

Studio Elisa Artesero

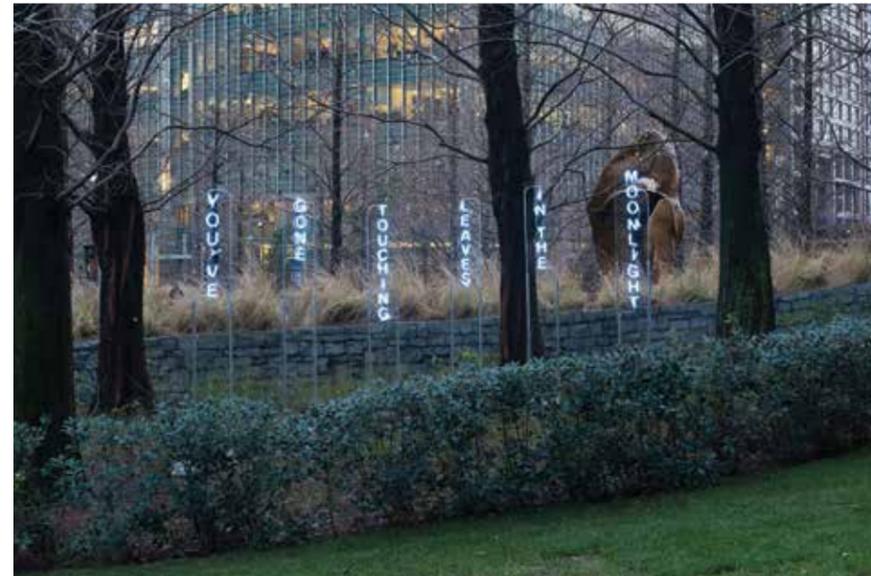
**Portfolio of
Selected Works**

The Garden of Floating Words

'The Garden of Floating Words' is a neon poem that appears to be floating in the darkness from within the foliage of London's Jubilee Gardens.

During the daytime, the words are revealed to be on tall rectangular clear acrylic stands, their structure echoing the tall glass buildings surrounding the gardens, but at night the words alone become the main feature.

The work was first commissioned by Canary Wharf Group for the Winter Lights Festival 2017. It will be exhibited from June 2019-June 2020 at Sculpture in the City, London.



Building Text

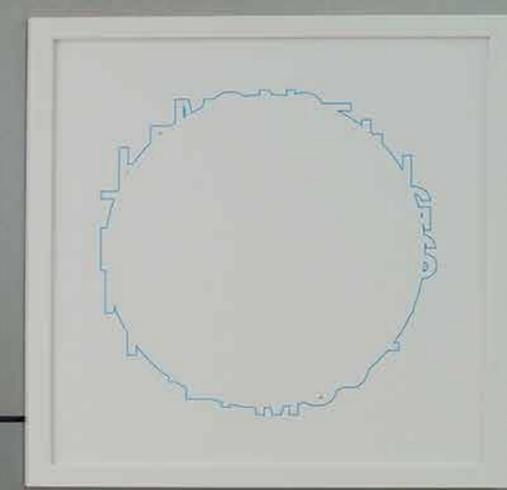
This solo exhibition brings together many threads of interest and influence. These include my fascination with spaces and architecture; themes of the Sun, Moon, and stars; as well as connections to dreams and the Unconscious, which run through much of my work.

