the water is continuously pumped to dramatic effect.

# Susan Philipsz

## Atlantis

Marine Parade at  
Tay Road Bridge

Working on an intimate scale in open public space, Susan Philipsz uses text and sound to engage with place. For 'Atlantis', she was inspired by an account of a journey around Dundee by the late Alan Woods, her former tutor at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design.

A brass plaque, situated by the riverside in Dundee, once a busy point of departure, commemorates both the text and its author. Along with the sound of ships' horns that comes from a speaker placed nearby, it suggests the transient nature of our environment. The plaque presents a conversation between two people about Atlantis, the fictitious lost continent. Believed by some still to exist, this place is symbolic of all our journeys both real and imagined.

# Bridget Smith

Observatory (rocket)  
Observatory (model)  
Dome  
Cosmos

DCA Gallery 2

After working extensively with the Mills Observatory in Dundee, Bridget Smith has produced a group of photographs and a video work which allude to our relationship with the universe. Inspired by the Victorian telescope, extraordinary *papier-mâché* dome and simple planetarium at the Observatory, her work draws attention to the life of this building and illustrates its function – to engage audiences with knowledge and appreciation of the stars and planets.

Smith's magnificent, large colour photographs illustrate the ways in which we are able to view the universe from earth, either with the assistance of telescopes or through received knowledge in the form of lectures, images, and books. Her video projection, *Cosmos*, offers a different take on the experience of looking at light and space.

# Matt Stokes

Long After Tonight

DCA Gallery 1

**Matt Stokes'** atmospheric film, made in Dundee's stunning St. Salvador's Church, brings together two communities, drawing on the city's history as the home of a strong Northern Soul scene.

The film documents a Northern Soul event staged in St Salvador's Church. It emphasises the connection between the location and the activity as expressions of faith. Stokes has illustrated their similarities through manifestations of common purpose, belief and organised activity. The title comes from a popular Northern Soul track, *Long After Tonight Is all Over* by Jimmy Radcliff, one of the classic songs played at the end of the night at the legendary Wigan Casino.

Stoke's film is accompanied by a series of experimental organ recitals, *Sacred Selections*. (Full details in 'Talks & Events')

# Apolonija Šušteršič

Bonnie Dundee – A Meeting  
Place in the Garden (after  
Patrick Geddes)

Marine Parade at Victoria Dock  
& DCA Gallery 1

Šušteršič's installation is a meeting place, sited on the waterfront adjacent to the Tay Road Bridge. It brings together an influential figure from Dundee's past – Patrick Geddes – with visions of the city's future. Now known as one of the founders of modern town planning, Patrick Geddes was Professor of Botany at Dundee University (1888–1918). His love of and belief in nature was evident in his planning work, which included designs for a number of meeting places in gardens. Two documents with Geddes' original writing, specifically about Dundee, are on display at DCA.

Inspired by Geddes and Dundee's extraordinary river-side setting Šušteršič has created a unique space for people to come together to think, talk and debate. Using a simple glass-house furnished with a large table and chairs, the structure sits in its own

garden looking out onto the river. Equipped with plants, books and other materials to support discussions, the house is open and available for informal visits and meetings.

# Talks and Events

All events are FREE but please book as places are limited  
Telephone 01382 90990 · [www.dca.org.uk](http://www.dca.org.uk)

## **An Introduction to *Our Surroundings***

Thursday 19 May · 7 pm · DCA Gallery 1

DCA Curator, Katrina Brown, talks about the development of the exhibition and the artists' various approaches to sites, stories and places. No need to book – just turn up.

## **Your Surroundings**

with Bill Samson, City Astronomer

Thursday 26 May · 7pm & again at 7.30pm · Mills Observatory

Bill Samson, one of Dundee City's Astronomers leads a short introduction to the night sky. Visit the planetarium and enjoy finding out about the wonders of the universe.

## **Bears' Surroundings: what they need, what visitors need and how art provides some solutions**

with Aileen Whitelaw, Camperdown Wildlife Centre

Thursday 2 June · 7pm · DCA Meeting Room

Aileen Whitelaw, Head Keeper at Camperdown Wildlife Centre, talks about the new bear enclosure and Mark Dion's 'Broch'. Find out more about bears' needs and how we as visitors interact with kept animals.

