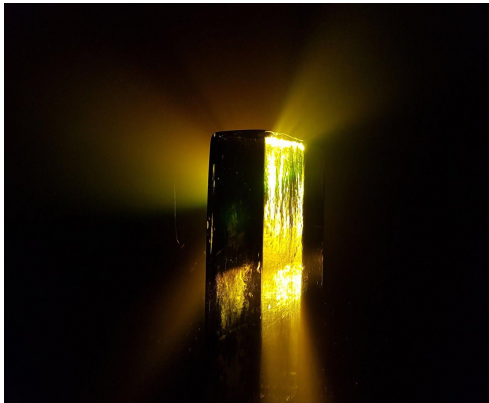




**PRESS RELEASE**  
**August 2018**

**Step inside Toxteth Reservoir and take a walk through the sights, sounds and wonder of an ice cave, rainforest and monsoon.**



images © Brian Roberts

*“Gradually the sounds of nature build, a dawn breaks from above, and a heavy mist distorts a low golden morning as we wait, for the day to break, for the air to change.”*

**AURORA**  
**21 September to 7 October 2018**

**This September, FACT (Foundation for Art and Creative Technology) and interactive art experts Invisible Flock, will take over Toxteth Reservoir for a unique ‘walk through water’. AURORA invites audiences to step inside the cave-like vaults of one of Liverpool’s hidden gems for an epic, immersive experience. Choosing the decommissioned reservoir as its home, and working with international artists from around the world including Indonesia, India and Japan, AURORA will tell a global story of our relationship to water.**

The Grade II listed Toxteth Reservoir, built in 1855 and decommissioned in 1997, was one of the first in the world to use cutting edge Victorian engineering to preserve fresh water for Liverpool’s growing population. For AURORA, this brick fortress - which is half the size of half a football pitch- perched at the top of Liverpool’s High Park Street in Toxteth, has been reimagined for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Bleeding edge interactive technologies, soundscapes, lasers and ice sculptures captivate the beauty and power of water, set within the cavernous walls and cloisters of this Victorian landmark.



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**-MORE-**

Created by Leeds-based artists Invisible Flock, AURORA is an experience like no other. The sensuous and emotionally evocative materials of water, ice and even the smell of rain will elicit our innate and spiritual connection with water: reminding visitors of its power, and ultimately its magic.

**Invisible Flock Creative Director, Victoria Pratt said:** *"Aurora is a brand-new, spectacular work of art that attempts to create a discussion about climate change in a way that positively engages and challenges audiences in questioning and re-evaluating their relationship to the natural world and their effect on it. Aurora uses cutting edge technology to present water as a substance, a body, a spiritual entity and not simply a utility. In the driest summer on record it could not be a more appropriate time to have this conversation about water, to explore absence but also excess."*

To produce part of the chilling soundscape for AURORA, four local schools, St Silas Primary School, Holy Family Primary School, Matthew Arnold Primary School and King's Leadership Academy collaborated with Invisible Flock, the FACT Learning Team, and composer James Hamilton to compose and play music for the installation, using and inspired by water.

**James Hamilton, AURORA composer and collaborating artist, said:** *"The sound in the reservoir is like no other place I've been in. You expect a cave-like echo, but get a continuous, smooth sound that moves around the space. You can almost trace its path as it floats through the arches of the reservoir, a ghost of its source."*

FACT and Invisible Flock invited international artists to collaborate in AURORA's creation to offer a truly global story of our relationship to water. These include: Miebi Sikoki & Rudi Nurhadi from Digital Nativ (Indonesia); Babitha George & Romit Raj from Quicksand (India); sound artists Abshar Platisza (Indonesia) and Etza Meisyara (Indonesia); lighting designer Azusa Ono (Japan/UK); lighting artist Bagus Pandega (Indonesia); composer James Hamilton (UK); and musician Simon Fletcher (UK). The involvement of many of these artists has been kindly supported by British Council, Indonesia.

This large-scale art installation is part of Liverpool 2018 – a year-long programme of cultural projects to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Liverpool being European Capital of Culture.



