

PRESS RELEASE

I Bring my Body to This Place, to Observe the Coming and Going of Life

A new sound installation by Jason Singh, linking Thrapston and Washington DC

Dates: 12 June to 31 August

Launch: 2pm, 12 June, performance by Jason Singh

Venue: North Bird Hide, Titchmarsh Nature Reserve

Off the A605 Thrapston to Peterborough Road, Aldwinckle Lake, Thrapston

This new sound installation by Jason Singh explores themes of home, separation and migration for both people and wildlife. Jason has explored the social history around Thrapston and unearthed connections between Northamptonshire and Washington DC. The resulting soundscape employs stories, conversations, birdsong, music, poetry, myths and legends, as well as field recordings from urban and rural locations in both places, to interweave the historical with the present day and evoke a fresh sense of place through a new sonic landscape.

The work will be installed in the North Bird Hide at Aldwinckle Lake, as the Hide becomes both a sonic experience and an observational space, to enable audiences to simultaneously reflect on the inner self and their surrounding environment. Sounds shared between The George Washington National Forest and the Titchmarsh Nature Reserve will anchor us; through a sense of shared homeland, and reflect on the act of migration between the two countries.

Although a relatively small town, Thrapston has a special link to the USA. Sir John Washington, the brother of George Washington's great-grandfather, was Mayor of Thrapston in the seventeenth century and lived in Montague House on Chancery Lane.

His wife is buried in the Church of St James, where the Washington family's Coat of Arms is displayed, which is thought to be the origination of the Stars and Stripes design of the American flag, according to the 1876 drama by English poet Martin Farquhar Tupper, *Washington: A Drama in Five Acts*.

Jason relates the movement of people and the migration of birds to his own history, as a British-Asian from a nomadic Indian tribe. Reminding us of what we share, as humans with freedom to move from one place to the next, and with birds with their patterns of migration. With everyone seeking a home, a place where we feel safe, where we belong. The work reflects on how we connect from one generation to another, how we pass on knowledge from one generation to the next, how we relate to the worlds that we move through and inhabit.

EDITOR'S NOTES

The work is open during daylight hours (6am-8pm) and the duration is 20 minutes. The Bird Hide is accessed via grass paths, which can become muddy in wet weather. The nearest Car Park is on Lowick Lane.

Examples of Jason's previous work can be found at: *Tweet Music* - a commission by the National Trust: <https://jasonsinghmusic.bandcamp.com/album/tweet-music-2> and on BBC's *Countryfile, Birdsong Special*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCgYvJqAokw>

American partners include: the Washington DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, and The National Museum of American History (The Smithsonian Institution).

Fermynwoods Contemporary Art is an educational charity that commissions innovative and meaningful ways for artists to engage with audiences, in public spaces across Northamptonshire and online.

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