### **Our Surroundings: Dundee Now**

Initiated by artist Apolonija Šušteršič and coinciding with UK Architecture Week, two events designed to look at the various factors shaping our surroundings, to consider the nature, purpose and use of public space, in the context of current developments in Dundee.

All take place in DCA Meeting Room

### ***Our Surroundings: Planning Cites***

Tuesday 21 June · 7–8pm

Mike Galloway, Director of Planning & Transportation with Dundee City Council in discussion with Jane Spiers, who has led the development of Perth's new Concert Hall, about the constraints and possibilities of contemporary urban planning. Can we afford good design? Chaired by DCA Director Clive Gillman.

### ***Our Surroundings: 'Bonnie Dundee'***

Thursday 23 June · 7–9 pm

A open discussion led by artist Apolonija Šušteršič and Meike Schalk, architect and academic, with contributions from a range of speakers, including architects and others. What can be learned from the work of Patrick Geddes in the development of contemporary Dundee? How can we participate in the planning process?

### ***Jordan Baseman It's All Out There***

Wednesday 6 July · 7pm · DCA Meeting Room

Baseman talks about his experience of working with and interest in the Satellite Receiving Station in Dundee University. He will be in discussion with Prof. Mark Cutler of the University's Geography Department about the uses of the images received.

### **Matt Stokes *Sacred Selections***

A series of organ recitals · Wednesdays at 7 pm

Artist Matt Stokes has worked with organists and specialists in various underground dance music scenes to create a special series of experimental performances using three of the city's most impressive organs.

#### **Wednesday 25 May**

Northern Soul at St. Salvador's Church, Church Street

#### **Wednesday 29 June**

Happy Hardcore at St. Andrew's Church, King Street

#### **Wednesday 13 July**

Black Metal at Caird Hall, City Square

With thanks to: Andrew Macintosh, Stuart Muir, John Riley and the Royal College of Organists.

### **Saturday Tours**

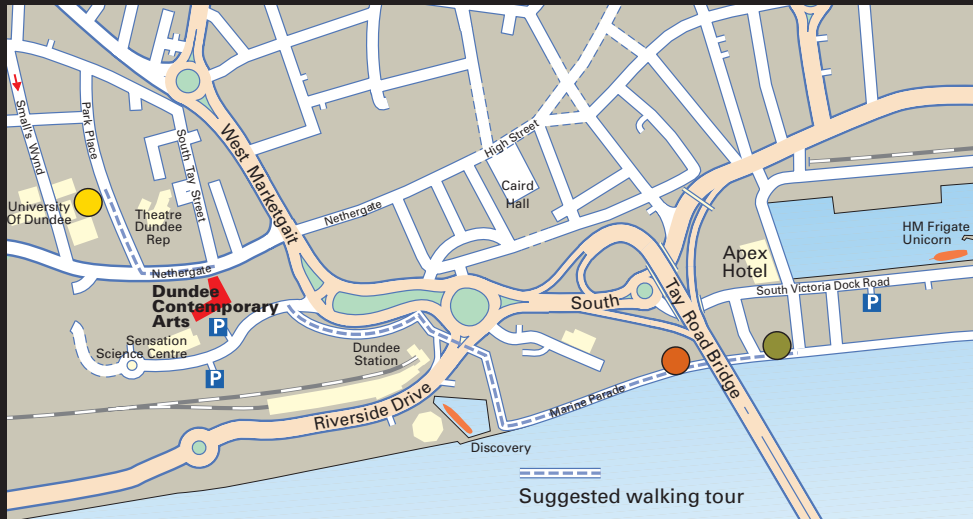
21, 28 May and 11, 25 June · 2 pm · DCA Gallery 1

Drop-in informal discussions about the works in the exhibition led by gallery staff.

### **For Children and Young People**

Workshops and activities for children and young people are listed at [www.dca.org.uk](http://www.dca.org.uk) or telephone **01382 909900** for details.





- Olafur Eliasson
- Susan Philipsz
- Apoloniya Šušteršič