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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### **FACT presents AURORA by Invisible Flock**

**WHERE:** Toxteth Reservoir, High Park Street, L8 8LU

**DATES:** 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30 Sept & 4, 5, 6, 7 Oct

**TIMES:** 12pm-8pm (perfs every hour on the hour, last entry 7pm)

**TICKETS:** £10-£12 (concessions, family tickets and group rates available)

On sale from [ticketquarter.co.uk](http://ticketquarter.co.uk)

[fact.co.uk/aurora](http://fact.co.uk/aurora)

**PRESS PREVIEWS:** Thu 20 Sept 2018 1pm, 2pm & -3pm

Press Images – © Brian Roberts:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9n9odvfi3a9z84v/AAB7eQtjUDxTHidJ0J1dPUika?dl=0>

### **For further information and to book review tickets contact:**

Pippa Lea, Head of Marketing & Communications, FACT Liverpool

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### **AURORA App by Invisible Flock and Quicksand**

Accompanying the work will be an app experience building a portal into the installation to be experienced by participants from anywhere in the world. The app will invite users to explore the Reservoir, to delve deeper into the research behind the project and discover the inner workings of the experience. A journey through ice caves, glaciers, rainforests and the sea will invite a deeper understanding of the world of the work in an experience that mirrors the installation in both intensity and viscerality.

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AURORA is commissioned by FACT (Foundation for Art & Creative Technology) in partnership with Liverpool City Council, Invisible Flock and Dingle 2000. Supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England, and British Council.

### **About FACT**

FACT is the UK's leading media arts centre, bringing people, art and technology together. Based in Liverpool, FACT's award-winning building houses three galleries, Picturehouse



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Cinema, a FACTlab, Learning Space, The Garden by Leaf independent café and bar. Now celebrating 15 years in its Liverpool home, FACT has welcomed over 5 million visitors and commissioned and presented over 350 new media and digital artworks from artists including Pipilotti Rist, Nam June Paik, Krzysztof Wodiczko, Wu Tsang, Ryoichi Kurokawa, Apichatpong Weerasethakul and Isaac Julien. [fact.co.uk](http://fact.co.uk)

### **About Invisible Flock**

Invisible Flock is Catherine Baxendale, Ben Eaton, Klavs Kurpnieks and Victoria Pratt. This internationally renowned interactive arts studio based in Leeds, creates groundbreaking innovative artworks to be experienced & participated in by thousands all over the world. Described in the Guardian as “multi-platform makers of rare ambition & invention” Invisible Flock’s technologically driven practice seeks to redefine & disrupt traditional perceptions & models of global art practice. Drawing directly from the world around them their mission is to create & foster relevant & contemporary practices that have a long lasting transformative effect. [invisibleflock.com](http://invisibleflock.com)

### **About Arts Council England**

Arts Council England is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people’s lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to visual art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. [artscouncil.org.uk](http://artscouncil.org.uk)

### **About Liverpool 2018**

A decade on from European Capital of Culture, Liverpool is looking to the future with this thrilling year-long programme which celebrates the city’s culture and creativity. An unforgettable kaleidoscope of art, music, theatre, technology, style and sport, as the city’s signature mix of creative risk-taking and magical happenings takes centre stage. Liverpool 2018 is brought to you through the partnership of Culture Liverpool and Visit Liverpool. [visitliverpool.com](http://visitliverpool.com)

### **About British Council**

Founded in 1934, the British Council is the UK’s international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. It works with more than 100 countries across the world in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. British Council’s work in the arts involves the very best British and international artistic talent. It helps increase audiences for international work in the UK and for UK work globally. Through this work, it ensures that culture in its broadest sense plays a vital role in connecting with and understanding each other. [britishcouncil.org](http://britishcouncil.org)

### **About Dingle 2000**



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Since its inception, Dingle 2000 Regeneration Trust has been focused upon the redevelopment of the Dingle. In 2000 it acquired Toxteth reservoir and was able to attract over half million pounds, from a combination of EU Objective 1 funding, DSRB and United Utilities which it used to change an industrial structure into a building ready for development. The Reservoir is Grade II Listed; it was built by the Corporation of Liverpool in 1855 to provide a reliable, safe water supply for its rapidly expanding port and population. Closed for water storage in 1997 it was acquired by Dingle 2000 under a 125 year lease. [thereservoir.space](http://thereservoir.space)

## AURORA Collaborator Biogs

### Quicksand

Quicksand is a human-centered design firm headquartered in India, crafting meaningful experiences through collaboration across disciplines. **Babitha George** a partner in Quicksand, believes in the strength of interdisciplinary approaches; her prior work in education prompted her to actively think about non-traditional roles of design thinking, subsequently leading her to steer Quicksand's social innovation projects. **Romit Raj** is a software developer and systems architect. With a natural inclination for technical nuance, Romit has been developing and supporting technology projects for over 8 years. At Quicksand, Romit also contributes to research and writing.