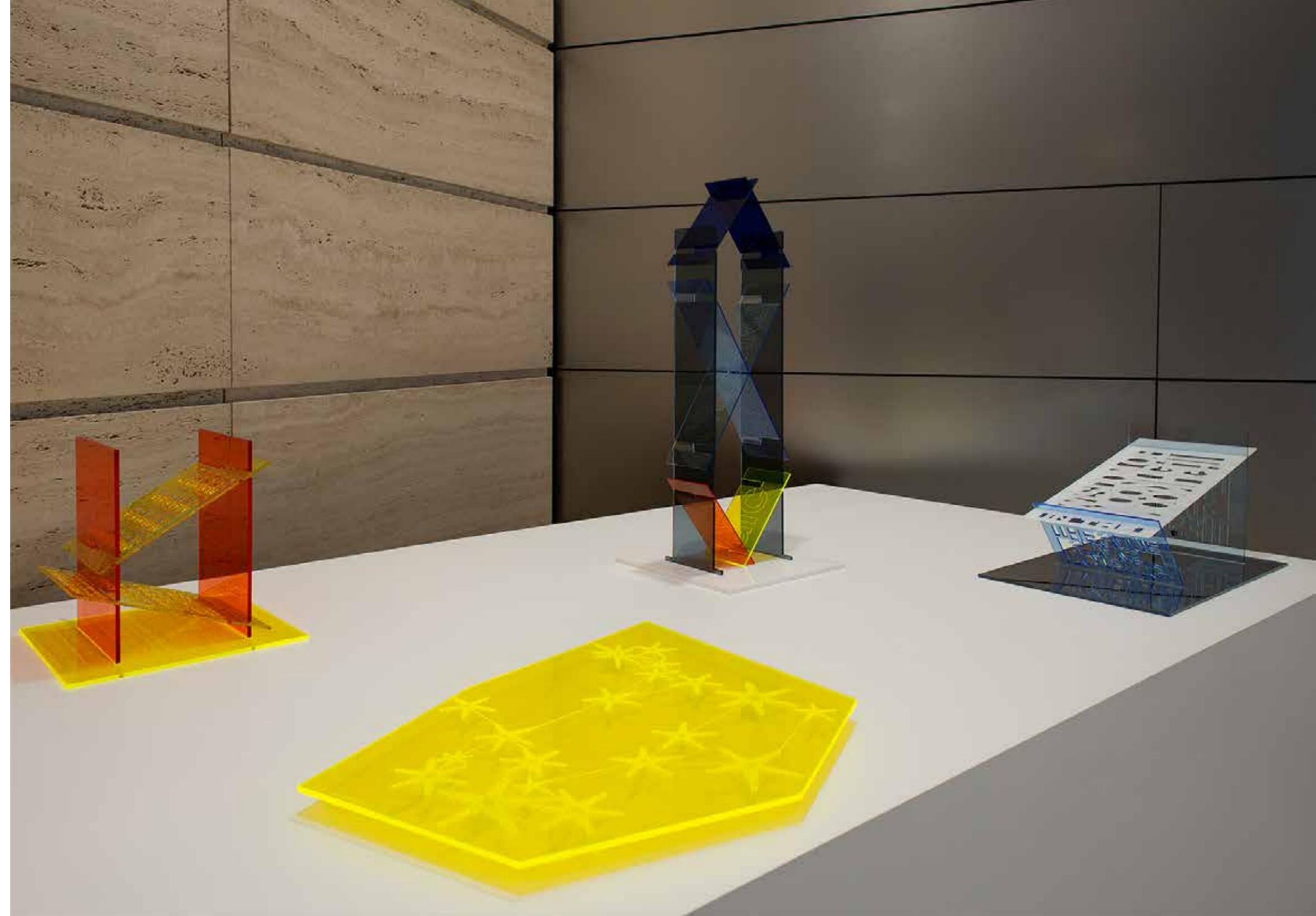
This text-based body of work includes sculptures, graphic design, prints, and photography. The laser cut Perspex sculptures are influenced by architectural details and structure, built out of text and designed using a slotting system to fit together without the use of glue in order to integrate a functional structural and design system befitting the exhibition title 'Building Text'.

The sculptures play with the placement of words in relation to the form of the structure. These require more investigation from the viewer as they must read the poems in reflections or at angles and around sides of the pieces. Helvetica Bold font is the basis to the designs because of the beautiful proportions that lend themselves to being joined together and built up into new forms and patterns. Repetitive use of poems and words, give a sense of rhythm and graphic design impact to the work. By playing with the same words in different works, I find that I can convey new meaning for my poems through form.

Building Text was commissioned by and exhibited at Broadgate London 10th September – 26th October 2018, curated by Rosie Glenn.









DREAMERS

*“Guest’s shadow through
the paper screen – I sit dreaming
over charcoal fumes”
Basho*

‘DREAMERS’ is a sculptural space for visitors to explore and become a part of the work as either participant or viewer.

Large letters of mirror and steel are scattered across the grass and cast shadows onto a screen. The visitors become the ‘dreamers’ that weave their paths around the space. Their shadows animate the shadow projection.

Japanese aesthetics and Zen poetry influence and run through a lot of my work. The paper screens that divide rooms in traditional Japanese homes inspired the screen element of the installation.



'DREAMERS' was a popular installation. Visitors immediately understood the work and often spent a long time in the installation trying out different shadow effects. The space was filled with joy and laughter and it was a pleasure to see how imaginative people were with the work.

There were tugs of war, dance routines, bicycles, umbrellas, kisses, hugs and many more poses throughout the weekend as each visitor cast their fleeting shadow onto the screen.

'DREAMERS' was originally commissioned by Artichoke for Lumiere Durham 2015.





Tonight We Dream

A mountainside projection in Seydisfjörður, Iceland, 'Tonight We Dream' provided the context for the visitors' walk around the List i Ljosi light festival 2017.

The Northern Lights appeared to dance above the mountain and added to the magic of the night.

I also projected poems on the side of buildings around the small town to create a narrative to follow whilst walking around the festival circuit.

