

Media Release

19 July 2010

Liverpool Biennial 2010 Touched trailblazer: a evocative and poignant work featuring a thousand hand-blown glass bells and polyphonic sound filling The Oratory in Liverpool

international festival
of contemporary art

www.biennial.com
18 sept - 28 nov 2010

Laura Belém *The Temple of a Thousand Bells*

*Press Launch: Thursday 19 August 2010 10.00am
The Oratory, St James Cemetery (next to Liverpool Cathedral), Liverpool L1 9DY
Filming and interviews on request*

Brazilian artist Laura Belém's beautiful new installation at The Oratory in St. James Cemetery next to Liverpool Cathedral is composed of a thousand cast glass bells and a polyphonic sound piece creating a 3-D effect. It is a new commission and trailblazer for *Touched*, Liverpool Biennial's *International 10* exhibition (18 Sep to 30 Nov 2010).

Sound will move between loudspeakers in the Grade I listed building, unveiling an ancient legend about a temple of a thousand bells that was built on an island. Over the centuries, the island sank into the ocean, and with it, the temple. As the story unfolds, it reveals the attempts of a sailor to hear the music of those bells. The narration will be interspersed by music especially composed for the piece, and by sound effects that will strengthen spatial and time relations and address emotional and sensorial realms.

The bells have been specially blown in the size 7 cm x 10.5 cm. They will hang from nylon strings inside from the roof of The Oratory, making use of the architecture of the space. They will not have a clapper so the only sound will come from the recorded audio, creating a visual metaphor that matches the narrated legend of the lost music of the bells in the depths of the ocean. The mass of clear, translucent glass bells will evoke a visual quality of water and notions of spirituality and evanescence. They may suggest fragility and also lyricism, dream and imagination.

For further press information please contact Catharine Braithwaite on 07947 644 110 or cat@we-r-lethal.com

Notes to Editors:

Laura Belém (born Brazil 1974, lives and works in Belo Horizonte.) BA Fine Arts Escola de Belas Artes da UFMG (Brazil) and MA Fine Arts Central Saint Martins College of Art (London, UK). Laura Belém has been exhibiting in Brazil and abroad since 1998. She has shown at *51st Venice Biennale* (Arsenale Galleries, Venice, Italy), *Prague Biennale I: Peripheries become the Center* (Veletrzní Palác, Prague, Czech Republic). **One-person shows include: 2008 - *Laura Belém: recent works*** (Galeria Luisa Strina, São Paulo, Brazil); **2007 - *Paisagens Flutuantes*** (Museu de Arte Aloísio Magalhães, Recife, Brazil), **2006 - *Fruit Market*** (Art Basel Miami Beach 06, Florida); ***Laura Belém: Projeto*** (Galeria Luisa Strina, São Paulo, Brazil); **2005 - *Ainda Outono***. (Centro Mariantonia, São Paulo, Brazil); **2004 - *Bolsa Pampulha*** (Museu de Arte da Pampulha. Belo Horizonte, Brazil). Further information at www.laurabelem.com.br & www.galerialuisastrina.com.br

Liverpool Biennial International Festival of Contemporary Art was conceived and founded by James Moores (with Jane Rankin Read, Lewis Biggs and Bryan Biggs) in 1998, and is presented free to the public every two years over a ten week period. Alongside the *International* exhibition, the Festival includes the John Moores Painting Competition and Bloomberg New Contemporaries (both UK based competitions administered independently with more than 50 years history behind them) and for the first time, City States - international exhibitions exploring the cultural dynamics between cities and states – at the Contemporary Urban Centre.

Since its inception in 1999, the *International* exhibition at the heart of the Biennial has always been shown in multiple gallery and non-gallery spaces across the city. In 2000, Lewis Biggs became Chief Executive and Artistic Director. He initiated both collaborative curatorial responsibility and the principle of the exhibition being composed primarily of commissioned new work. This combined approach ensures the exhibition is embedded in the city, and remains unique among Biennials globally.

The curatorial team for ***Touched*** is Lorenzo Fusi, Liverpool Biennial (non-gallery sites), Peter Gorschlüter (Tate Liverpool), Patrick Henry (Open Eye Gallery), Sara-Jayne Parsons (the Bluecoat), Mike Stubbs (FACT – Foundation for Art and Creative Technology) and Mark Waugh (A Foundation Liverpool).

Liverpool Biennial International Festival of Contemporary Art 2010 will take place in venues and sites around Liverpool City Centre, including the Walker Art Gallery, FACT (Foundation for art and creative technology), the Bluecoat, Open Eye Gallery, Tate Liverpool, A Foundation Liverpool, and many other gallery and non-gallery sites. Visit www.biennial.com

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