

JANET CARDIFF

FORTY-PART MOTET

HALL 5 DECEMBER 2003 - 15 FEBRUARY 2004

The Canadian artist Janet Cardiff is renowned for her works combining sound and image. In Cardiff's work the experience of space plays an important role. Cardiff fuses physical space and virtual space in her work. Characteristic of Cardiff's work is also the transformation of the passive viewer into an active participant. Pori Art Museum presents the monumental sound installation by Janet Cardiff *Forty Part Motet* (2001).

Forty Part Motet is a reworking of the *Spem in Alium Nunquam Habui* (1575) by Thomas Tallis. In the installation forty separately recorded voices are played back through forty speakers. The speakers are placed in the space strategically in eight groups of five as indicated by the Tallis score. Cardiff seeks to render the music in a new way. Normally in a concert the only viewpoint is from the front, in the traditional audience position. Whereas in Cardiff's installation, the audience can move in the exhibition space and listen to the music from any vantage point they choose. The experience of the piece is generated by the movement in the space and sound becomes an ever-changing construct. Cardiff is interested in how sound may physically construct a space in a sculptural way. Forty Part Motet forms a structural, almost architectural whole.

Thomas Tallis (c. 1505 - 1585) was the most influential English composer of his generation. Tallis served as organist to four English monarchs - Henry VIII, Edward VI, Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth - as a gentleman of the Chapel Royal. Tallis's career spanned a period of religious reform and social transition in English society . This composition for 40 parts - eight choirs of five voices - was one of his greatest works.

Janet Cardiff was born in 1957 in Ontario, Canada. Based in Berlin, Cardiff's work has included media such as film, video and photography. She represented Canada at the Venice Biennale in 2001 in collaboration with George Bures Miller. A major survey of her work has been exhibited over the last year at PS1 in New York, Musée d'Art Contemporain, Montreal, the Astrup Fearnley Museum, Oslo and Castello Rivoli in Turin.

Forty-Part Motet by Janet Cardiff. A re-working of *Spem in Alium Nunquam Habui* 1575, by Thomas Tallis. Sung by the Salisbury Cathedral Choir. Recording and Postproduction by SoundMoves. Edited by George Bures Miller. Produced by Field Art Projects. 40-Part Motet by Janet Cardiff was originally produced by Field Art Projects with the Arts Council of England, Canada House, Salisbury Festival and Salisbury Cathedral Choir, BALTIC Gateshead, the New Art Gallery Walsall, and the NOW Festival Nottingham.