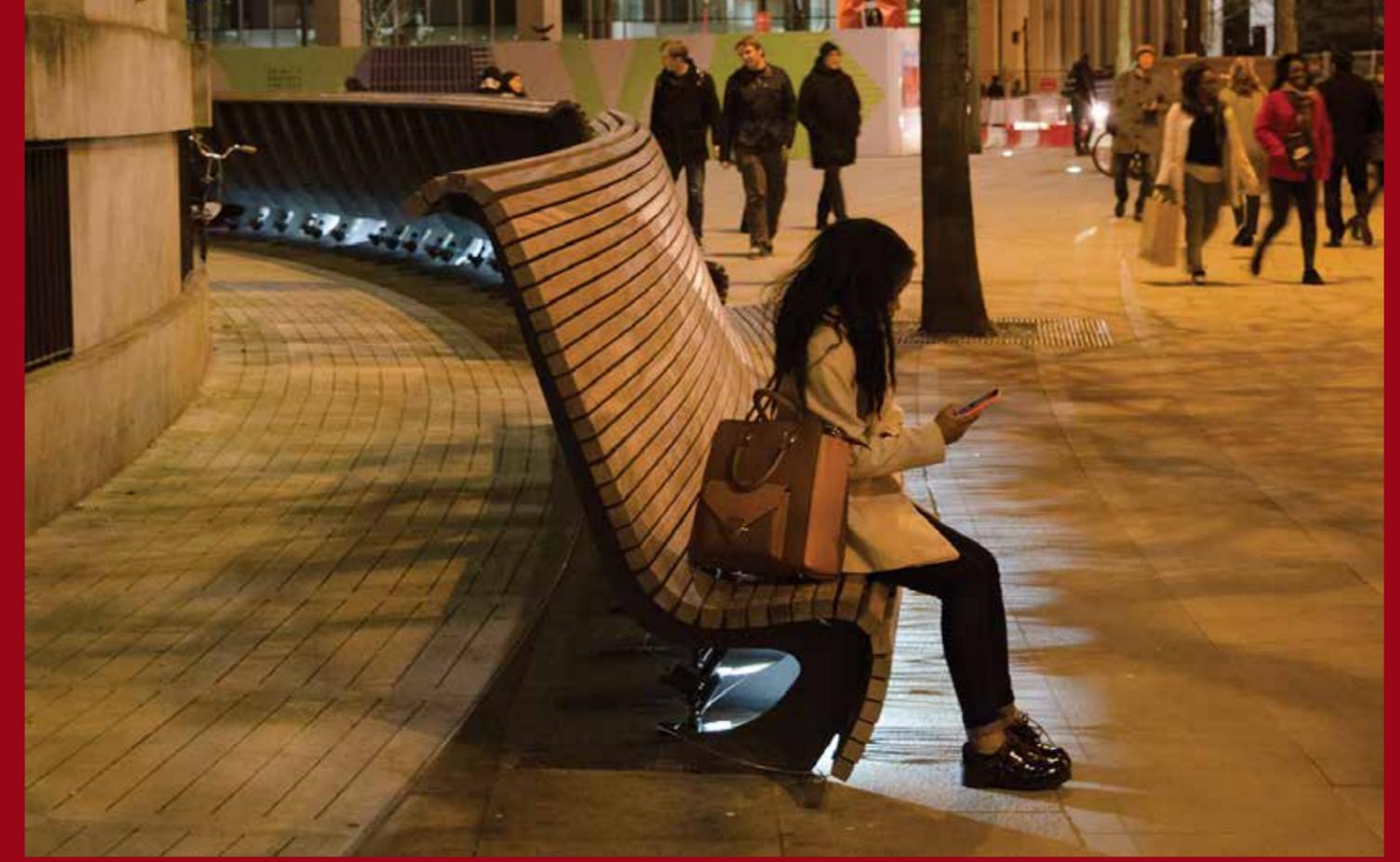


The Stories Under Our Feet

The Stories Under Our Feet' are ephemeral light and text art-works trimming the edges of the benches that surround Manchester Central Library. I developed a series of short observational poems drawing on changing weather and seasons to create moments of contemplation for people walking by or sitting on the benches.

I changed the light and shadow cast each night - sometimes easy to read, other times a little more difficult and erring more towards the aesthetic of the feathery light and shadow effect. I like people to engage with my work and I also like to slow them down from their daily lives if only for a few moments. For some, they only noticed the attractive lighting effect, whereas others spent time reading the poems more carefully.



