

Conch [sound studio]

Tuning into the thoughts of communities on the brink of transformation, The Conch (sound studio) is a travelling structure - part shell, part ark – gathering people’s hopes and fears for the future, questing for a change in consciousness. Apocalyptic thinking or positivist transformation, the survival strategies of a new world order are whispered from its walls.

Caithness Tour
Wednesday 13th - Saturday 16th April 2011

On Wednesday 13th April Inverness Old Town Art (IOTA) brings The Conch [Sound Studio] by Walker & Bromwich to Thurso. Timing the visit to coincide with the O’Neill Cold Water Classic Series (Scotland) surfing championships, and the first ever Wave North Festival (in association with Caithness Horizons). Take some time out from the surf and become part of this unique art work as it travels the Highlands.

Visit The Conch at one of the locations below and contribute your voice to the ongoing conversation about community survival and transformation.

Wed 13th April	10:00-16:00	Thurso Harbour
Thur 14th April	10:00-16:00	Thurso Harbour
Fri 15th April	10:00-13:00	Thurso Harbour
	14:00-17:00	Scrabster Harbour
Sat 16th April	10:00-16:00	Thurso Harbour

(In stormy weather, The Conch may be found at Caithness Horizons, High Street, Thurso)

MORE INFORMATION

www.walkerandbromwich.org.uk
www.invernessoldtownart.co.uk
www.wavenorth.wordpress.com
www.facebook.com/wave.north

The project is a partnership between IOTA and the Highland Council.
Funded by the Highland Arts Partnership through the Creative Scotland Rural Innovation Fund (RIF)



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The Conch (Sound Studio) is the latest work by artists **Zoë Walker & Neil Bromwich**. Drawing on the aesthetics of 1950's 'Airstream' design and the pioneering eco-communities of the 1960's, The Conch (Sound Studio) is a kind of futuristic caravan for a new environment.

Commissioned by Inverness Old Town Art, The Conch was first shown at Scotland's Housing Expo (Inverness, August 2010). Reflecting on the new Expo homes as dormant vessels waiting to be boarded, the artists were interested in exploring ideas about how an inspired and healthy community might develop there in the future.

The larch-lapped carapace aesthetically references the Expo buildings, while its interior soundscape drawn from interviews of people in communities around the Inverness area - makes play with the auditory qualities of the shell. Trumpeted, a conch is an insistent tribal summons; cradled to the ear, it echoes our collective consciousness.

As The Conch (Sound Studio) continues its voyage around the communities of the Highlands, Walker & Bromwich are trawling for the voices of society on the brink of collective transformation. At a time when we are faced with significant changes in our environment and the ways that we live, they are asking us to participate in a conversation that asks 'How do we survive as a community? What are your personal survival strategies? Are you afraid of the future or are you optimistic for a changed world?'

Walker & Bromwich are an established collaborative duo, working together for the last ten years. They are known for ambitious, international projects that employ a humorous but thoughtful approach to some of life's challenging questions like 'the pursuit of happiness' or 'the nature of belief'. Walker & Bromwich's work has been presented at Tate Britain, Modern Art Oxford, Baltic, The Victoria and Albert Museum, The Fruitmarket Gallery Edinburgh and across Europe, Asia and the Antipodes.

The Conch (Sound Studio) marks the start of an ambitious episodic narrative 'Searching for a Change in Consciousness'. This inspirational quest follows Walker & Bromwich as they journey between fact and fiction, engaging a diverse cross section of the population in their voyage through idiosyncratic events and happenings that invite the possibility of re-imagining the world we inhabit.

With thanks to: Susan Christie, Matt Baker, Cathy Shankland – IOTA for Conch Commissioning & Project Management, Angus Dunn – Conch Maker, Niall Ferguson – support and publicity, David Mason – Architect, Matt Stevenson – architect, Ali Ross and David Martin – Audio Engineer, Bob Jaroc – sound editor, Ewen Weatherspoon – photographer, Marie MacIntosh - Conch transport, Georgina Porteous - Conch Guardian, Libby Daye - Conch Tour Coordination

Interviewees: Merkinch- Annie Marrs, Russell Deacon Merkinch Allotment group, Bette McArdle; Cromarty- David Alston, Gillian Newman; Findhorn- Eain Smith, Pete Finch, Avalon dos Santos.