

Max Eastley *Aeolian Harp and Sculptures for Perrott's Folly* 10 May – 10 June 2018



Max Eastley, *Wind Sounds* (2016). KunstFestSpiele Festival
Herrenhausen Gardens, Hanover Photograph by Klaus Fleige



Perrott's Folly, Birmingham

Ikon returns to Perrott's Folly this Spring, to present *Aeolian Harp and Sculptures for Perrott's Folly*, a unique sound installation by artist and musician Max Eastley.

Max Eastley is an internationally recognised artist who combines kinetic sculpture and sound into a unique art form. His sculptures exist on the border between the natural environment and human intervention and use the driving forces of electricity, wind, water and ice.

The complexity of sound that I aim for is the complexity of sound one perceives in a natural environment. I would not call myself a landscape artist, more an artist who

would like to bring attention to landscape. Max Eastley

For this installation, eight lightweight Aeolian harps are mounted on the roof of Perrott's Folly, a landmark 18th century tower in Birmingham's Ladywood district. The sound made by wind blowing through the harps is amplified and fed through loudspeakers at lower levels to combine with the sounds emanating from a number of acoustic sculptures, transforming the interior of the tower into an immersive aural experience.

At a time when the behaviour of our natural environment is of such grave concern the harnessing of natural forces to create extraordinary sonic phenomena seems particularly appropriate. Building Aeolian installations in public spaces guides people's attention to the wind, the atmosphere, the climate and the sounds of the environment, and I hope that it emphasises how little most of us know about these things, and alerts us to the fact that we should know more about them, because we are in the process of changing them. Max Eastley

Eastley first worked with Ikon in 1979 to produce *Installation No. 3*, a sculptural sound piece installed in the basement of Ikon's former home on John Bright Street. The programme also included a performance of Eastley's *Whirled Music*, with Steve Beresford and David Toop.

On Sunday 3 June 2018, Eastley performs with artist Rie Nakajima at Ikon Gallery as part of Cafe OTO's evening of music (see Notes to Editors).

Aeolian Harp and Sculptures for Perrott's Folly is open Friday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday, 12–5pm, with free entry. Perrott's Folly is located 20 minutes walk from Ikon and 5 minutes from Hagley Road. Please note the Folly is only accessible via a steep spiral staircase. Full address: Perrott's Folly, Waterworks Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B16 9AL.

Audio engineering by Dave Hunt. Presented in partnership with RE:Future Collective.

This exhibition forms part of Ikon's *Slow Boat* programme *Looping the Loop* (2017-2019) in Birmingham's Ladywood district. It is supported by Arts Council England Strategic Touring, Michael Marsh Charitable Trust, W.A. Cadbury Trust, Grantham Yorke Trust, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and the Canal and River Trust.

For more information, high-res images and to request interviews please contact Rebecca Small or Emily Luxford on 0121 248 0708 or email r.small@ikon-gallery.org or e.luxford@ikon-gallery.org

Social Media Handles:

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Links

www.ikon-gallery.org

Note to Editors:

1. Press preview: Thursday 10 May 2018, 5pm. Please RSVP to Emily Luxford e.luxford@ikon-gallery.org
2. An Aeolian Harp is a stringed instrument that produces musical sounds when a current of air passes through it.

3. Associated Events

***Slow Boat* tour – Perrott's Folly to Brindleyplace**

Friday 11 May, 5.30pm-7.30pm, £8

Limited capacity, booking essential

Join us for an exclusive viewing of Max Eastley's installation *Aeolian Harp and Sculptures for Perrott's Folly*, followed by a short walk to Icknield Port Loop. Then board *Slow Boat*, and travel to Brindleyplace, joined by the artist for an introduction to his work. Lastly visit Ikon for a tour of Rie Nakajima's exhibition.

Cafe OTO at Ikon

Sunday 3 June, 7-9pm, £5, booking essential

Yorks Café at Ikon

Cafe OTO, the acclaimed home for creative new music based in Dalston, London, comes to Ikon for an evening of music to mark the end of Rie Nakajima's exhibition – including Max Eastley, Ute Kanngiesser, Phil Minton and Billy Steiger.

4. Since 2003 Eastley has created a number of installations, compositions and performances for the Cape Farewell Climate Change Project. From 2010-13 he was an AHRC Research Fellow at Oxford Brookes University, investigating Aeolian phenomena. In 2014 he was Sound Artist in Residence for the city of Bonn in Germany with the Singuhr organisation. In 2017 he was composer in residence in Berlin for DAAD (Deutsche Akademischer Austauschdienst). He has created many Aeolian installations internationally including erecting 8 Aeolian harps on the tower of the Wasserturm, Prenzlauer Berg, the oldest water tower in Berlin. These harps also played simultaneously with acoustic sculptures in the interior.
4. RE:Future Collective is a not for profit arts and architecture collective working to regenerate unused heritage assets in partnership with their local communities refuturecollective.com
5. Ikon is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art venue situated in central Birmingham. Established in 1964 by a group of artists, Ikon is an educational charity and works to encourage public engagement with contemporary art through exhibiting new work in a context of debate and participation. The gallery programme features artists from around the world and a variety of media is represented, including sound, film, mixed media, photography, painting, sculpture and installation. Ikon's off-site programme develops dynamic relationships between art, artists and audiences outside the gallery. Projects vary enormously in scale, duration and location,

challenging expectations of where art can be seen and by whom. Education is at the heart of Ikon's activities, stimulating public interest in and understanding of contemporary visual art. Through a variety of talks, tours, workshops and seminars, Ikon's Learning Team aims to build dynamic relationships with audiences, enabling visitors to engage with, discuss and reflect on contemporary art. ikon-gallery.org

6. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 5pm. Admission is free. Ikon Gallery is supported using public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. For the latest news and events follow @ikongallery on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

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