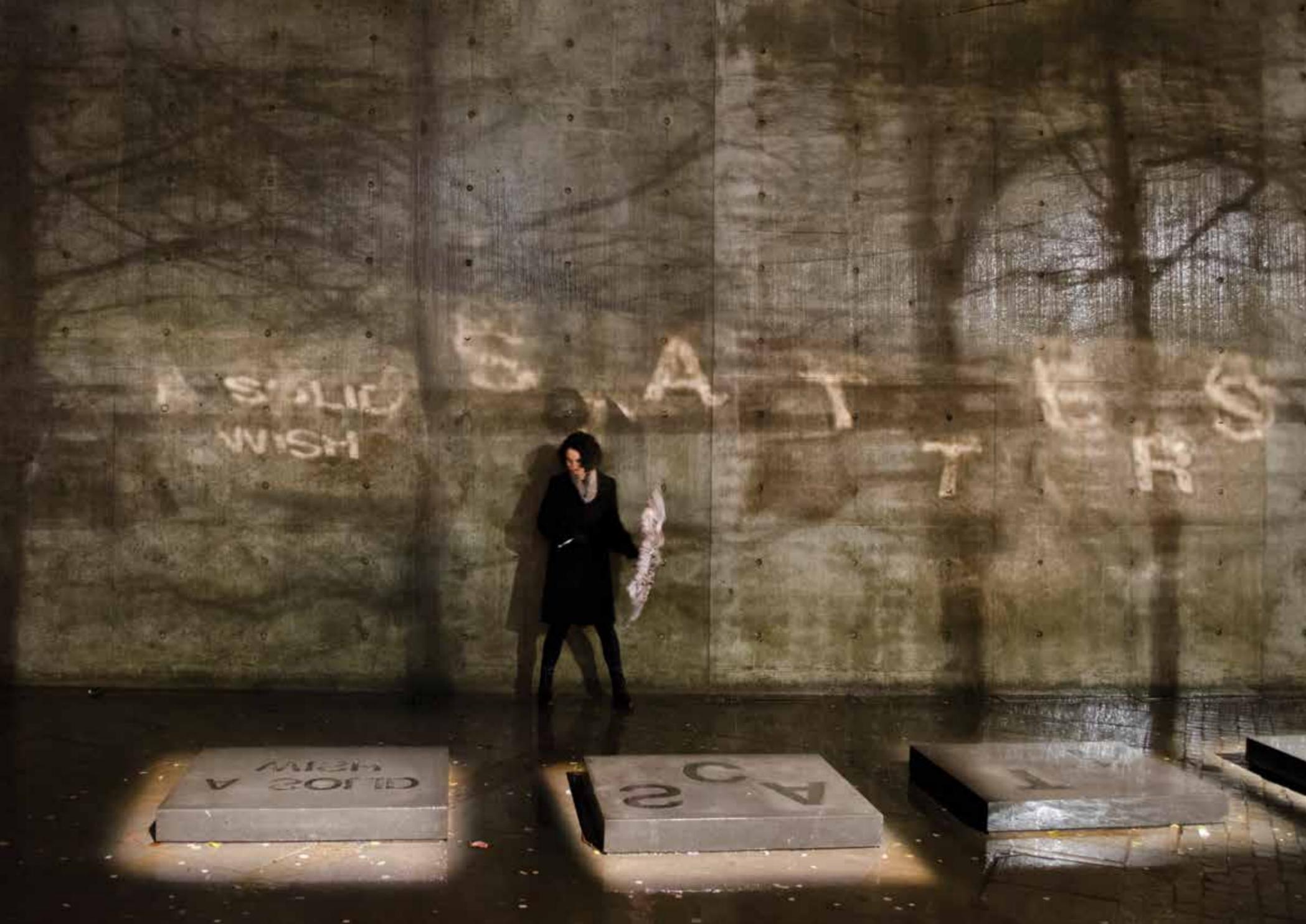


First exhibited at the Enlighten Manchester Festival of Light and Sound Art 2015, produced by Curated Place. I have since developed this piece for festivals across the UK, including Blackpool Lightpool Festival and Canary Wharf Winter Lights.



'Lost and Found' are understated light and reflection pieces activated by the viewer. Passers-by interrupt the reflection to become either 'lost', 'found' or sometimes both to highlight the search for sense of self and connection between people.





A Solid Wish Scatters

'A Solid Wish Scatters' is an installation made of concrete blocks to echo the concrete of its surroundings. The words reflect up onto the famous Tadao Ando concrete wall in Manchester Piccadilly Gardens.

The earthly presence of the blocks scatter into an ephemeral light piece on the wall to show all that is solid is still fragile and all that is perceived to be permanent never will be.

In this set up spotlights are used for the dark winter nights, however it is also a sunlight-activated work when re-located to a South-facing wall.

The piece was named a 'public favourite' in Mondo*Arc Magazine (now Arc Magazine).





Light Holds Me Here

'Light Holds Me Here' is a large-scale installation produced from a period of research and development on the theme of 'desire' and 'void'.

The installation is something akin to a dream world, one which tracks a domestic space but is presented in abstract and sculptural form. It is designed to be explored by the visitor; the light and shadows created by the 'Shadow Path' cover them as they walk through towards the house structure and to the large, abstract sun beyond.

Installed in Castlefield Gallery's Federation House in 2014, the work took on a different quality throughout the day as lighting levels changed outside - more muted in the day, then dramatic at night, with the installation reflected in all the mirror-film covered windows around the space to create multiple alternative dream spaces.