**Azusa Ono** has been creating lighting design for theatre, dance, opera, concert, art exhibition, architecture, site-specific, experimental projects and many other projects. Azusa is based in the UK and Japan as a freelance lighting designer for a range of companies and theatres, these include; Southbank Centre, Barbican Theatre, Sadler's Wells, Tate Modern in the UK, Echigo-Tsumari Art Festival Triennial, Art Setouchi Triennial in Japan.

**James Hamilton** is a Northern Ireland born composer/trumpet player/educator based in Leeds. He runs the James Hamilton Jazz Orchestra and is a member of Leeds based indie rock band Hope and Social. Winner of the 2008 Dankworth prize for big band composition, 2010 British Composers Award for Contemporary Jazz Composition, Jazz Yorkshires Composer/Arranger of the Year and Big Band of the year 2010.

**Simon Fletcher** is a musician, technician, engineer and teacher who works freelance with a number of arts organisations across Leeds including Opera North, Heads Together and Playful Anywhere. He is also a member of the band Hope and Social and plays for a number of other bands across Leeds. He was technical officer for Chapel FM, a radio station and arts centre in East Leeds. He has 12 years of teaching experience, having taught Mathematics and Music Technology at a sixth form college after completing his degree in Mechanical Engineering.



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**The following artists were able to be in residence at FACT during the production of AURORA due to the support from British Council, Indonesia**

### **Digital Nativ**

Digital Nativ is **Miebi Sikoki & Rudi Nurhadi**. This digital fabrication studio based Jakarta, Indonesia, takes concepts from research through development and into manufacture. Founded out of passion for creating compelling, iconic, simply disruptive brand building tools and experiences that connect with end-users regardless of category or industry. Their projects centre around the adoption of technology as part of their creative process. The systems they create are digital materials, which through applied parameters, evolve inherent properties and behaviours, giving form to ideas. Thinkers, builders, programmers and dreamers with a tendency towards complexity, Digital Nativ turn simple rule sets and local interactions into deep user experiences, pushing the boundaries of future possibilities. Digital Nativ have been collaborating with Invisible Flock as part of the British Council UK/Indonesia season 2016-18, a three year programme building links between young creatives and building awareness of contemporary arts in these two countries.

**Abshar Platisza** is an artist who works with both conventional and new media. He received his Bachelor degree from the Faculty of Fine Arts and Design, Bandung Institute of Technology, Bandung in 2016. With his interest in cross field of science and technology discourse, he tries to elaborate it into his artistic practices and creative process. He uses technological apparatus as a medium more than a subject matter. His work talks about tension between the organic and the synthetic, technological consequences and human itself, and also questions about life through its elements.

**Bagus Pandega** graduated from Institut Teknologi Bandung (Bandung, Indonesia) with a Bachelor of Arts (Fine Art) in 2008, majoring in Sculpture. His work has been exhibited in Jakarta, Taipei, Amsterdam, Singapore, Manila, Stuttgart, Utrecht, and Beirut with recent exhibitions including Distorted Alteration at Project Fulfill Art Space, Taipei (2018) and Random Black at ROH Projects, Jakarta (2016). Working primarily through kinetics, sounds and lights, Pandega often challenges the pre-conditioned relationship between objects and their audience by emphasizing the notion of the physical space around the latter. Many of his artworks encourage audience interaction through movement, sound and light.

**Etza Meisyara's** work explores possibilities of making art from any senses, bridging sound, installation and performance. She creates work as a form of dialogue, bringing the stories of people she meets as the material. Bridging sounds and images as one composition. "In the end, art for me is to find the meaning of the relationship between the human being."



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