*Nothing here but echoes
of footsteps that follow
the path of dreams*



*You Hold Me Here
I Hold You There
Stand Back
We Can Never Meet*

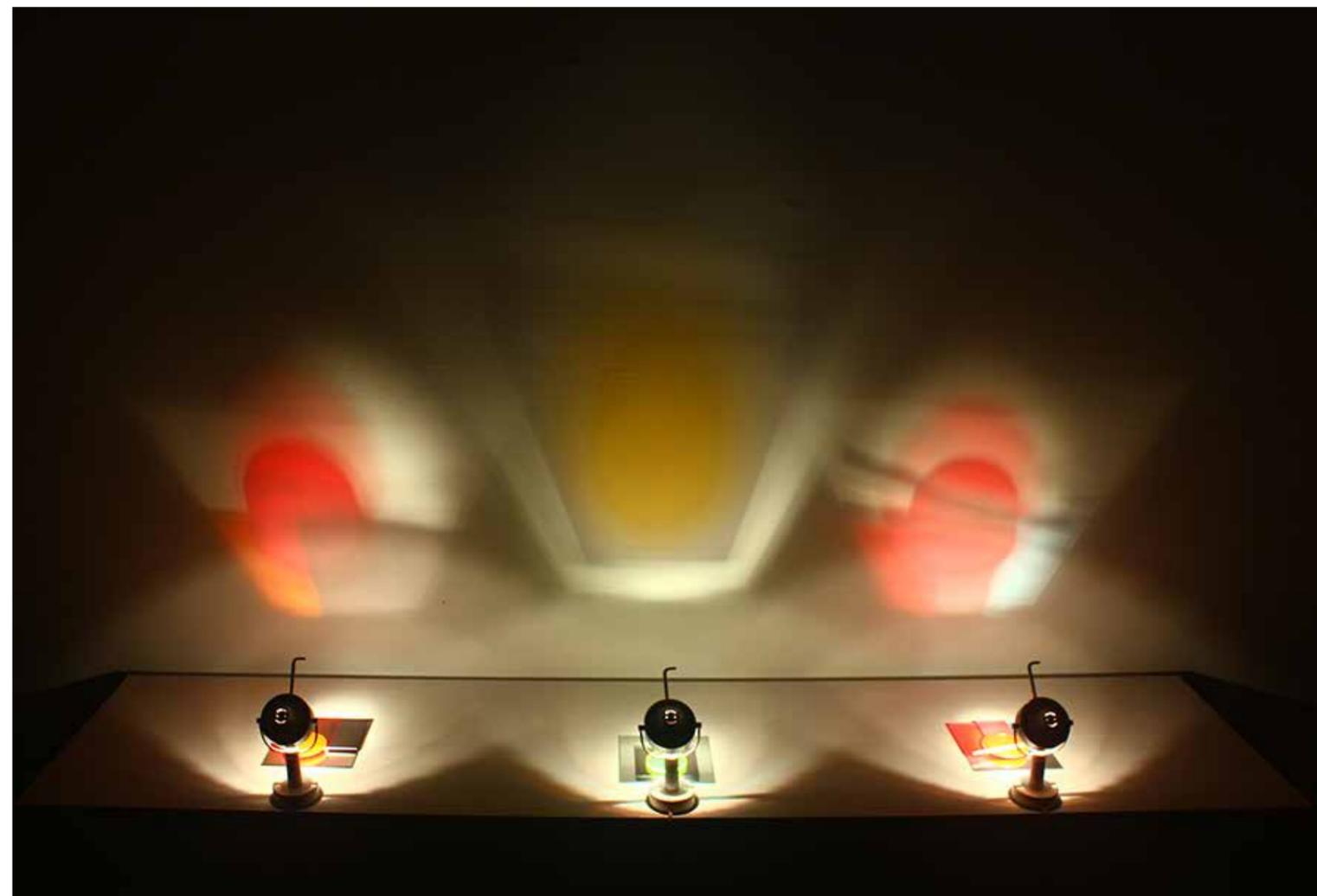
The poem can only be read within the black void and from directly in front of the piece. This creates a relationship between the viewer and the piece, the black void as the physical separation between the words (representative of a person) and the visitor reading them.

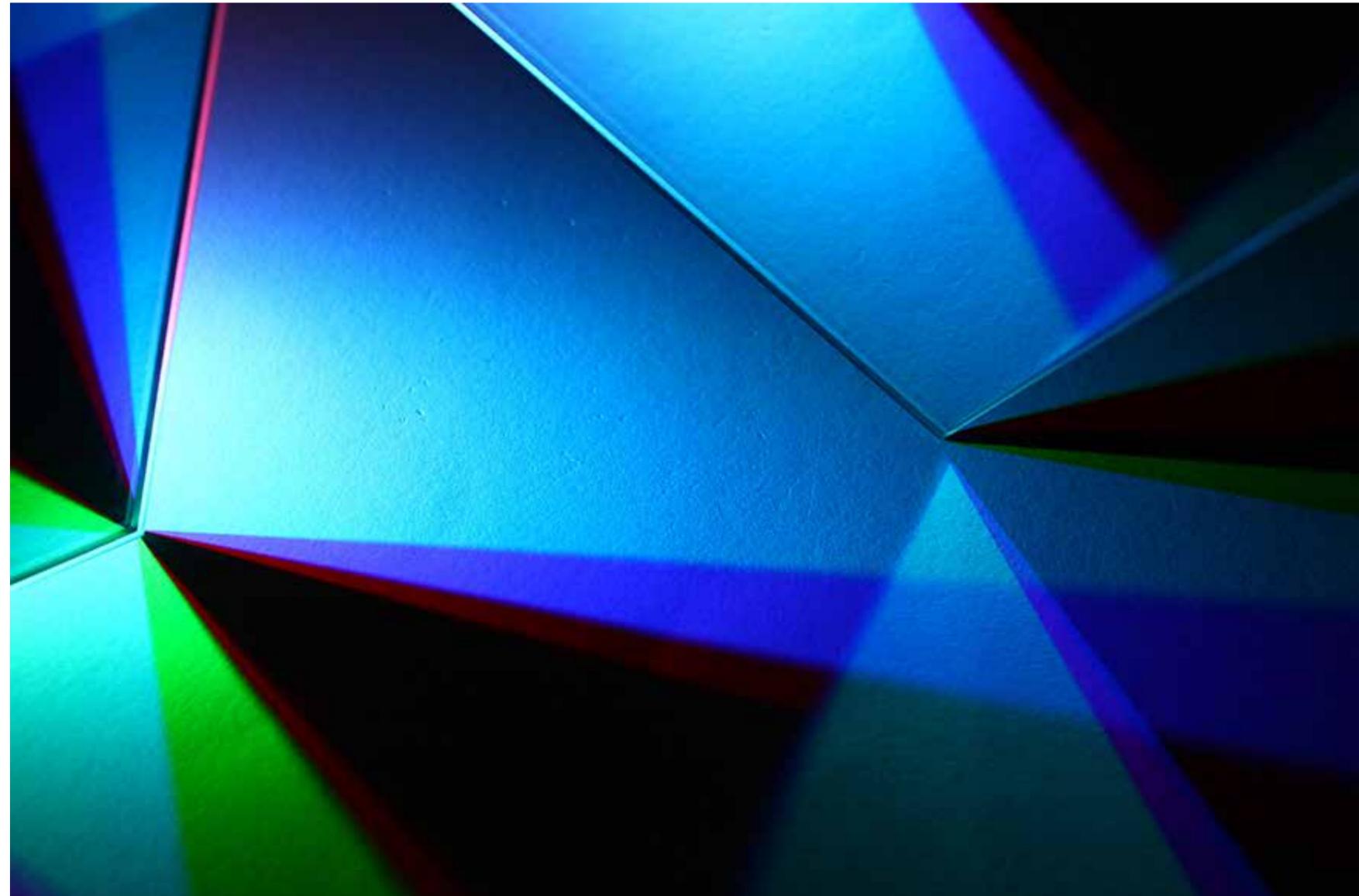
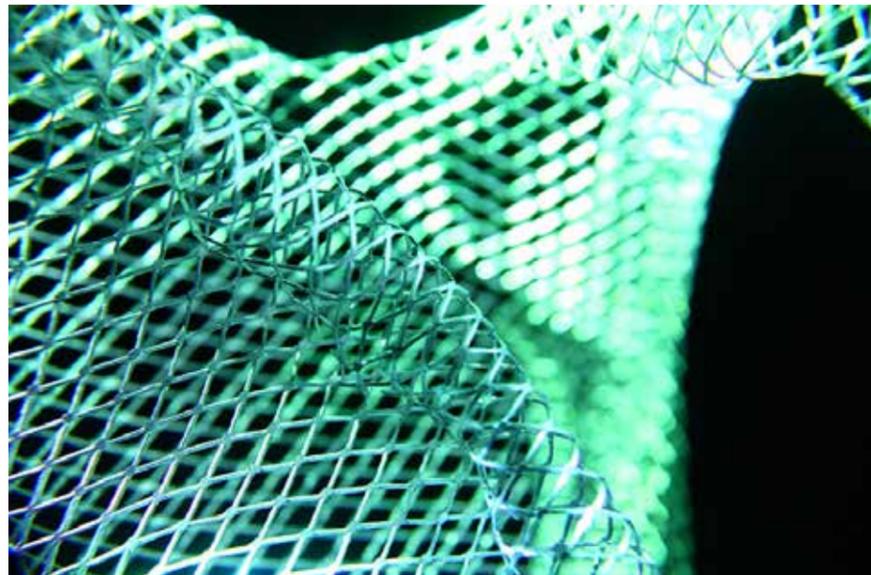
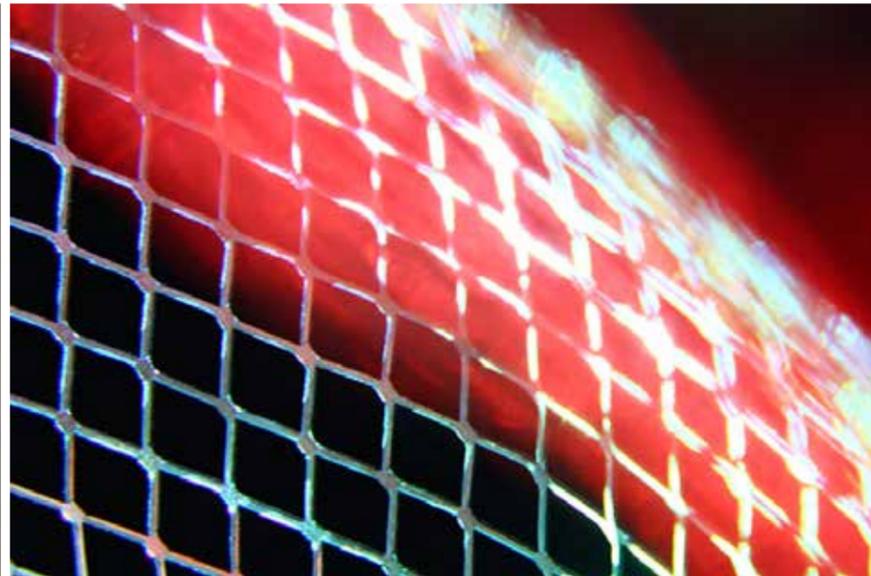
The 'Sun Scroll' is a Zen poem revealed on the floor by sunlight and addresses the theme of transience. For the viewer, the potentially fleeting experience of the work can be both a beauty and a frustration. Although the work has a permanent physical presence, it is continually responsive to changes to the sun's position in the sky throughout the year.

'Sun Scroll' won the Curator Choice Award from Tim Marlow at NOISE Festival 2014. He described the work as "a deceptively simple idea, which has great clarity of vision and a wonderfully elusive and allusive result. Deftly poetic in its means of expression as much as in its content."



Selected Photography and Small Sculptures





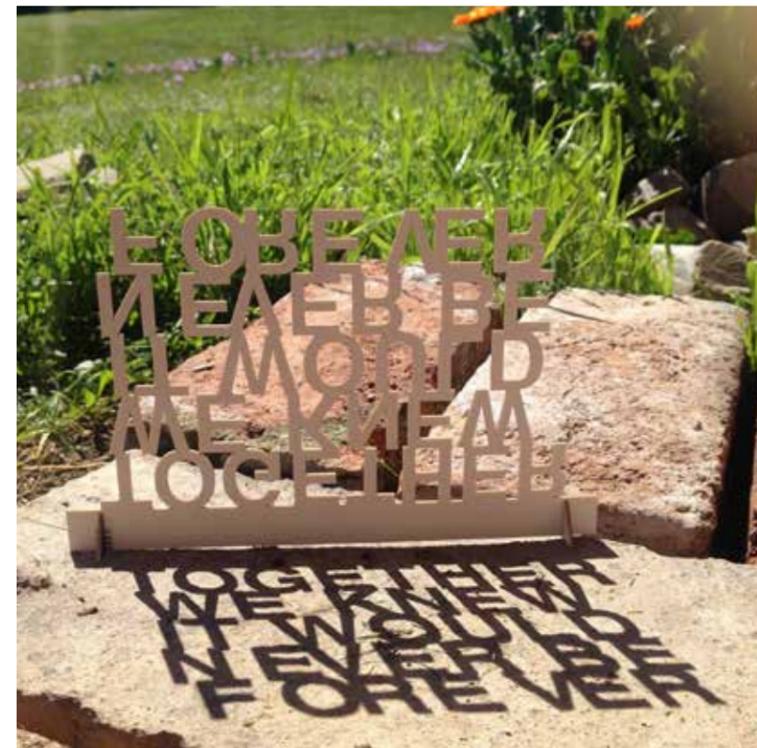




The hand-made glass 'Sun Bowls' contain extracts from Zen poems are a limited edition.

Shifting lighting conditions within a room change the visibility of the words. Special treatment of the kiln-formed glass creates pale frosted and pearlescent effects that change character with the light.

Awarded "Outstanding" at NOISE Festival 2014.



The Sun and Moon Book series has been ongoing since 2012. My poems are revealed by either sunlight or moonlight. The shifting and transient nature of the sun or moonlight 'activates' the work and the meaning of the poems.



Arts and Health

My Fine Art practice centres on text and light-based works, however, I also apply my creativity to delivering workshops for stroke survivors and other community groups as another side to my professional work that I greatly enjoy. I have many years of experience working within the arts and health sector, including projects with The Stroke Association, Manchester University, Salford Royal Hospitals, Manchester Metropolitan University, Stroke Pathway Assessment Centre (SPARC) in Sheffield, and Arts for Health in Sheffield.

Projects include delivering creative visual arts and writing workshops for stroke survivors, and curating their artworks into new professional pieces of artwork for flexible display in spaces such as Victoria Baths, Manchester Library, the national stroke forum in London and Liverpool.

I also organised and ran a symposium at the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester about arts and health and the need for further investment and sustainability in this type of work to help the wellbeing and skills of a range of participants. As part of this, I designed a book explaining the larger project the symposium was based upon, including essays from prominent figures in the arts, health, and research community.

My work allows for the exploration of story telling (participants' stories), language and communication techniques, and the exploration of memory and emotions through a variety of materials and artistic processes. My experience has shown that there is often a technique that will help a participant to develop a new talent or skill that they didn't know they had, or had not previously had the opportunity to develop.

I am currently working on a year-long residency at SPARC in Sheffield, where I deliver tailored creative art workshops for patients which provide enjoyment, skill development, exploration of memory and much more. The participants will also be contributing to a permanent artwork that I will design and install later in 2019.



Biography

Born: 1984, Sheffield, UK
Lives and works in Manchester, UK

Education:

First Class BA (Honours) in Interactive Arts, Manchester School of Art, 2010-2013
2.1 BA (Honours) in English at Exeter University 2002 – 2005

Awards:

Curator Choice for Fine Art at NOISE Festival 2014, selected by Tim Marlow (White Cube, Royal Academy) with ‘Sun Scroll’

Awarded “Outstanding” for ‘Sun Bowls’ at NOISE Festival 2014

Awarded “Excellent” for ‘Leap and the Net Will Appear’ at NOISE Festival 2014

‘Sun Scroll’ long-listed at Signature Art Prize 2015

Shortlisted for “Best Light Art (low budget)” with ‘DREAMERS’ at Darc Awards, international lighting awards, London, 2016

Shortlisted for “Best Light Art (low budget)” with ‘The Garden of Floating Words’ at Darc Awards, London 2017

Long-listed for Aesthetica Art Prize with “The Garden of Floating Words” in Sculpture and 3D Design category, 2018

Artesero has exhibited across the UK and internationally; including France, Iceland, Montenegro and the Faroe Islands. Awarded Curator Choice for Fine Art at NOISE Festival 2014, she was selected from over 5,000 entries by Tim Marlow, Director of Artistic Programmes at the Royal Academy. Her winning entry, ‘Sun Scroll’ was exhibited at events across the UK, including London’s Southbank.

In 2014 Artesero developed her first large-scale installation ‘Light Holds Me Here’ a huge walk through dream space at Castlefield Gallery’s Federation House with lighting sponsorship by Pulsar and funding by Arts Council England, later featured in articles in Mondo*Arc and The Creators Project.

She went on to have ‘Ambiguous Borders’ featured in the Nordic House in the Faroe Islands, a hanging poetic piece with response poem by Faroese national poet, Oddfridur Marni Rasmussen. At the end of 2014 she received Arts Council England funding for her first large-scale outdoor piece, ‘A Solid Wish Scatters’ in Manchester Piccadilly Gardens, UK, for the Enlighten Manchester Festival of Light Art.

Artesero continued to produce larger outdoor work for festivals in 2015, including Manchester Central Library benches with ‘The Stories Under Our Feet’ for Manchester Enlighten. Her largest work ‘DREAMERS’ was commissioned for Lumiere Durham 2015 and shortlisted for ‘Best Light Art (low budget)’ at the prestigious international lighting awards, the Darc Awards the following year.

In 2016 Artesero worked on a collaborative project with sculptor Sarah Smith, and sound artist, Caro C at the Hawes National Parks Museum. Later that year, she was commissioned to create two site-specific works for Blackpool Lightpool Festival, ‘The Stories Under Our Feet (I Pass You At Night)’ and ‘I Waited’.

A special commission for Canary Wharf Winter Lights Festival 2017 ‘The Garden of Floating Words’ saw her shortlisted for another ‘Best Light Art’ award at the Darc Awards 2017. Later that year she exhibited a mountainside projection ‘Tonight We Dream’ for List i Ljosi Festival in Seydisfjordur, Iceland.

In 2018, her solo exhibition, ‘Building Text’ went on show in central London at Broadgate, exhibiting text-based installation, sculpture and photography. She also led and produced a site specific dance piece ‘Dreamers Dance’ utilising her DREAMERS installation and specially designed lighting, collaborating with sound artist Caro C and dancers from the Arden School of Theatre and Dance.

In 2019 she has exhibited at British Land’s head offices in London, has also been selected to exhibit in the prestigious Sculpture in the City in London, and is also completing a permanent artwork for the Sheffield Stroke Pathway Assessment Rehabilitation Centre (SPARC).

In addition to her artistic practice, Artesero is an Associate Lecturer in Interior Architecture and Design at Sheffield Hallam University, and also co-director of Manifest Arts CIC, which runs a biennial festival, Manifest Arts Festival across Greater Manchester, Salford, Bolton and Wigan. She is also a freelance curator/artist for projects on health and wellbeing with stroke survivors for The Stroke Association and University of Manchester. She continues to work on her writing, light art commissions and project collaborations from her studio in Manchester, UK.

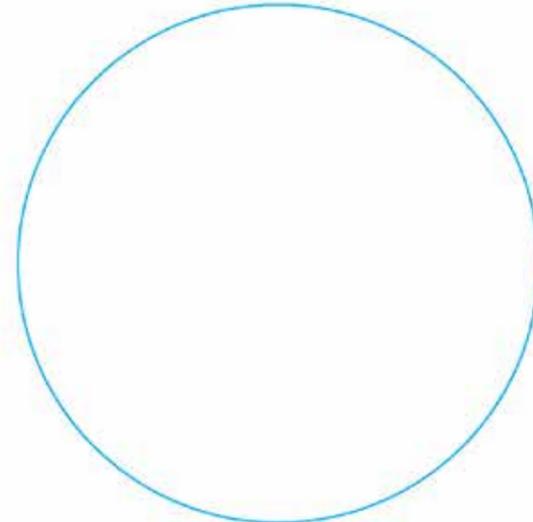


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Tonight We Dream: Elisa Artesero, Nikolas Grabar
The Stories Under Our Feet: John Lynch
Lost and Found: John Lynch
A Solid Wish Scatters : John Lynch
Light Holds Me Here: Stephen Iles
Sun Scroll: Elisa Artesero
Sun Bowls: Elisa Artesero
Sun and Moon Books: Elisa Artesero
All other photography and design: Elisa Artesero

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